

CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES



St Peter's, Carrigrohane
St Senan's, Inniscarra
Church of the Resurrection, Blarney
The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig

www.cupcork.ie
021-4877260

January-February 2021

Congratulations to Robert on his appointment as Rector of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes! His Institution service was in St Fin Barre's Cathedral before Christmas – and while, with the socially distancing numbers, there was room in the Cathedral for support from people representing the parish – it was great to also be able to join in the service 'virtually'. We assure Robert & Noelle of our prayerful support as, together, we begin the next phase of the Carrigrohane Union story.





THANK YOU

to everyone
who helped
make
Christmas
2020 so

special – even if it was so different to

‘normal’:

wonderful
decorations;
Adventurers’
window

greetings in
The Carraig
Centre;

prayer tree
labels; tiny
gifts



delivered in lieu of a seniors' celebration; helpful readings, prayers & talks; great music; fantastic tech support (!); all those who cleaned, tidied, prepared and cleared away in all our buildings; a great '9 lessons & carols'; to all the 'cast' from across the parish in our virtual nativity *'God is with us – Everywhere'*, a great script by Fay Rowland & to Sarah Hockey & Sam Jones for all the tech production! You can now view and share the production on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_mZkeDFJsU

Youth Programme Prayer Points: January 2021

- For opportunities to reach out more to the young people based in the estates around TCC. For chances to build bridges and create a welcoming space for them to enter into and experience God's love for them.
- We pray for safety and for our sense of community. That God would give us wisdom when figuring out how to run events safely to protect us all from sickness, (while still making sure we don't "sanitise" activities to the point that they are no longer fun, and our young people can't relax and enjoy the togetherness!).
- Please pray for wisdom and creativity for leaders as we figure out new ways to reach out to and engage with our young people. That we will be open to the Spirit leading us in directions we may not have considered and that we will be able to demonstrate the truth of who God is and his nearness- even when we can't physically draw near to other people.
- For a renewed spirit of seeking in the hearts of our young people. That they would be hungry and excited to draw nearer to God. That they would be more aware of God's voice, guiding them and that they will choose to follow his path for their lives.
- Pray against fear and anxiety among our young people:
Especially during this time of uncertainty and change, please pray that we will be able to support and encourage them as they face these challenges. Our hope is that they will experience God's power and presence in a new way in this year ahead, and that they will grow and learn to lean on God in difficult times.



***Thank you for praying
with and for us!***



Congratulations to Chris Hockey – the Evening Echo had a 4-page spread about him! The article can be read:

<https://www.echolive.ie/entertainment/whatson/arid-40202531.html>

‘Combining solo singer-songwriter nous with edges of indie-ish, shoegazing introversion, Corkman Christopher Hockey sets a foot forward into uncertain territory with his new single and upcoming EP.’

The Ballincollig Wednesday night house group will be restarting on 20 January. The group meets from 8:00 pm until half 9. It is welcoming new members. Because it meets virtually as a zoom meeting one need not live in, or travel to Ballincollig, to participate. The house group socialises, studies the Bible, and prays for one another. The focus of the Bible study as it begins this month is St Paul’s epistle to the Philippians. If you would like to be part of the house group, or if you have questions, contact Dan or Amy Wardle at daniel.wardle95@gmail.com

Let me know if you have questions. Thank you! And Happy New Year! **Chuck Hohnbaum**

Staying in touch...

If anyone isn’t receiving the weekly email update and would like to...

There’s a link on the website...or email the office

office@cupcork.ie!

If anyone has children who’d like to be on the kids’ mailing list for occasional puzzle/news sheets and activities...

Please email the office as above...or text/call Patsy on 087 6413559!

At the end of each year, the Select Vestry allocates a tenth of the giving received to the parish during the year to charities ‘at home’ and ‘away’.

With grateful thanks to everyone for their faithful giving to the parish during 2020...the following grants were sent in December 2020.

HOME	€
YMCA PAKT	2500
Cork Christian Trust (Haven)	2500
New Wine (G Newell Support)	500
Church Army (Emma B-R support)	1000
Cork Street Pastors	500
New Wine Evangelist in training	300
Meals on Wheels in Blarney	500
HOME	7800

AWAY	
CMS Ireland	2000
Tearfund Ireland	1000
MU Overseas	900
AWAY	3900

Total giving: €11,700

Thankfulness in the midst of the Pandemic

I write this as my first article for the Connect newsletter as Rector of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes – I'm so thankful to all those who have been communicating with me over the past month since my appointment and subsequent institution service in St Fin Barre's cathedral.

I begin this new post at a very strange time – just when I would want to be out and about meeting parishioners and getting lots of things done, I find myself confined to the desk sorting out systems & procedures which hopefully will enable mission and ministry in the future. My heart and prayers are with those who are being impacted directly by Corona virus at this time. In my prayers at this time are families who are concerned for loved ones who have tested positive and front line workers who are having to face potential exposure to the virus on a daily basis either in hospital, nursing homes, supermarkets, garages and other essential services.

