CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES



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

www.cupcork.ie 021-4877260

March 2022

Holy week 2022

Palm Sunday 10th – Easter Sunday 17th April





For Holy Week this year, we're delighted to have former Rector of Carrigrohane Union and recently retired Bishop of Down and Dromore, Harold Miller, with us. Please do save the dates — especially the evenings. Over the next couple of weeks, a small group of parishioners will be meeting to help organise this. The week will be based at the Carraig Centre this year. We plan to have a

good mix of services and look forward to welcoming parishioners, neighbours, friends, and those from the wider community across the parish.

Lent

With thoughts of the season of Lent around us – I commend to you resources from Biola – you'll find details on Ivan McMahon's piece elsewhere in Connect

In my thoughts at the beginning of this Lent there is a theme, which I will come back to through sermons — which is that of Integrity. It is a value which is extremely important throughout scripture and for us as Jesus' disciples.

On Ash Wednesday the readings point us to this living out our faith no matter what trials and tribulations come our way — not doing things for show — but simply being who God has created us to be.

Obviously Lent – with its 40 days allows us time to reflect upon where we are now, and in its repentance focus challenges us to make course corrections. There are many questions we could helpfully ask ourselves during this time of 40 days.

The questions can be found at www.cupcork.ie/lent

UKRAINE

This year will be dominated by events in the news – how quickly we've journeyed from a pandemic (which hasn't gone away) to a war in Ukraine.

On the last Sunday in February, I drew attention in my sermon to something which Nicky Gumble tweeted:

'This is NOT a moment for the church to 'stay out of politics'. This is the moment for churches all over the world: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant & Pentecostal to unite, pray & act URGENTLY to resist this evil invasion of Ukraine & support the Ukrainian people in every way possible.'

It is so desperately difficult to know what we can do – A Rector in Derry Diocese – Paul Hoey - wrote a recent post to his congregation, which I have edited

- Firstly there is the repentance piece of turning towards God throughout scripture we see stories of war and violent situation one of the many things these events show us that when people turn towards God rather than away from him things tend to turn towards the Lord.
- There is pressure to be put on the world's leaders to stand united against Putin There
 has been a united approach so far with firm and resolute action this needs to
 continue living in a democracy as we do, we can advocate for the people of Ukraine
 in the communications we have with our elected representatives both here, and also
 within the EU.
- There is a standing with all of those within our community from Ukraine.
- Then there is prayer Intercessory prayer for the people of Ukraine and their leaders including the leaders of the Churches in Ukraine and also that the Russian Invasion would not be successful.
- There is also the practical UNICEF, RED CROSS & smaller charities are doing what they can It seems also that local communities here in Ireland are mobilising to help with practicalities too. Over the next while we as a church will look at what we can do to help with all of this.
- These are difficult days as we emerge from the pandemic we are going to face difficulties in terms of financial pressures – in this global economy but as a friend of mine has written to his parish - We can recognise and accept that any price we might have to pay in financial terms in our support for Ukraine will be as nothing compared to the cost we might ultimately have to pay if this act of aggression against the free world is allowed to go unchecked.

Robert



MARCH 2022 Worship in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes

For links to online services – check out www.cupcork.ie/hall

Date	St Peter's, Carrigrohane	The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig (also on-line)	St Senan's, Inniscarra	The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney
2.3.22	8 pm A Service for Ash Wednesday			
6.3.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am United Celebration		
13.3.22	9.30 am Holy Communion	11 am Sunday AM (with Adventurers)	11 am Morning Prayer	11 am Holy Communion
20.3.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am Sunday AM - Holy Communion (with Adventurers)		11 am Morning Prayer
27.3.22	9.30 am Holy Communion	11 am Sunday AM (with Adventurers)	11 am Holy Communion	
3.4.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am United Celebration		

PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes, Rector: Robert Ferris – 085 1800720 - robert@cupcork.ie

Community Leader and Lead Evangelist in The Carraig Centre:

Matt Gould - 085 1080067 - matt@carraigcentre.ie

Carraig Centre Bookings Manager TCC: Bill Lane - bill@carraigcentre.ie

Youth Worker: Sarah Louise Hockey - sarah@cupcork.ie

The Carraig Centre reception desk is open from 9 am – 5 pm each week day.

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

Phone: 4877260 - office@cupcork.ie Jaki Godfrey, Parish Secretary - jaki@cupcork.ie Patsy Devoy,

Parish Administrator - patsy@cupcork.ie

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

CUP Bank Details for Standing Orders or direct lodgements:

Carrigrohane Union Select Vestry Current Account, AIB, South Mall, Cork.

