

# CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES



St Peter's, Carrigrohane

St Senan's, Inniscarra

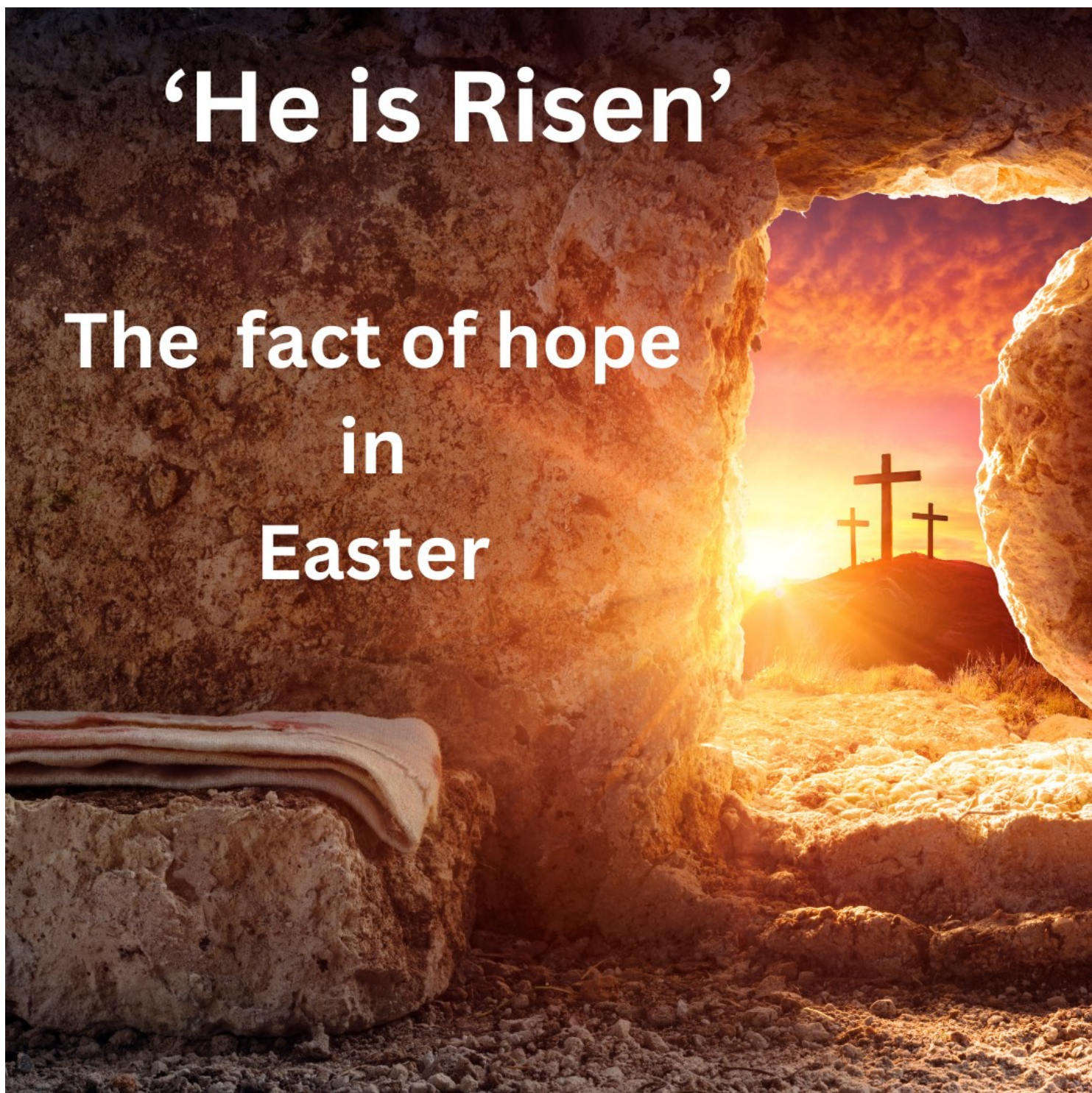
The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney

The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig

[www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie)

