

Parishes of Donabate & Lusk
with Swords Clonmethan & Kilsallaghan

Newsletter Summer 2025

*have a
blessed
summer!*

“Those who seek
the Lord lack no good thing.”
Psalm 34: 10



Wedding of Victoria O'Connor and Shane Duffy



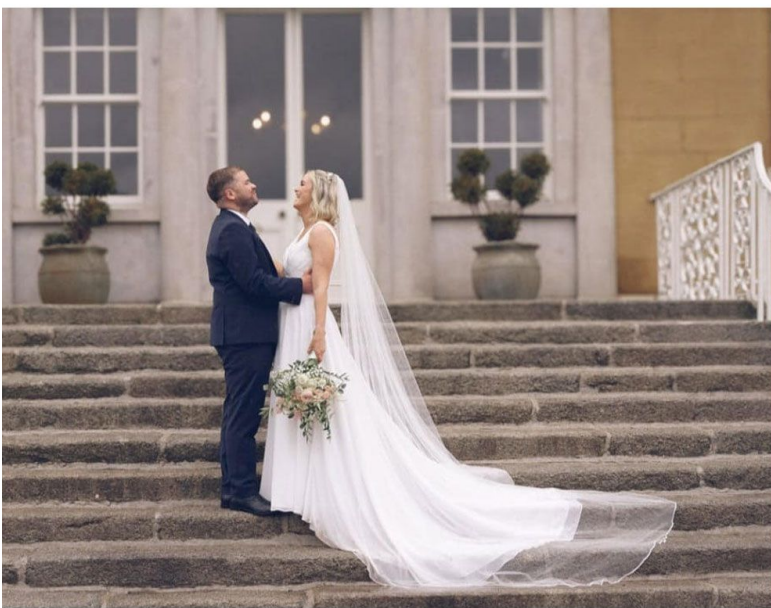
Niall Minto writes, “The one guarantee about Irish weather is that there are no guarantees. Four seasons in one day is not uncommon, but even the greyest clouds couldn't dim the radiance of the bride, Victoria.

It was as if the sun had waited for her arrival before making an appearance. As the hour of one o'clock approached, the heavens opened. Yet, just as the bride reached the door, the clouds parted and the sun broke through. There was visible relief on the face of Shane, the groom, when the visiting Rector, Reverend David Gillespie from the neighbouring parish of Malahide, announced two welcome pieces of news. The first being that the sun was emerging and the second was that the bride had arrived.

The wedding service was truly wonderful, as Shane and Victoria made their life-long commitment to one another.

This wedding felt particularly special, and as the photos show, it had a packed gallery that could easily have been mistaken for a crowd of paparazzi eager to catch a glimpse. In reality, it was not paparazzi at all, but parishioners from Donabate and Lusk who have grown deeply fond of Victoria and Shane since they joined the parish, and parishioners from Swords, Clonmethan, and Kilsallaghan, where Victoria grew up.

Both parishes send their warmest wishes to Victoria and Shane as they step into married life together.”



Congratulations to the happy couple! Wishing them every blessing in their new life together.

Commissioning



Five new lay readers were commissioned during a service in Christchurch Cathedral on Saturday, the 25th of May, including Eric Hughes from these parishes (second from left in the photo).

The sermon was preached by the Reverend John Tanner, who for his sins is Warden of Readers in Dublin and Glendalough Diocese. He encouraged the lay readers to think about their mission in their new roles in terms of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

He suggested that a good place to start was the Five Marks of Mission which have been distilled to Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. He encouraged them to Tell by using the words Scripture and reading Morning and Evening Prayer, Teach through preaching (where authorised) and Bible study, Tend by looking out for the most vulnerable in our communities, Treasure by respecting God's creation and protecting its resources, and Transform by being active in challenging the structures of society that do not treat others equally.

He said that ministry is a massive privilege for anyone who serves the church and among its many benefits, it provides a great sense of purpose and reward. The Diocesan Readers are following a tradition of over a century, and while the role of Parish Reader was introduced more recently, he explained that they were no less important.

Addressing the entire congregation, he asked: "We are all on a pilgrimage of faith and each are at different stages in our journey, and we have been all called to ministry through our baptism but what are we doing to grow our faith? Looking at the Five Marks of Mission, what gifts God has given us that we can offer back to His Church?"

Wishing Eric (and his coterie of fellow Readers) all the best with this new chapter of ministry.



All good things must come to an end, and that includes summer, unfortunately.

While at the time of writing, summer is still ahead, in due time, it will start to turn to autumn, and primary, secondary, college, and further education students will eventually find themselves on the cusp of either starting or returning to education.

The dawn of the fresh new academic year.

This can be an exciting time, and a daunting one.

The 10 a.m. Holy Communion Service in Saint Patrick's Church in Donabate, on Sunday the 31st of August, will include a special Blessing of the Backpacks.

This aims to help all students and their loved ones prepare themselves for the new educational opportunities ahead.

All are welcome to attend and bring your schoolbag, your backpack, or any other educational equipment you would like to have blessed along with yourself.

Church Services for the Summer

Sunday the 6 th of July	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion
Sunday the 13 th of July	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
Sunday the 20 th of July	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
Sunday the 27 th of July	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 3 rd August	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 th August	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th August	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 th August	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Morning Prayer
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Morning Prayer
Sunday 31 st August	10 a.m.	Saint Patrick's Donabate & Blessing of the Backpacks Service	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Saint Columba's Swords	Holy Communion
	1 p.m.	Saint David's Kilsallaghan	Holy Communion

And, finally...

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

