

# ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

November 2021

## MESSAGE FROM REV NIALL STRATFORD

November is a month when we particularly focus on loved ones, relations, friends – forefathers and forebearers- the Saints who have gone before us. A month when we remember. The Covid 19 pandemic has challenged our accustomed ways of grieving with our loved ones.



Remembrance Sunday services have proceeded throughout the length and breadth of this island. Just think of the many individual thoughts, memories and prayers associated with and surrounding such services.

Taking time to remember, to reflect, to give thanks - for the hundreds of millions of individuals - throughout the past hundred years alone– who have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom, is more than simply being appropriate. Anyone who has journeyed into concentration camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau cannot but be moved- moved to question why and how humankind can inflict such horror, pain and suffering on fellow human beings. Moved to tears, moved to sorrow and hopefully moved to standing up against injustice.

We have so much for which to be thankful. We are blessed with a modern Health Service with dedicated, gifted and talented staff. We live in peace. We have an abundance of food. So many nations on earth are war torn, ravaged by manmade and natural disasters. Very few of us on this Island go to bed hungry.

May we all continue to stay safe and well and take time to remember those who have gone before us – whether recently or over a longer period of time- those who for our tomorrows gave their today.

***“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.”***

Do take care of yourselves and others.

Best wishes

***Niall***

Rev Niall Stratford

We had our Remembrance Day Service and along with Parishioners, we welcomed representations from An Garda Síochána, the Irish Army Veterans, the Royal Irish Guards, the Oireachtas and one of our Local Counsellors. Local Historian and Photographer Patrick Hugh Lynch gave an address ***'Remember the Past, Enrich the Future.'*** The Service can be viewed by visiting our You Tube Channel at **www.stmatts.live**



**ST MATTHEW'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**

St. Matthew's National School have had a busy term so far!

As we endeavour to return to as normal a learning programme as possible with our continued COVID-19 restrictions, we are delighted to have our external teachers and coaches beginning to return – our pupils love Drama with Oonagh, Futsal (mini football) and Gaelic Football!

During this year's Friendship Week, we focused on kindness – towards ourselves, others and the environment.

During this special week, we especially enjoyed celebrating Grandparents' Day virtually, National Tree Day; and proudly wearing our jerseys on Goal Jersey Day raising €375 for some of the most vulnerable in the world. We have sent 114 physical shoeboxes in the Shoebox Appeal! Many more online!

For the last couple of weeks, we have been celebrating STEM! Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths! Parents have taught us how airplanes fly and how a COVID-19 test is examined in a lab!

We are getting excited about Christmas and the lovely memories and events it will bring!

Thank you for your continued support for St. Matthew's N.S.

Mrs Naomi Rousseau  
Principal

**PARISH CONTACTS**

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**Church Wardens**

Miriam Hollowed (Rector's), Dr Virginia Stewart (People's).

**Glebe Wardens**

Robbie Hamilton (Rector's)

**Select Vestry**

Lindy Farmer, Jonathan Bell, Gordon Kelley, Miriam Hollowed, Gladys Raethorne, Robbie Hamilton, Claire Wheeler, Steve Griffiths, Virginia Stewart, Karen Woods, John Wallace.

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