## 'He is Risen'

The fact of hope  
in  
Easter



APRIL 2024

## PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS

**Rector:** Rev Robert Ferris 085 1800720 Robert@cupcork.ie

**Associate Minister:** Rev Abigail Sines Abigail@cupcork.ie

**Community leader & Lead Evangelist:** Matt Gould 085 1080067  
matt@carraigcentre.ie

**Pioneer Evangelist & Youth Worker:** Sarah Louise Hockey 085 2774346  
sarahlouise@cupcork.ie

**TCC Bookings Manager:** Bill Lane bill@carraigcentre.ie

**The Carraig Centre reception:** Monday to Friday 9am—5pm

**The Parish Office:** Monday to Friday 9.30am—1.30pm

**Phone:** 4877260 office@cupcork.ie

**Parish Administrator:** Deirdre@cupcork.ie

**Parish Secretary:** Jaki@cupcork.ie

**Finance Officer:** Mary@cupcork.ie

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

## Parishioners in Hospital ?

We can no longer be certain hospitals will provide us with notifications of parishioners who have been admitted to hospital. If you or any parishioner you may know is in hospital, please let the office know and a visit by the relevant chaplain will be arranged..

## Email Update ?

Each Friday we send out a message to all parishioners who have signed up—if you would like to get this please sign up on our website homepage or contact the office.

## New to the Parish?

If you have recently arrived in the Parish and found yourself wondering who we are and what goes on around here, don't hesitate to call the office or talk to Robert, Abigail, Matt or Sarah Louise . The Parish is a Church of Ireland Parish and as such has a structure unique to the Church of Ireland. At the beginning of February we will be revising our Vestry Roll which will provide the opportunity for you to add your name to the roll of members of the Parish and will allow you to vote at our Annual General Meeting of Vestry Members.

# From Robert's Desk!



## Easter Day - Easter Season 2024

The events of the days between Maundy Thursday and Easter Day changed the world forever. When we proclaim “He is Risen” on the third day - that proclamation is not only a historical reality - which it absolutely is! It is also pointing towards an incredible hope for all of us - that both now—in the present hour and also after our own death - there is the reality of eternal life.

This is the hope of Easter for then but also for us now and it is incredible.

Holy week this year began for me - organising a funeral of a parishioner - what I was really struck by was the hope we have as I prepared the funeral at the beginning of the week. I was struck by what we call the Easter Anthems - texts from Paul's writings which we use to remind us about the realities of life, Death and Resurrection - may we in this Easter Season get these things worked out for ourselves.

**Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,  
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.  
In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.  
See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.  
For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;  
for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**  
*1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

*As we celebrate this Easter season we do as people with Hope and a message of Good News to share.*

*Robert*

### Admin Office Easter Break

**Please note that the Admin Office will be closed for the week beginning Monday 1st to Friday 5th April.**

# The Carraig Centre 2023-2024

Those of you who drop into the Carraig Centre from time to time, know that it can swing from quiet and restful to bustling, busy and noisy in a few minutes! Whether it is the joy of worshipping our God on Sunday mornings, sharing a meal or a coffee together (Bring and Share and Melting Pot lunches, Pause coffee and chat afternoons, or just casually meeting up), prayer times on Monday evenings or at Bible studies, Alpha and Growth Group, we celebrate God's goodness to us in thankfulness and community in this past year.

In many ways, this was the year that the Carraig Centre hit its stride, moving from post-COVID to "normal" operations. We continue to be much sought after for community rental space and while we do have some available slots for community hire, the prime spots are usually full. We accommodate between 35-40 different groups, either occasionally, or regularly. I continue to get weekly inquiries for occasional and regular community activity bookings, as does Deirdre who now manages all the birthday bookings. Each inquiry is a personal request from someone and, whether we can accommodate it or not we try to respond with grace and care. Our birthday slots (Sunday afternoons only) are booked 3-4 months in advance so there are many disappointments.

We maintain a policy of providing some space free of charge to community groups whose sole purpose is general community benefit. In this way we support the Garda Neighbourhood security scheme, the Ballincollig First Responders our Youth Space weekly activity and several Ukrainian crisis response activities including summer camps, cultural activities and a Ukrainian Pilates group.

Financially this was a complex but satisfying year. We finished with our rental income 10% ahead of the original budget due to increased occupancy and with a small surplus overall. From April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 the Carraig Parish and Community Centre CLG (TCC CLG) officially took over the management and operations of the premises when we had gone through all the hoops of setting up the company and achieving charitable tax status. As you will recall, the company is wholly owned by Carrigrohane Union of Parishes (CUP) Select Vestry and has a 35 year lease from the Parish through the RCB. Many people were involved in getting this all organised, particularly the Board of Directors, especially Jane Moffat, Ivan McMahon and Robert Ferris, and Deirdre Lightbody and Mary Gleeson in the office. The Carraig Centre supports the office function for both CUP and TCC CLG in physical and financial terms, contributing directly for the provision of administration services.