Account: 21109077 IBAN: IE89 AIBK 9342 8321 1090 77 BIC: AIBKIE2D

Continued grateful thanks to everyone for generous giving to the life & work of the Parish.

Please note that any lodgements and Standing Orders that are anonymous means your generous giving can't be included in the annual Tax Reclaim that is such a great help in our annual finances. If you prefer your name not to be on the bank statements, but you are willing to let Patsy know who you are, we can do the necessary work to substantially increase the value of your gifts.



April 2022 Magazine

Please note that any articles or photographs for the next edition of Connect need to be emailed to patsy@cupcork.ie or left in the Parish office on or before: Monday 14 March.

Safeguarding Trust

The Rector, Select Vestry and parish leaders are committed to upholding good practice in the Parish's ministry with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Should you have a concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the parish panel below or any of the statutory agencies:

Robert Ferris – 085 1800720; Jane Moffatt – 086 8935866; Ivan McMahon – 086 8125792

Pastoral Ministry Appointments

Robert can be contacted any time to arrange an appointment; he will be delighted to visit you.

Simply give Robert a call on: 0851800720 or email: robert@cupcork.ie

Appointments can be arranged to meet – at home, a coffee shop or at the Carraig Centre. There doesn't need to be any major issue – now that restrictions are being lifted it can simply be a catch up!





Vacancy for Parish Administrator

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes (Church of Ireland) is seeking to appoint a Part Time Parish Administrator based in The Carraig Centre in Ballincollig, Cork.

The person will be responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of a range of administrative functions for Carrigrohane Union and The Carraig Centre

The person will work closely with the Rector and will be responsible for the supervision of a small team.

The person will have relevant training and/or at least 3 years of experience in a similar administrative role. S/he will be expected to be comfortable working in a role where worship and prayer are a natural part of the working environment.

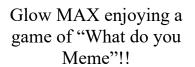
Job Description and Application form available on www.cupcork.ie/jobs

Email completed application forms to iobs@cupcork.ie



Here are a few snippets of what we got up to this past month...







A group of our teenagers from Sunday PM took a trip to Awesome Walls where impressive skills were displayed by all (and there was absolutely no competitiveness whatsoever...!)



We split Glow over two evenings for the last time this month as we will be able to return to bigger groups in March. Some of our young people mastered "baloodle" (like hockey but with balloons and pool noodles) while others got stuck into nerf and Lego!



Key Dates **Sunday PM**

6th March: 5:30-7:30pm at TCC

27th March: (Proposed visit to Douglas Methodist 12:30-2:30- if this

doesn't go ahead we'll gather at usual time at TCC-TBC

sarah@cupcork.ie)

Change to Glow and Glow Max dates (apologies!) **Glow Max:** (Secondary school) Friday 4th March 7:30-9:30 pm (Visit to Douglas Methodist on 27th open to Glow Max too!)

Glow (4th -6th Class) Friday 25th March 7-9pm

Advent Blog 2022

In last month's Connect, Robert recommended the Biola 2022 Lent project as one of many good resources that are available for people to use as a devotional tool. It starts on March 2 and runs through to Saturday April 23. This year the theme will be the Psalms. "As we journey together over the eight weeks of the Lent Project we will encounter wisdom Psalms, the penitential Psalms, Psalms of mercy and salvation, some of the Messianic Psalms, imprecatory Psalms, Psalms of the Passion, and finally resurrection and ascension Psalms. Our prayer is



that in the midst of this challenging season, the Lent Project will help you encounter Christ in the Prayer Book of the Church and may our hearts and lives be transformed in that meeting." Introduction to Biola Lent 2022.

I was first introduced to the Biola Advent/Lent material by a friend over 4 years ago and have found them refreshingly different to anything I had come across before. I felt that it would be great if there was a forum where a group could share their responses/ questions/ struggles with the issues raised and so a year ago I began a small blog community. This was repeated again at Advent. The idea of sharing the Lent or Advent journey with fellow pilgrims seemed to offer an added bonus.

"Over the years I have regularly intended to use the lent and advent periods to prepare for and appreciate the profoundness of Christmas and Easter. Mostly though, I would find myself suddenly at Christmas eve or Good Friday, wrapped up in the festivities and busyness but with little spiritual reflection in the lead up. Last year Ivan invited me to be part of a Lenten blog using the Biola materials. Each day there is a scripture reading, a poem, an artwork and a piece of music to consider, accompanied by the devotional author's thoughts on it all. I found putting aside a little time each day to read, listen and reflect was immensely enriching and refreshing. The materials are drawn from a diverse array of sources and I loved encountering new, creative takes on the themes being explored.

