

You're Invited

Join us for a special
Mothering Sunday Service

Hosted by
the Parents and Children of
Praise 'n' Pizza

Sunday 15th March at 11.30 a.m.
Saint Columba's Church Swords

Everyone's *very* welcome!



Join us on Sunday, March 15th, at Saint Columba's in Swords for a heartwarming service of thanksgiving dedicated to *all* mothers, both biological and spiritual! The wonderful parents and children from our Praise 'n' Pizza group will lead us with prayers, songs, and readings. We'd love to see *everyone*, no matter your age, so come and celebrate with us! After the service, stick around for some refreshments and good company. We can't wait to share this special day with you!

World Day of Prayer Service 2026

The 2026 Theme is

“I Will Give You Rest: Come”

Programme written by the
World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria for 2026
inspired by Matthew 11:28-30
www.wdpireland.org



There will be an interdenominational World Day of Prayer Service in Saint Columba's Parish Centre, across the road from Saint Columba's Church, Church Road, Swords, on Friday the 6th of March at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments.

All Welcome

Alec Cobbe Award



Donabate is best known for its magnificent beaches and for Newbridge House and Demesne, a historic estate now in the care of Fingal County Council. The Cobbe family, however, retain a residence there, maintaining a 300-year connection that began with Charles Cobbe and continues with the Cobbe family on the Donabate-Portrane peninsula today. Alec Cobbe and other members of the Cobbe family, spend time each year at Newbridge House and, while in residence, attend services at Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland, Donabate.

On 13 February 2026 at Windsor Castle, King Charles III invested Richard Alexander Charles "Alec" Cobbe with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of his distinguished service to art and heritage.

Born in Dublin in 1945, he studied medicine at Oxford before training as an art conservator at the Tate Gallery. Alec is recognised as an Irish designer and artist, as well as a celebrated collector of historic musical instruments. This honour reflects a lifetime devoted to artistic excellence and the preservation of cultural heritage.

The parish of Donabate and Lusk is very proud to count him among its members, warmly congratulates him on this well-deserved award and looks forward to welcoming him back to Saint Patrick's Donabate in the months ahead.

Presentation to Stephen Vincent and Gillian Haynes

On Sunday 22nd of February, Stephen and Gillian were invited to attend a church service. They were accompanied by one of their daughters, Louisa. They were welcomed by Reverend Yvonne Ginnelly, lay reader Niall Minto, and the congregation. Following the service, the Select Vestry of Swords Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan Parish, presented Stephen and Gillian with a copper engraving of Swords Towers. This was appropriate as one of the many roles Stephen carried out during the almost three decades he and his wife were parishioners was conservator of Saint Columba's Church and its Towers.

Eric Wolfe, who worked closely with him in this role and on the Select Vestry, gave an eloquent speech praising the invaluable work carried out for many years by both Gillian and Stephen, especially as founders of the Praise 'n' Pizza youth ministry, and as faithful Select Vestry members. This is to mention only a few of their varied and creative contributions to parish life, which in Stephen's case, included service as a lay minister.



The couple and their daughters are much missed in the parish since they moved closer to the city, and it's hoped they will visit again in future. In the meantime, may God bless them in their new home, and in their new (and extremely fortunate) parish.



The wedding of Owen Mc Elroy and Mary Ann Perales took place in Saint Columba's Church on 19th December 2025. Congratulations and best wishes to Owen and Mary Ann as they begin their married life together.

Recognising the Contributions of Women to Parish Life

From the faithful witness of Mary Magdalene to the days of Saint Brigid, women have helped to shape the life of the Church, often serving with quiet courage, compassion, resilience and steady faith. At Donabate and Lusk Parish, we see that same faithfulness lived out week by week.

The ladies of the parish serve in worship, pastoral care, Sunday Club, Select Vestries, preparation, and countless unseen acts of kindness that hold parish life together. Their leadership and commitment reflect how far the Church has journeyed in recognising the gifts of all God's people.

Recently, we gathered many of the ladies that contribute so generously to our parish life for a group photograph, and on Sunday 15th February, we had a service to celebrate the contributions of all women in the church and in our parish.

This picture, now displayed among the images at the back of the church, is a simple but heartfelt expression of gratitude and recognition. It honours not only those pictured, but also the many women past and present whose faith and service continue to shape the story of Donabate and Lusk.



2026

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETINGS

Donabate & Lusk Parish
Tuesday March 24th

7.30pm in The Parish Office
beside St Patrick's Church in Donabate

Swords Clonmethan &
Kilsallaghan Parish
Wednesday March 25th

8.30pm in The Parish Centre
opposite St Columba's Church Swords



ALL WELCOME

The Easter General Vestry is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish. At the meeting, there is a review of the previous year and a preview of the year ahead. Any member of the parish can attend the Easter General Vestry, and may speak at the Easter General Vestry, but only those who have signed up to the Register of Vestrypersons can vote or hold office. This year, we also have triennial elections which means that we have to elect Parochial Nominators (whose responsibility it is to find a new Rector should the present one, who at this point has been on sick leave for nearly three years, leave office) and Diocesan Synodspersons (who represent the parishes at Diocesan Synod). In the Rector's continuing absence, the meeting will be chaired by Rector Philip Heak of Howth Parish.

Please value your right to have a say, your right to vote, and your right to direct the future of your parish. Do please support your parish by attending your Easter General Vestry.

A vertical funeral notice on a dark blue background with light blue leaf patterns. At the top is a circular portrait of a man with a mustache. Below it, the text reads: "The funeral of Gordon Deane took place in Saint Columba's Church on 23rd January 2026. We send our sympathy to his wife Joan, his son Graham, and his extended family on their loss. May Gordon rest in peace and rise in glory." The name "Gordon Deane" is written in a large, white, cursive font.

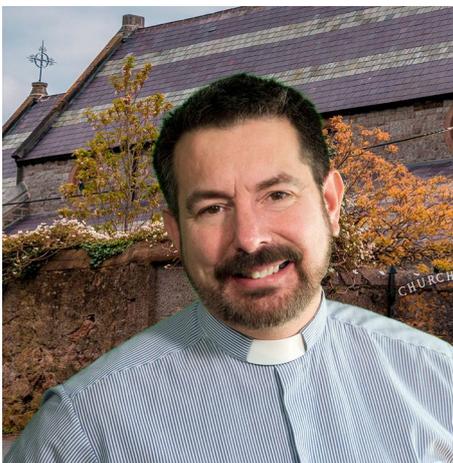
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Appointment of New Rural Dean for Fingal



Reverend Philip Heak, who is Rector of Howth Parish, has been appointed as the new Rural Dean, replacing Lesley Robinson. His role involves communication between the diocese and local ministry team, and managing pastoral care during vacancies, such as ours.

Speaking about his appointment Philip said: "It is a privilege to be asked to take on the role of Rural Dean and I look forward to working with the parishes of Fingal as we seek to honour God and serve our communities together."

Services for March

Sunday 1st March

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

Sunday 8th March

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

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Family Service
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Special Service with Praise and Pizza

Sunday 22nd March

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

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

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

And, finally...

