

# The Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Bugle

## April/May 2024



Facebook: [DunboyneandRathmolyonGroup](#)

### Church 24 - The Post-COVID Church

In a recent conversation with a past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, who has ministered in a large Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland for a quarter of a century, he noted how attendance in his congregation had yet to return to pre-COVID levels.

Having arrived in Dunboyne and Rathmolyon in September 2022, as the world was still emerging from COVID restrictions, I am not able to compare and contrast as easily pre and post COVID dynamics in our parish.

Perhaps we have lost some precious and important aspects of parish life, perhaps some were bound to wind down anyway but perhaps we have also gained something new, which marks a fresh beginning in the life of this parish.

Dublin City University is currently undertaking a major piece of research to ascertain what churchgoing looks like in a post-COVID Ireland. Some people have indeed stopped attending altogether, finding new activities or commitments on Sunday mornings instead. However many goalposts have also shifted.

For example the post-COVID church must face new and profound challenges such as the impact of the wars in Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Gaza and laterally Iran. We are also presented with a rapid new embrace of contactless technology, which raises further questions about humanity's relationship with artificial intelligence. Since the murder of George Floyd in the United States, there are deep and pressing questions about racism in society. And then there are topical ethical discussions about issues such as assisted dying.

This major research is being led by DCU's Dr Bernadette Sweetman and is part of a wider survey across England, Wales and Scotland coordinated by York St. John University. The survey is for clergy, lay ministers, and lay people of any denomination or none, and you don't have to be a regular churchgoer to take part. It is a great opportunity to see how our parish compares with wider trends. To complete the survey please see -

<https://www.dcu.ie/instituteofeducation/news/2024/apr/new-survey-explore-churchgoing-ireland>

Research

## The Church-24 Survey

The Church-24 Survey builds on previous surveys in 2001, 2013 and during the Covid-19 pandemic.

START THE CHURCH-24 SURVEY →



# Sunday Services

21st April to 19th May 2024

Sunday 21 April		The Fourth Sunday of Easter	
Agher 9.45am	MP	Ezekiel 34: 1-10	Valerie Byrne
Dunboyne 10am	HC	Psalm 23	Rev Pat Ryan
Maynooth 11.30am	MP	1 John 3: 16-24	Cormac Corrigan
Dunshaughlin 11.30am	HC	John 10: 11-18	Rev Pat Ryan
Sunday 28 April		The Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Agher 9.45am	HC	Deuteronomy 4: 32-40	Rev Philip McKinley
Dunboyne 10am	HC	Psalm 22: 25-31	Rev Trevor Holmes
Maynooth 11.30am	HC	1 John 4: 7-21	Rev Philip McKinley
Dunshaughlin 11.30am	HC	John 15: 1-8	Rev Trevor Holmes
Sunday 5 May		The Sixth Sunday of Easter	
Agher 9.45am	MP	Isaiah 45: 11-13, 18-19	Enid Wilkinson
Dunboyne 10am	MP	Psalm 98	Fred Moody
Maynooth 11.30am	MP	1 John 5: 1-6	Cormac Corrigan
Dunshaughlin 11.30am	MP	John 15: 9-17	Keith Snowe
Sunday 12 May		Sunday after Ascension Day	
Agher 9.45am	HC	Exodus 28: 1-4, 9-10, 29-30	Rev Pat Ryan
Dunboyne 10am	HC	Psalm 1	Rev Philip McKinley
Maynooth 11.30am	HC	1 John 5: 9-13	Rev Pat Ryan
Dunshaughlin 11.30am	HC	John 17: 6-19	Rev Philip McKinley
Sunday 19 May		Pentecost	
Agher 9.45am	MP	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Enid Wilkinson
Dunboyne 10am	HC	Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b	Rev Pat Ryan
Maynooth 11.30am	MP	Acts 2: 1-21	Fred Moody
Dunshaughlin 11.30am	HC	John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15	Rev Pat Ryan

# Parish News

## Retirement Group Trips

On Thursday 25th April the Retirement Group will visit Mount Usher Gardens, Ashford by bus. The bus will collect travellers from St Mary's Maynooth at 9.30am and St Peter's Dunboyne at 10.00am.

The final outing of the season will be to Leixlip Castle on Thursday 23rd May. The group will meet at the Castle at 11.00am for a tour and afterwards on to the Springfield Hotel for lunch. Huge thanks to Anne Boyland and Enid Wilkinson for all their work to arrange these wonderful outings.



## VHI Mini Marathon

Staff and parents of St Peter's National School, Dunboyne will be participating in the VHI Women's Mini Marathon on Sunday 2nd of June. All monies raised will be used to fund resources for the new school building and activities for our pupils to enhance their school experience.