Being part of a blog with others was a lovely way to share our thoughts and the insights we'd gained from the Biola materials. People seemed to connect with different aspects of the devotions for each day and that was just as inspiring as the materials themselves. It was a lovely way not only to develop a faith focused routine during this sacred time, but to connect with others in the process too."

Hilary Jenkinson

The Lent Blog is a subscriber only space so only those who sign up for it will gain access to it. Of course, you can subscribe directly to the Biola materials yourself by following this link https://ccca.biola.edu/lent/2022/. (If you have subscribed in the past to Biola material then you should automatically get an email to this year's material.)

If you want to subscribe to the Blog then please email me: ivanmcmahon1@gmail.com.

Ivan McMahon

St Peter's news...

Chuck and I have been a part of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes for 3.5 years. It has been an amazing journey of getting to know so many of you, serving alongside you and learning so much from all of you! Thank you! One area that I have learned more about is treating God's creation with respect, as an act of



worshipping God and a means of showing my gratitude to God for his gift of creation. As I do this, it also results in my showing respect for humanity and the rest of God's created world. I too often forget that my actions and practices don't just affect me but they also impact all of creation around me.

This thought was brought to my mind as I reread A Reader's Digest selection, from 1986, called "Wildlife On Your Doorstep," shared with me by Vicki and Harcourt Wilson, friends from our St. Peter's congregation. Even though this article and photos were from 36 years ago, the information is still relevant today. Placed in this article was a beautiful picture of St. Peter's Church, surrounded by flowing long grasses and plants, with yellow and white blossoms, it looks as though it could have been taken last summer, instead of 3 decades before. This photo and another photo of limestone lichen-covered headstones in St. Peter's churchyard was taken by West Cork photographer Richard T. Mills.

The main idea of this article is that "Many rural churchyards are ancient and contain a wealth of interesting flowering plants and associated wildlife. As traditional meadows become more scarce, churchyards are increasingly valued for their species-rich grassland."

So why are they so important? These pieces of grassland may have been undisturbed for hundreds of years, apart from the periodic digging of graves for burial. These churchyards have unlikely been fertilized, drained, ploughed up or reseeded. This allows for the grassland to be rich in many different herbaceous flowering plants, and if left to grow tall in spring and summer, they support a high diversity of insects and invertebrates, which also support small mammals, and even larger predators. In addition, these churchyards can keep a bit of ancient grasslands alive, as seeds are allowed to set and then fall, producing more of the same plants. Surrounding the churchyard are often stone walls, which also serve as home to plants such as Valerian, stonecrops and pellitory-of-the-wall. Trees and shrubs in the churchyard are ideal shelter and nest sites for birds. The dense foliage of the

yew, commonly found in churchyards, is perfect for nesting, roosting and even a food source for some birds.

The abundant insect and invertebrate populations that can thrive in tall grasses, can bring in a range of small animals like mice, voles, moles, hedgehogs, rabbits, and larger animals like foxes. Owls seek quiet areas so they can hear the high-pitched sound of their prey. The quietness of a churchyard is ideal for them. Bats in the belfry? Yes, church belfry's do provide the easy in and out of their "home" that is needed, and in the churchyard where the grass has been left to grow, they should find plenty of insects to feast on!

The chemistry of the soil in a churchyard depends on the area's geology, but it is also affected by the eroded materials of the headstones and church masonry, and the presence of bones in the soil. Lime-loving plants (calcicoles) like the green-winged orchid, quaking grass and the "stinking iris" can be found growing in these areas.

What does all this information practically mean for me?

Even though my personal preference is to keep a neat and tidy garden and churchyard with weedless mown grass, shrubs and a variety of flowers, I realize that is not the best form of gardening when I consider the many forms of life that can be negatively affected by my preferences. So, I am trying to retrain my mind and begin to see the beauty of the more "untamed look". The "look" that allows these diverse elements of God's creation to survive. I hope to strike a balance of remembering our loved ones who have passed with respect and caring for the creation that surrounds them.



Churchyard Activity:

1. Sit on a bench or chair in the churchyard and watch and listen. What do you see, and hear? Look up, down and around you. Take a magnifying glass to see up close what is on the grassy floor and on the grass blades and stems of plants. Use binoculars to see birds in the trees or shrubs. Life is all around; life that God created. Give praise to God for this amazing creation!

2. The churchyard is a place of reverence and respect for those who were placed in the earth, but it is also a place to praise God for the hope of heaven for those who have been redeemed by Jesus, the Saviour! He is Risen! All who know Jesus as Saviour and Lord will rise to be with him! Give praise to God for this glorious promise!

