

Parishes of Swords Clonmethan & Kilsallaghan
with Donabate and Lusk
Newsletter November 2024

Praise 'n
Pizza



An Evening Family Service

Prayers + Songs + Talk + Activity* + PIZZA!
a.k.a. hymns! *optional for parents! ☺

Sunday 10th November

Old Borough School Hall | 6:00pm (finished by 7:30pm-ish)

EVERYONE is very welcome!

Celebrating Community Spirit and Hard Work

Niall Minto writes: “Saint Patrick’s Parish, Donabate has enjoyed an autumn season brimming with community spirit, as events brought the parish together in collaboration and fellowship. The months were filled with special services and activities, each showcasing the dedication and hard work of our parish members as they prepared the church for these meaningful occasions.

We began with the School Bag Service, a heart-warming event where families gathered to bless the new school year. While the thought of returning to school might not always be met with enthusiasm, it was wonderful to see so many of our young people and their families coming together, united in hope and prayer for a successful and fulfilling academic year ahead. Whether starting school or heading to university, everyone came together to celebrate this new chapter with a shared sense of purpose and optimism.

Following the School Bag Service, we hosted our inaugural Pet Service, adding a new dimension to our services. Parishioners brought along their beloved pets, most of whom were dogs, filling the church with joy and laughter. The dogs, in particular, made their presence known, amusing everyone by choosing their own moments to bark in response to prayers, as if offering their own version of *Amen*. We hope this will be the first of many such services, celebrating the special bond we share with our animal companions.

The spirit of service and dedication continued with our church clean-up day. It was inspiring to see so many hands come together to polish, sweep, and tidy every corner of our beautiful church and the graveyard. Everybody played their part in making sure our church was not only ready for services but also a welcoming and pristine place for all who visit. September concluded with a solemn and moving commemoration service for Charles Cobbe who passed away in 2023. A new plaque was unveiled in his honour. This special event provided a time to reflect, remember, and honour those that have gone before us.”



Harvest Reflection by Niall Minto

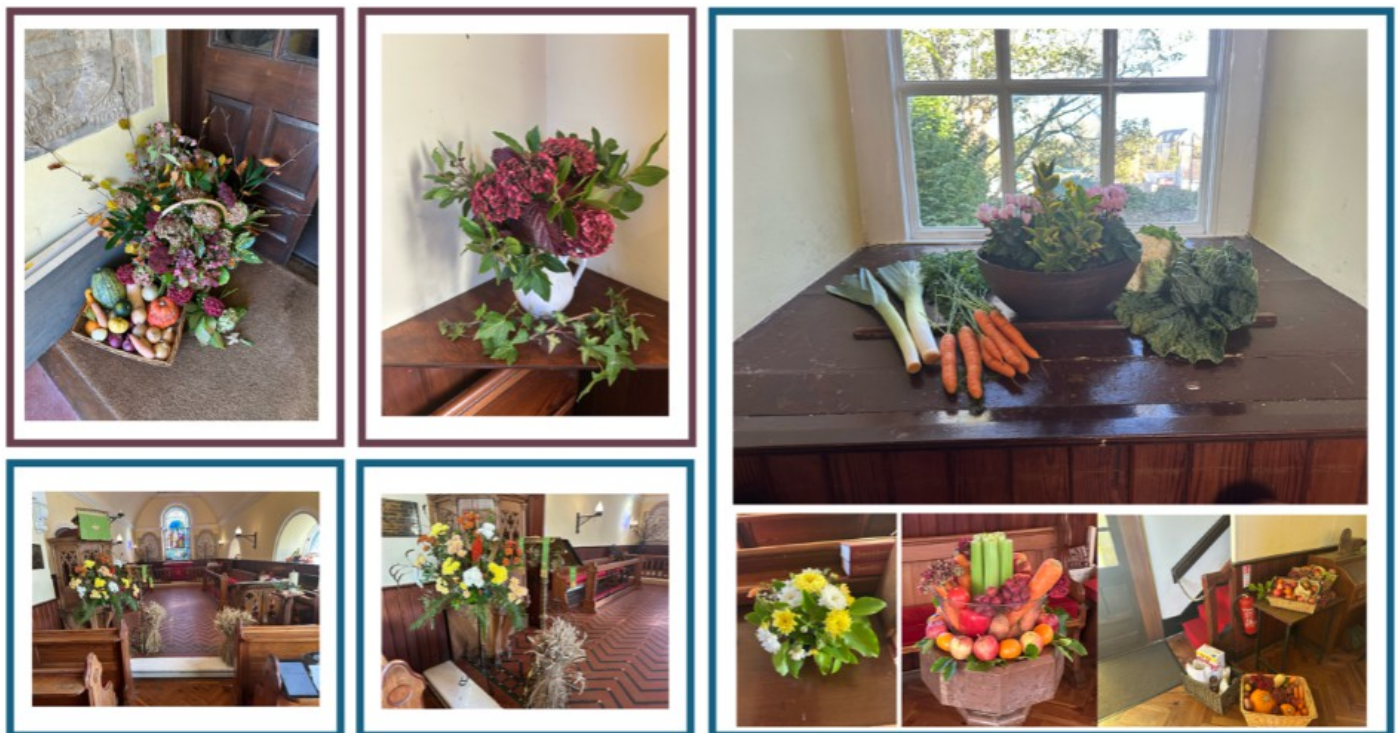
What happens if you mix a Family Service, Communion Service and Harvest into one? You get a beautifully decorated church, full of people and lead by the future, our children. With the exception of the Communion part of the service, our young people did us proud by leading us in prayer and reflection. In addition to the full church, we were joined by a number of canine parishioners who also added to the sense of community.