Donations can be made at <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/StPetersMiniMarathon2024>

A promotional poster for the VHI Mini Marathon. It features a blue background with a white and blue running shoe illustration at the top right. The text reads: "GET YOUR RUNNERS ON FOR ST. PETERS!" in bold black letters. Below that, it says "St. Peters PTA are participating in this years VHI Mini Marathon on Sunday 2nd of June 2024". It then says "Register today at https://www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie/" and "Join our team and help raise funds for our school!". At the bottom, there is a colorful illustration of several runners in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange) running.

## 90th birthday!

On Sunday 28th April there will be a very special celebration in Maynooth when Rita McAssey marks her 90th birthday. Rita has been a stalwart of the parish for many years and radiates her deep and rich Christian faith with all she encounters. We are blessed by all that she has and continues to contribute to the parish.



## Easter Vestry elections

Warmest congratulations to all those elected to serve on both our Select Vestries for the year ahead. We especially want to thank Dorothy Hughes, Alan O'Dwyer and Marvyn Henry for all their incredible service as they step down from their respective Select Vestries.

## St Seachnall's Church Dunshaughlin Golf Classic

On Friday 31st May, in Black Bush Golf Club, Dunshaughlin, a major Golf Classic will take place to raise funds for the renovation works needed on the roof and tower of St. Seachnalls. We are hoping for the support of the parish. There are several options available:

1. Enter a team of 4. Cost per team of 300 euro. Individuals can enter either, and we will make up teams on the day.
  2. Sponsorship of a Tee Box. Cost of 100 euro.
  3. Be one of our main sponsors with accompanying promotions and advertising. Cost of 1000 euro.
  4. Support the accompanying raffle by donating prizes and the purchase of tickets.
  5. Donation of a prize for the golf classic.
- The cost of the proposed works to the church is a very large amount so we need this to be a successful venture.

Please email - [stseachnallsgolf@gmail.com](mailto:stseachnallsgolf@gmail.com) - for further information.

*St Seachnall's Church  
Dunshaughlin*

## Golf Classic

in aid of church restoration fund



**Location:** Black Bush Golf Club,  
Dunshaughlin

**Date:** 31st May 2024

*Teams of 4*  
€300 (meal included)

**Please contact**  
Liz Synnott: 087 245 9184  
Email: [stseachnallsgolf@gmail.com](mailto:stseachnallsgolf@gmail.com)



## Leo Prendergast Art

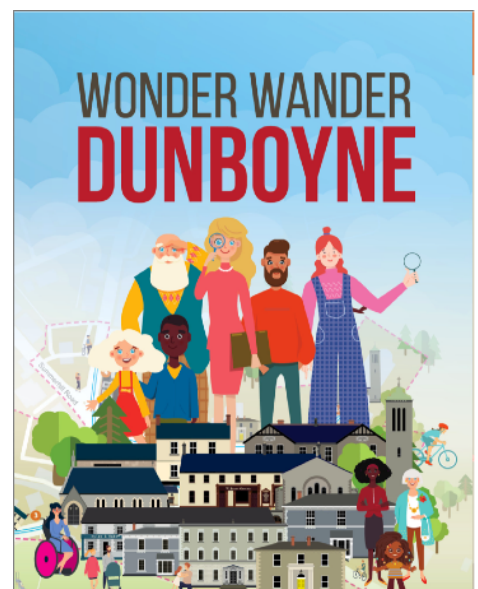
It was wonderful to see Leo and Cherry Prendergast feature in the *Liffey Champion* newspaper, as part of the recent Castle Keep Art Group Exhibition in Maynooth Post Primary School.

Leo now has a new Facebook page where you can see his wonderful artistic creations. It is called "Leo Prendergast Art".



## New Dunboyne Walking Trail

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has partnered with Meath County Council to create Wonder Wander Walking Trails. The Wonder Wander for Dunboyne begins in St Peter's Church and raises awareness of and an appreciation for the rich built heritage in the Architectural Conservation Area in Dunboyne. The trail map is available on [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) and from Meath County Council.



## Christian Aid Week

There will be two retiring collections for the work of Christian Aid on Sunday 12th and 19th May across our four churches. Special Christian Aid envelopes will be available.



## Church and Society Commission

## Church and Society Commission

Warmest congratulations to Harriet Wilkinson (Dunshaughlin) who has been appointed to the Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission (CASC). It exists as an advisory group, serving the Standing Committee and engaging with government on particular issues, including issues of legislation. Harriet is a PhD student in Sociology in Maynooth and an Irish Research Council Scholar studying, "Period poverty in Ireland".

## Short Story Winner

Warmest congratulations to Amy Beirne (11), from St Peter's National School who was announced as the national champion in the senior category of the Specsavers Irish Book Awards short story competition. Her amazing achievement recently appeared in the *Meath Chronicle* newspaper. Well done Amy!