Kathy Hohnbaum

Easter Vestry (AGM)

Our Easter General Vestry (Our Annual Meeting) is being held on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30 pm in the Carraig Centre. This will see the adoption of the Accounts and the Election of the new Select Vestry for this year.

All are very welcome to attend. Only those registered on the General Vestry Roll can vote – you can register up until noon on Monday 7th March – by dropping a form into the parish office at the Carraig Centre or leaving forms in church on 6th March. If that doesn't give you enough time to access a form, please email the office with your intention to register. The link to the form is on the parish website.

At the end of March / and beginning of April we will have nomination papers out in our churches for anyone who would like to be nominated for Select Vestry 2022/23 – if we have more than the required number an election will take place.

How do we run the parish?

- The annually elected group of parishioners who, take care of the practical and financial decisions of the parish are the SELECT VESTRY.
- They are proposed and seconded (permission must be given!) from people across the 4 congregations in the parish, all of whom are listed on the GENERAL VESTRY ROLL.
- Everyone over 18 who attends any of the services in the Union of Parishes and/or lives within the parish bounds may be on this Roll, and therefore have a vote to elect the Select Vestry at the EASTER GENERAL VESTRY meeting which is the Parish A.G.M.
- Also elected at this meeting are the Church Wardens (two per congregation), who assist the Rector with practical matters in each church and the two Glebe Wardens, who take care of the buildings and lands within the parish.
- The Select Vestry then meets and elects an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer.
- The SV meets between 8-10 times a year.
- Every three years, eight people (with 3-4 supplementals) from the General Vestry Roll are nominated and elected to represent the parish on the Diocesan Synod (meeting once a year),
- and four people (with 4 supplementals) are nominated and elected as Parochial Nominators who, along with Diocesan Nominators and the Bishop, form a Board of Nomination to select a new Rector when a vacancy occurs.

If you are new to the parish - please, do get involved – we will have forms available soon in the Churches or from the front desk at the Carraig Centre – if you aren't registered you can't vote!

Staffing update

Over the past few months, the Select Vestry have been informed that there will be a few changes to our staff team.

Katie Gould is stepping back from her role as our youth worker – in the next edition of Connect I will take more space to say thank you to Katie for her amazing work in the parish over the



many years. At a forthcoming United Celebration (to be arranged) we will all have the opportunity to thank Katie for this ministry.

Patsy Devoy is retiring from her role as Parish Administrator from the end of June – again we will take time in due course to say thank you to Patsy.

In light of these changes the Select Vestry have agreed to begin a few processes.

There is a sub-group of Vestry looking at our youth programme in the hope to report back by June with suggestions which will be presented to Vestry on the future direction of the programme.

And we have begun the advertising of two posts:

- The first is Parish Administrator.
- The second is a Community Employment Scheme Post Caretaker for Carraig & Parish Centres



Alpha (and the post Alpha group) are meeting in The Carraig Centre on Thursday evenings.

Please continue to pray for these groups — and the other house groups meeting across the parish.

Gender Based Violence

In our continuing focus on the issues of gender-based violence, we are hoping to host an exhibition/display in the Carraig Centre – created by the Mothers Union – called 'The Souls of Our Shoes'.

In the latest edition of the Church of Ireland Gazette – The Dean of Ossory highlights the issue: where there is any form of abuse – physical, psychological, sexual - it is wrong and needs to stop. There is help available.

We have distributed posters across all of our churches – these posters are going up in our toilets. Asking for help is difficult but is a sign of strength.

There are organisations with the expertise and years of experience to help.

Here is the poster we're sharing with the whole parish:



LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



...SUFFER BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE DISRESPECTFUL AND ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR IS NEVER OK

Does your partner

- make you feel ugly and useless?
- cut you off from family and friends?
- threaten you to get their own way?
- blame you for their behaviour?
- never admit they are wrong?
- use the Bible to excuse behaviour towards you?

FOR SUPPORT, ADVICE AND SIGNPOSTING, CALL

24 Hour National Helpline Freephone 1800 341 900

Open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual violence

Domestic Abuse Services:

Cuanlee Refuge, Cork City: 021 4277698 – 24 hours

West Cork Women against Violence: 027 53847 Freephone:1800 203 136

Men's Aid Ireland: 01 5543811

Garda: In an emergency call 999/112

Garda Confidential Freephone Line: 1800 555 222

Mothers' Union: Reg. Charity 2007331 - Revenue 5161

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes:

Our Mission:



Our mission is to be an authentic, open community of all ages and stages:

- Making whole-life disciples of Jesus who live and share his gospel
- Praying, playing, and learning together
- Worshiping God passionately

Our Identity:

Carrigrohane Union is a union of churches whose members are drawn from near and far. Each of our four congregations seeks:

- To be centred on the life and teaching of Jesus
- To grow in his love together
- To express his love in action



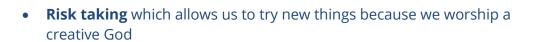


Our Purpose:

We seek to be a church for everyone; following Jesus's example of serving our community, making disciples and enabling people to experience the generosity of God.

