

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2022

MESSAGE FROM REV NIALL STRATFORD

Our hopes and prayers are being answered in respect of the lifting of the majority of restrictions surrounding the Covid 19 pandemic. We have so much for which to be eternally grateful. We thank God for enabling and empowering the scientific and medical communities throughout the world in their research and production of vaccines in respect of Covid 19. Our thanks are also due to our Government for making these vaccines freely available to us all.



It is fitting and appropriate that we once again express our deepest gratitude to all 'FrontLine' workers and especially 'HealthCare' workers, for their devotion, their sacrifice, their skill and almost unbelievably – throughout and in the midst of battle- their kindness and love. Thank you to you all. Goodness prevails.

Goodness prevails although there are times – too many times when it is necessary to dig deep, to search in every nook and cranny to find it!

We took the opportunity in St Matthew's on the last Sunday in January this year- to remember and reflect upon The Holocaust and other Genocides which have blighted the world in which we live. Too often the vain cry has been 'Never Again' only tragically for history to repeat itself. We must not forget, we must not forget to remember the evils of the past.

Violence is an every present danger to so many individuals and families. Tragically women and girls suffer constant threats to their lives on a daily basis. Why are we silent? We protest about insignificant matters. What value do we really place on human life?

We are the guardians of the fragile flame of humanity. Let us never forget - even a tiny flame can banish darkness. Let us never forget.....

Best wishes

Niall

Rev Niall Stratford

APPOINTMENT OF RECTOR

The Parish are delighted to announce the appointment of **Canon Leonard Ruddock** as Rector at St Matthews Church.



Leonard has been Rector in the Blessington Union of Parishes since 2008. We look forward to welcoming Leonard, his wife Hazel and family to the Parish in April 2022

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

6th February 2022 - **Family Service**

13th February 2022 - **Holy Communion**

20th February 2022 - **Service of Morning Prayer**

27th February 2022 - **Service of Morning Prayer**

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ENVELOPE SCHEME



If you would like to donate through the Church Envelope Scheme, you can put an Envelope on the Collection plate at Sunday Service. As a registered Charity St Matthews can depending on amounts donated reclaim Income Tax on Parishioner donations.

For more details please contact the Parish office on 087 254 0378, or ask one of the Church Wardens.

GENERAL VESTRY REGISTER

There is now an opportunity for new members to join the General Vestry at St Matthew's Parish Church. People wishing to join the General Vestry must not be registered as an accustomed member of any other Church, Chapel or Church Hall in Ireland. Forms of registration are available from the Church Warden and must be submitted to the Parish Administration by the 27th February 2022

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector (Acting)

Rev Niall Stratford 086 607 8290

Pastoral Care

Canon Andrew McCroskery 01 269 4813

Parish Administration

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Nicky Bell Tel: 087 688 7049

Hon Secretary

Lindy Farmer Tel: 087 2246203

Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

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.

To contact by email:

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