As the weeks go by, it is good to remember and give thanks that there is now light at the end of the tunnel in the form of vaccine. I do realize that this is good news for most, but for those undergoing treatment right now our thoughts, prayers and pastoral support are with them, with those caring for them and their loved ones.



♦ STAY SAFE ♦ BE KIND ♦

Robert



Remembering **Bishop Roy and Eileen Warke** with gratitude and affection.

Prayers for their daughters and families as they mourn and adjust to life without them both.

Eileen died in December – and Bishop Roy followed her, just nineteen days later.

PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:

The Parish Office is closed Mondays and open on: **Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm; and Wednesdays 9.30 am – 5.30 pm.**

Jaki & Patsy are working from home until restrictions allow a return to The Carraig Centre office.

Phone: 4877260 - office@cupcork.ie

Rector: Robert Ferris – 085 1800720 - robert@cupcork.ie

Youth Workers: Matt Gould matt@cupcork.ie – 085-1080067 & Sarah hockey - sarah@cupcork.ie

WEBSITE: www.cupcork.ie & find us on Facebook!

What's on?

- In Carrigrohane Union right now, we're keeping The Carraig Centre open for Enable Ireland as an essential service, and the playground is bookable for individual family slots, to enable social distancing with contact tracing & hand sanitising.
- The parish office staff continue to work from home.
- The parish youthwork has reverted to online work as have many of our homegroups and bible studies.
- Our online live service happens at 11 am every Sunday with a midweek service at 10 am on Wednesdays during level 5.



the
**carraig
centre**
building hope together

Due to the restrictions, we are unsure of what will be permitted in February - All details of our services are available online – www.cupcork.ie/hall and also on the parish answering machine 021 4877260 and on noticeboards outside the church buildings.

We look forward to worshipping again in our buildings when it is deemed safe to do so.

Should you need to contact Robert – either leave a message at the parish office in The Carraig Centre - 0214877260 / mobile: 085 1800720 / email: robert@cupcork.ie



Interested in some online learning during lockdown?

Recently I discovered some really helpful online faith-based courses provided by Biola University. So, if you are looking for a new challenge, it's worth taking a look! Everything from philosophy to faith formation to leading worship! They are good value and can be completed in your own time! The full catalogue of their courses are available on <https://www.biola.edu/learn/catalog> - *Ivan McMahon*

Encouragements for praying!

Patsy attended a training zoom session on Praying with Purpose held by Mothers' Union – about 70 people from across Ireland and Britain attended! If any Home Groups or other prayer groups – or prayer triplets/partners...or just you as an individual would like some good basic praying resource material: <https://www.mothersunion.org/praying-with-purpose>. You'll find lots there...under these headings:

Template for prayer: A template for prayer which can be adapted for specific contexts and initiatives. Materials from the different steps to prayer and other ideas can be used, or your own resources.

Step 1 Bible verses & quotes on prayer: Use these verses and quotes to encourage and build up faith as you pray

Step 2 prayers: You may like to choose one of these prayers as an encouragement and to “set the scene” at the beginning of a prayer time

Step 3 creative ideas for prayer: Try using creative ways of prayer as part of your group prayer times. These are some general ideas and some for specific projects and activities which can be adapted for various contexts. You can also use and develop your own ideas

Step 4 blessings: Some blessings you could use to end your prayer time. You may like to expand the blessing to reflect the specific work for which you have been praying

Using the Lord's Prayer: As you pray for each other, your projects and initiatives, try basing your intercessions on the prayer Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him how they should pray

Praying in steps: It's not always easy to have faith for what seems to us to be big answers to prayer. A helpful way to pray, then, is to do so in “steps of faith”

Prayers for projects & initiatives: These prayers focus on specific aspects of Mothers' Union mission (or any other project!). You can adapt them to suit your specific situation or style of praying

Lord teach us to pray reflection: You may like to use this resource for personal reflection or a group time of encouragement to prepare for supporting an initiative in prayer

Bible reflection on prayer: A reflection for groups or personal use on being persistent in prayer

ABC of prayer for MU@home: A prayer template for members of [MU@home](#), whether permanently housebound or unable through circumstances to join with prayer groups – and for any other people at home!

Youth Programme update...

Our regular programmes are unable to meet at the moment, which is frustrating. Young people are adapting to a second round of home schooling, meanwhile lack of clarity around 6th Year in particular is really stressful for young people.



It was great to get a 'in-person' gathering together with Youth and Young Adults in December.

The '**Nevertheless**' refers to Isaiah 9.1 and marks the 'turn' from Despair to Hope.

Matt and Sarah were speaking and hosting. Thanks also to Dave Backhouse with the band for a great evening.

Watch out for an edited session video coming out in the next while.

Growing Leaders Youth Edition continues amongst everything. With a mix of in person sessions, and online when we have too. The young participants remain committed, although the online sessions are missing the usual spark you have with normal gatherings. The most recent session was on '*Leading where you are*', with the challenge to live out our faith with authenticity in whatever context we find ourselves in...



Please pray for Participants and their Mentors that relationships would grow as trust deepens as they meet up between sessions.

Please pray for Sarah and Matt as they look at adapting the schedule to get the most out of the sessions.