Physically, we invested substantially in the Carraig Centre during the year, made possible by grant aid from Cork City Council and other grant bodies. To improve Main Hall flexibility we installed the sound proof movable partitions. This has proved very popular with Enable Ireland and others, and as an example, has allowed Sparks Toddler group and Enable Ireland to use the Main Hall at the same time on Friday mornings. We also installed a larger number of "fire door hold opens" to ensure that the multiple fire doors maintained their fire safety purpose, as they were getting fixed open.

At time of writing, 25KW of solar panels and battery storage will shortly be installed, contributing substantially to a reduction in our energy costs and improving our carbon footprint in the long term. The energy audit that was carried out as part of this was highly complementary of the general level of energy efficiency in the existing premises.

The West Wing refurbishment project moved on several steps during the year. We were complimented on the quality of our application by the Department of Justice to their funding programme and were notified that we had been successful in being approved for funding in October 2023. At time of writing more than half the funds have been received and the remainder should come during this year, bringing the total to €2M. We are currently working to determine how the large increase in building costs can best be managed but we are confident of a start on the refurbishment programme late this year.

God has greatly blessed us and we continue to watch and pray for how to better serve those within the Parish and in the wider community. If anyone in prayer can see ways we can improve our serving please let me, Matt or Robert Ferris know for our discernment!

*Bill Lane*

# Storehouse.

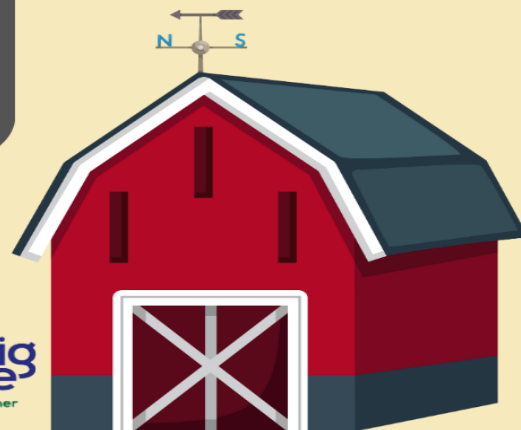
**Storehouse Prayer and Worship  
Gathering.**

**Praying Together for our World.**

**Friday the 26th of  
April  
7:30 – 9:30**



**the  
carraig  
centre**  
building hope together



## **MELTING POT LUNCH**

**Thursday 16 May**

**at 12.30pm in the Carraig Centre**

**All adults welcome!**

**(Please let Patsy 087 6413559 or Deirdre 4877260  
know if you're coming)**

## CUP Youth Update- Building Faith in 2023/24



We have had a lot of fun across our youth programme these past twelve months.

At our informal youth space drop in for local teens we have had the privilege of building Lego and deeper connections with the small group of young people who regularly attend.



Glow and Glow MAX, our monthly Friday evening spaces for young people have been a wonderful places to explore new ways of leaning into faith questions. Our older teens in particular have stepped into more leadership roles, from leading games and activities at Glow and messy church, to facilitating discussions at Glow MAX. It's been a joy to see them building up their skills and confidence as they lead their peers.

We've also had lots of fun building stories together with "Out of the Box" facilitated by Abigail.



Several of our young people have taken part in the Alpha Youth Series, digging into key questions about the Christianity and building on the foundations of their faith to equip them to stand firm in difficult times, enjoy God more deeply and be ready to share the message of the Gospel with those around them.



Some of the highlights of our year have been our trips away. At Easter we spent time in Bandon, building friendships with our partner youth groups, Trinity Church Dublin's 'Ruach', and Ardfallen Methodist and learning about God together. We also loved attending the Christ in Youth "Move" conference in Kildare during the summer and look forward to the next one!

It wouldn't be possible to do the building we've done this year without such a wonderful team of volunteers who give their time, energy and love to share Jesus and do life with these young people. Thank you to all who have been part of the team, as we seek to "build hope together."



# EASTER YOUTH TRIP

EACH YEAR WE TRY TO GET AWAY AND SPEND DEDICATED TIME AS A GROUP DIGGING MORE DEEPLY INTO GOD'S WORD AND CREATING SPACE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH AND RESPOND TO HIM.

IT'S ALSO AN OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY FOR YP TO INVITE THEIR FRIENDS TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM!

