

Parishes of Swords Clonmetheran & Kilsallaghan with Donabate & Lusk
Newsletter January 2026



**May the New Year fill your home
with joy, your heart with love, and
your life with laughter, & may God
bless you today and every day.**

Happy New Year.

If you've the wish or need to make a change in the coming year, help is at hand:

The God who made us also can remake us.

—Woodrow Kroll

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

— C. S. Lewis

parishes of swords donabate & kilsallaghan



NEW YEAR KICKOFF!

PRAISE 'N' PIZZA

an evening FAMILY service

- + prayers
- + songs a.k.a. hymns!
- + talk
- + activity (optional for parents ;-)

and of course...

PIZZA!

6 PM



EVERYONE is very welcome!

Sunday January 18th Old Borough School Hall

After a cracking Christingle service in the church before the Christmas break, **Praise 'n' Pizza is BACK!**

The January Praise 'n' Pizza is on Sunday January the 18th in the school hall across the road from St Columba's Church in Swords.

If you haven't been before, this is a great time to give it a try!

It's a free event, everyone is welcome, and if you have any questions, call or text Yvonne on 086 354 7206.

Please note the NEW start time of 6 p.m.



A Message From The Captain

Hope the girls had a lovely Christmas.

We re-open again on Wednesday 7th January after the Christmas holidays, to continue to prepare for our annual display, which will be on Saturday 18th April.

Here's Santa with the girls of the 45th Co. Girls Brigade at their Christmas party.

Happy New Year to all.

-- *Captain Caron Neale*



The Live Crib 2025
a report by Niall Minto



The Live Animal Crib at the Mansion House has been an important part of Dublin life for the past thirty years and apart from a brief move to St Stephen's Green in 2022, it has proudly remained at the heart of the Mansion House Christmas celebrations.

Our Reverend Yvonne was the Church of Ireland representative for the opening of the crib this year and as always, she did us proud. She marked the opening of the 2025 crib with Fr Alan Hilliard, who is based in City Quay church and also serves as an university chaplain in TU Dublin.

The Live Crib 2025, continued

At a time when Christmas is so often treated as a commercial event rather than a Christian celebration, it is genuinely heart-warming to see traditions like the Live Crib continue, reminding us all of the humble beginnings of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Here are a few photos including the choir; Reverend Yvonne; Fr Alan Hilliard; Dublin's Lord Mayor, Ray McAdam; and IFA President, Francie Gorman.





On December 13th, Reverend Yvonne Ginnelly and Lay Minister David Snow held a festive service of Holy Communion at the CareChoice Nursing Home in Swords.

The room was packed and the celebration was enjoyed by everyone.

Afterwards, Yvonne and David distributed the gifts and good wishes generously contributed by you, the parishioners.

Thank you so much for your kindness. It was very much appreciated.

Here are a couple of photos from the event (used with permission). Left to right, Reverend Yvonne, Evelyn who is a resident of CareChoice, her brother Arthur, and David.



Services for the Month Ahead

Sunday 4th January

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th January

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Holy Communion
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Family Service
11.30 p.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
6 p.m.	Swords hall	Praise and Pizza

Sunday 25th January

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Holy Communion
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion
1 p.m.	Saint David's Kilsallaghan	Holy Communion

And, finally...



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied:
'Put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'