Our Values:

We value:





- A whole life spirituality which encompasses prayer, Bible study, outreach and living out our faith
- **Generosity** of time and resources because we worship a generous God
- **Relevance** making sure that what we do connects with everyday life in Cork
- **Encouragement and support** within the community, helping each other through tough times and celebrating through good times
- **Enabling people of all ages** and backgrounds to find their God given place as we create and celebrate our changing community.
- **Developing an inter-generational church** where people from all ages learn, grow, and serve together





Many thanks to lovely Kate Durrant (and lovely dogs!) for coming to Adventurers to tell us all about Dogs for the Disabled. The bad weather stopped us walking that week but...

...the next
week...here we
are, preparing to
leave The Carraig
Centre on our
walk, in aid of
Dogs for the
Disabled!
Thank you
everyone for the
great support – we
raised €465!!!!



Next, we plan to

think about the service of Holy Communion – what we do and why we do it – leading beautifully towards Easter. *Kathy, Ruth, Dean & Patsy*



150 Years

Bishop Paul says, 'Since 1872, at a number of addresses in Cork, but predominantly in the previous Saint Luke's Home on Military Hill, and since 1994 at Castle Road, Mahon, the visionary work of caring for people in need, principally older people as well as people living with dementia, as continued faithfully.

This sesquicentenary is an opportunity to remember with affection all who have been residents and their families throughout that time, and to reflect on the faithfulness and practical care over the last 150 years by staff, management, professional partners, board members, volunteers and countless partners in the community, not east, our invaluable fund-raisers and generous benefactors. As President for the past 23 years, I take this opportunity now to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one.

We will celebrate this year with a small number of significant events, ending with a Service of Thanksgiving in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on Saint Luke's Day, 18th October 2022. In the meantime and throughout this year we invite you to join us in giving thanks for this remarkable voluntary work that has endured for 150 years and continues today.'

We are invited to pray...

Gracious God, whose Evangelist, St Luke the Physician, tells of the meeting of Simeon and Anna with your Son in the Temple; as Jesus blessed them in the later years of their lives, bless all at St Luke's Home.

Give joy, peace and strength to those who live, work, visit and serve your people here. As we remember with thanksgiving our founder, Frances Gregg, we give thanks in our day, and ask you to bless all who encourage and support our care for older people and for those who live with dementia, our service to the local community, and the work of our education centre.

We offer these thanksgivings and prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Carraig Centre **Toy Library**

Do you or your kids want something new to play with but money and space mean it's not possible?

Would you like fewer toys but still the joy of playing with something new? Why not come and borrow some toys and bring them back when your kids are tired

- Runs on first Friday of the month from 12.15-12.45 pm @ The Carraig Centre Toys suitable for ages up to 12 years We also have some baby/ toddler equipment available to borrow
- Cost €2 family one off membership fee. After that the library is free to use



How it works

Toys are loaned for one month. You can let us know if you'd like to keep it longer and extend the loan for up to 3 months. Then we ask you to return it and give someone else a turn!

Equipment is loaned for as long as you need it.

We ask that toys are returned clean, and in good condition, but we know that accidents do happen and toys are meant to be played with! So we ask that if something is damaged or missing a piece, that you let us know when you return it so we can make sure we are not loaning out things that are broken or with pieces missing.

Why we run the toy library

As followers of Jesus we have been given so much; we want to share God's goodness and gifts with others. We hope the toy library will:

- serve our community by giving kids the joy of fresh toys, to play with and learn from, without the expense
- help families with limited space
- help us to live more sustainably, by sharing and reducing the number of new things people need to buy.

Disclaimer:

Parents must ensure the suitability of the toys for their children before they borrow them. The Carraig Centre is not responsible for any accidents or injury involving the toys.

Directly following Sparks on the first Friday of each month in The Carraig Centre the Toy Library is open to all!

12.00-12.15 for Sparks families and 12.15-12.45 for families who didn't attend Sparks.

There will be lots more news of all the activities and groups across the parish in next month's edition of Connect – including reports in advance of the Easter General Vestry meeting (AGM).



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