(SET UP DAY TUESDAY  
2ND APRIL)  
WED 3 APRIL - SAT  
6TH APRIL 2024 -  
BANDON



WE WOULD SO APPRECIATE YOUR  
HELP AND PRAYERS!  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

- Drivers (to give lifts to young people and leaders from the bus to the camp centre and into Bandon town (various times throughout the trip- particularly 3rd and 6th arrival and departure times)
- Bakers to make some treats
- Cooks who could prepare some soups
- Kitchen overseer (to come down to the centre once a day (or stay over if you prefer), manage the buying of food and oversee the cooking process (with the help of the young people/leaders)
- Leaders (To come down and and stay for the few days, spending time engaging with the young people, supervising and being part of small group discussions
- Pray-ers! To cover this time in prayer!

IF YOU FEEL YOU COULD HELP OUT IN ANY OF THESE WAYS OR WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT SARAH LOUISE  
SARAHLOUISE@CUPCORK.IE | 0852774346

## St. Patrick's Craft afternoon at Blarney Church



On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, despite the rain, there were lots of people in the church between 1pm and 4pm. It was lovely to see so many people, of all generations, in the church enjoying each other's company and having lots of fun, doing crafts and chatting together as they ate some yummy goodies.



There were six different activity stations on the day:

Icing and decorating shamrock shaped biscuits to take home and enjoy. There were plenty of sticky fingers after this activity;



Making sheep with a copy of Psalm 23 on the back and learning all about the Good Shepherd. There was a flock of about thirty sheep roaming the church when this activity finished;

A Celtic cross to colour and turn into a stained-glass window decoration using baby oil. These looked super hanging on the temporary drying line;



A printing activity using corks and green paint to create shamrock paintings. There were lots more paintings on the floor under the table as there wasn't enough space to dry them all on the table;



A prayer activity offering people the chance to pray for our world. Lots of prayers were drawn or written on Celtic cross shapes and stuck around the picture of the world;



And the colouring table, which is always a great hit.

It certainly was a great afternoon full of fun and sharing for the whole community.







What is always moving, fun, noisy, messy, and makes you smile???



### Toddlers of course !!

More specifically **Sparks Toddler Group** on Friday mornings 10-11.30am!

Sparks is in its 31<sup>st</sup> year! Many things have **changed** in those years: leaders, helpers, meeting place and the families that we serve.

- We meet in the TCC main hall - so much space compared to the old Parish Centre on Church Hill!
- Our toddlers are younger than they were a few years ago due to the **Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE)**. So we have taken that into consideration in the toys, songs, and story lengths that we provide for the kids.
- Starting in COVID, we had a weekly registration that placed a limit on the number of families that could attend, but this past autumn we opened it up again to anyone who came. We have an average of 30-33 families (60 to 80 bodies) who attend each week with one very busy week of 50 families in attendance!
- This year we have acquired a large screen moveable TV to project our song words for the adults and Bible story pictures for the children, through a grant from Cork City Childcare.
- A big plus this autumn was the installation of the divider wall in the main hall. It provides a quiet space for Enable Ireland at the entrance end and has opened up the playroom once again for us to use.

What has **not changed** is that we still provide a...

- warm welcome
- a place where our adults can meet each other and toddlers get to interact with other toddlers and learn how to share and play alongside of and together.
- lots of toys for our kids to play with
- space for our helpers to listen to, chat with, and encourage our parents/carers
- a Bible story, and songs (Christian and secular)
- and of course tea, coffee and scones!!!



All of this so that we can share the love that Jesus has given to us. We strive to do that in word and deed with the prayer that His Kingdom would increase. Join us in praying for this Parish outreach!

Our current team members: Ashling, Chantal, Eleanor, Elena, Evelyn, Frank, Jean, Laurel, Lineke, Leigh, Marion, Matt, Vika. Thanks so much for all you do!!!!

**We could use more on our team!** We have openings for helpers if you can do every week **or even just one time a month**. Please consider this great service to families in our area. All of our helpers are garda vetted and have done the Safeguarding Trust Training of COI.

Kathy Hohnbaum for the Sparks Team.



Fundraiser Worship Event happening at  
the Haven Cafe, Bachelors Quay.  
April 20<sup>th</sup> All welcome.