Harvest gave us an opportunity to come together and share our thanks.

On the day, ironically, we forgot to thank everybody that was involved in decorating the church. It was fantastic as photos below show.

These are the acts of God that take place without fuss and yet reflect the goodness of God's people. To leave you with a thought from a reflection from one of our younger parishioners.

“If you ever feel almost guilty about winning the cosmic jackpot with the life that you received, use that incredible blessing to help the planet or someone in some way that only someone in your position can. That is what the Harvest means to me”.



All of these events have been a testament to the strength and unity of our parish. It has been a joy to witness the dedication and hard work that went into making each event a success. Whether through prayer, service, or simply coming together in fellowship. We look forward to more occasions where we can come together, support one another, and celebrate the community that we are so blessed to be a part of. Now, dare I say it, time to look toward Christmas!! There, I said it.... *Christmas!*

Church Services for the month ahead

Sunday 3rd November

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

Sunday 10th November

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday
6 p.m.	Swords Parish Hall	Praise 'n' Pizza in the hall

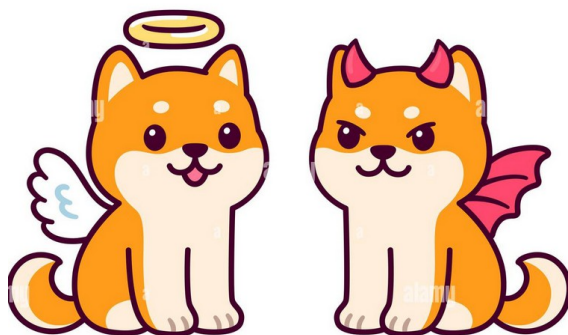
Sunday 17th November

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 24th November

10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Service led by the Archbishop
11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Family Service led by the Archbishop

And finally... Brotherly Love



A grandmother was trying to teach her granddaughter and grandson a little bit about the Ten Commandments.

She asked them, “Can you think of a commandment that teaches us an important thing about how to act towards other people?”

The little girl thought for a moment. She said, “Don't take their stuff?”

“That's right,” Grandmother said. “That's an important one. It's not good to steal. And can you remember if there's a commandment that shows us how to behave towards our parents?”

“Yes,” the little boy said. “Be nice to your mum and dad.”

“Correct. Very good!” Grandmother said. “Honour your father and your mother. And what's the commandment that tells you how to behave towards your brother?”

The little girl looked at her brother and said, “Thou shalt not kill!”