Cork City Praise event happening 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 1-5pm  
"To Worship Jesus in a public space"  
"Presenting before God a United Body"

NewWine  
Local churches changing nations

Sligo  
2024

14-19 July 2024

[www.newwineireland.org](http://www.newwineireland.org)



**Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.**

**As a parish we will be taking part in this—more details in next months magazine. Until then why not think about those who you would like to pray for. The focus of this wave of prayer is for those we know who don't know Christ yet!**

## Diocesan News

### Three New Honorary Canons appointed by the Bishop of Cork to St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, has announced that he has appointed three new Honorary Canons to Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

Bishop Colton said that he is delighted to have made the appointments following consultation with the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne:

- Mrs Gillian Kingston has been appointed as a lay Ecumenical Canon.
- The Reverend Robert Ferris, Rector of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes has been appointed as Honorary Canon Missioner.
- The Reverend John Ardis, Rector of Abbeystrewry Union of Parishes has been appointed as Honorary Canon with responsibility for vocations in the Diocese.#

Speaking about his appointment, Robert said:

I am surprised, delighted, and honoured to be appointed as Honorary Canon Missioner of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. It will be a privilege to serve the Diocese and Cathedral in this particular role. I hope that working together as the Diocesan family we can be encouraged as we look forward with Confidence to a hopeful future. As I step into this new role I hope that it will enable helpful conversations around the Cathedral and Diocese with a focus on the 5 Marks of Mission in their fullness namely Sharing the Good News of Christ, Intentional Discipleship, Responding to community needs, Challenging injustice and Tending Creation.

### Children and Family Ministry Workshop in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The diocesan Children and Family Ministry Group's second workshop day highlighting the theme of 'Welcome' took place on Saturday, 2nd March 2024 at Northridge House.

The Rev. Abigail Sines writes:

Following on from last October's event, 'Renewing our Welcome', this recent event highlighted the theme of 'Welcoming All Ages', focusing on how parishes can include and nurture the participation of children and young people in our regular patterns of worship. Representatives of twelve parish unions took part in the event, which featured a presentation by Joanna Griffin, Kinsale Union, sharing her learning from the Hand in Hand Children's Ministry Conference, which she recently attended on behalf of CCR.

April Gunn, from Carrigrohane Union and a member of the organising group, shared:

'My personal highlights of the day were: learning and singing together the songs, 'Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!' by Mike Anderson and 'Creator God' by Nick and Becky Drake; the discussion group time where we discussed the question 'What does it mean to be welcoming to all ages?' and then came up with a list of practical ways to incorporate this thinking into the various parts of a Church Service; the craft time; hearing from Joanna about the Hand in Hand Conference and seeing some of the resources from that; and generally getting to spend time and to chat to people who are equally passionate, about working with children and families, as I am. It truly was an encouraging, fun-filled and inspiring event.'



## **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

## **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 Deirdre know who you are, we can do the necessary work to substantially increase the value of your gifts.*

## **Connecting With Us via Social Media**

We're on Facebook—[facebook.com/cupcork](https://facebook.com/cupcork)

We're also on Youtube—[youtube.com/cupcork](https://youtube.com/cupcork)

## **Pastoral Visiting**

It is always a great privilege for the clergy to visit parishioners in their homes. If you would like to request a clergy visit, please telephone the Rector (085 1800720) or Parish Office on 0214877260

**Don't Forget—The Deadline for Connect Newsletter is the 15th of the month—Please leave any articles in the Parish Office post box or send them to the Connect Newsletter email**

**[connect@cupcork.ie](mailto:connect@cupcork.ie)**

## Easter General Vestry

On Wednesday 17th April we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in Blarney Church at 7.30 PM - At this meeting Members who have signed up to the General Vestry List will be able to vote for the new Select Vestry (Those who help in the running of the parish).

### From the Registers

**Burial: Heather Daly in St Peter's Graveyard on 26 March 2024**

### Please remember to pray for:



- **The leaders of our different groups**
- **Those who are sick at home, in hospital or in nursing homes**
- **Those who are bereaved**
- **The communities that live around our churches**
- **Bishop Paul as he celebrates 25 years as Bishop**

## Cleaning & Tidying Up days

After Easter, we will be looking for volunteers to help clean up **Aisling Cottage** as we prepare it for sale.

We'll also need a tidy-up team for the **Parish Centre**.  
More details to follow.

# Calendar for April



## April 2024 Sunday Worship

In Carrigrohane Union of Parishes  
For links to online services—check out  
[www.cupcork.ie/hall](http://www.cupcork.ie/hall)

Date	St Peter's Carrigrohane	The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig	St Senan's, Inniscarra	The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney
7.4.24	10 am Morning Prayer	11 am Sunday AM with bring & share lunch		11.30 am Holy Communion
14.4.24	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Sunday AM with Holy Communion	11.30 am Holy Communion	
21.4.24	10 am Family Service	11 am Sunday AM		11.30 am A Service of the Word
28.4.24	10 am Holy Communion	11am Sunday AM	11.30 am Morning Prayer	