Mums in May 2024 Fundraiser  
**MOTHERS' UNION**

**THE BIG HYMN SING**  
and Festival Service  
Saturday May 25, 2024 @ 11.00am



**St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
Refreshments will be served after the Service

Revenue Commissioners 5161 Registered Charity No 20007331

## Big Sing in Trim

On Saturday 25th May, the Diocesan Festival Mothers Union Service and Big Hymn Sing takes place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim at 11.00am. All are welcome. You don't have to be a member of the Mothers Union to attend. The Big Sing is part of the Mothers Union triennial fundraising event for Mums in May. In Meath & Kildare we receive funding from this fund for the Book Bursary for 2nd level students who must be resident in the Diocese together with donations from the Mothers Union Branches.

## Maynooth Youth Group

Conor McCrory is the son of Rev Keith McCrory from Maynooth Community Church. Conor runs a wonderful weekly Youth Group in Maynooth Education Campus, through an initiative called 'Young Life'. Their annual showcase night takes place on Friday 24th May at 7.00pm and is a good way to learn more about their youth ministry in Maynooth. Conor spoke recently to Dunboyne Select Vestry about the initiative and he was very warmly received. It would be great if some of our teenagers and young adults were available to attend.



## Standing Committee Retirement

At the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the General Synod in Church of Ireland House, Dublin, on Tuesday, 12th March, the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell announced that Joan Bruton was stepping down after 32 years of service on the committee. Joan has represented our parish and diocese remarkably over those years and we sincerely thank her all that she has contributed.



## Orienteering Champion

Warmest congratulations to Emma Williams who won the 6th class girls race at the Hellfire Wood Leinster Schools Championships on the 13th March. Emma scored 340 points as she ran the race in a time of 41:17, outpacing 23 other competitors from schools across the province. Well done Emma!



## Diocese of Meath and Kildare news

A number of recent changes have been announced in the Diocese. Rev William Steacy (a former Curate in our parish), has been made a Canon of both cathedrals. In addition, Canon Alistair Graham has retired as Rector of Mullingar. He has been replaced by Rev William Seale as Diocesan Director of Ordinands. We wish all three every blessing in these new stages of their ministry.



## Baptism

We warmly welcome Renée Helen Satchwell who was baptised in St Mary's Church, Maynooth on Sunday 14th April. It was a very special day for Renée's parents, Tom and Megan, Godparents Gavin Satchwell and Ashley Roche and all her wider family.

## Book Fair

St Peter's National School Book Week will take place on 22nd-26th April. There are a number of events planned all week. This will also include the Book Fair. With prices starting from €3.80 there is sure to be a book for everyone.



## Deepest sympathies

On behalf of the Parish I wish to extend deepest sympathies to the family of Charley Angel, who died on Monday 8th April and whose funeral took place on Friday 12th April in St Mary's Maynooth. Our thoughts and prayers are with Charley's wife Sarah, his children George, Townley and Fiona, brother Tim and grandchildren Rebecca, Rosanna, Tom, Harry, Isabel, Oscar and James.

Deepest sympathies also to Darragh O'Brien whose mother Monica (Rhona) died on Friday 12th April. We remember Keith Snowe in our prayers also.

Deepest sympathies to Lorna, Alex and Andrew Douglas on the death of Mark Musgrave, who died on Thursday 14th March.

Finally deepest sympathies to Ingrid and Rory Higgins and all the family on the death of Michael on March 29th after a short illness.



## Book Launch

On Monday 8th April, our Curate, Rev Philip McKinley launched a new book, "From George Berkeley, to George Floyd, to George Nkencho: The Church of Ireland and Black Theology". Copies are €10. Please speak to Rev Philip if you are interested in buying one.

## Easter 2024 across our Parish



*A wonderful live donkey led the Palm Sunday procession in Agher*



*Keith Snowe leads the ecumenical Walk of the Cross in Dunshaughlin*



*Easter Bonnet Prize winners in St Peter's NS*



*Mary Chandler was spotted greeting a very unusual inflatable Easter-themed visitor to Agher Church.*



# Creation Corner

## Climate Heroes Challenge

Eight members of St Seachnall's are taking part on the Climate Heroes Challenge. Points are awarded based on the completion of different tasks every day.

For example one Dunshaughlin participant gained 10.56 points for achieving the following:

- I recycled as much waste as possible today
- I did not use disposable containers such as plastic bottles today
- I did not print unnecessary paper today
- I didn't buy any goods today
- I switched off unnecessary lights today
- I showered for 5 minutes or less today
- I ate vegetarian for breakfast today
- I walked or biked to work today

<b>11</b> Days until end	<b>264</b> Participants	 <b>3,171.35</b> Total Savings
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## Climate Heroes 2024 - Community Climate Challenge

We are all Climate Heroes - Everyday!



*Flowers emerging in St Seachnall's from bulbs donated by the local Tidy Towns committee.*

Another Dunshaughlin participant gained 5 points for achieving the following in a day:

- I spent money on services instead of goods today
- I did not use disposable containers such as plastic bottles today
- I haven't thrown away any food today
- I ate fish instead of meat today
- I conducted eco-driving today

Huge thanks to everyone who took part.

## Dunboyne Work Party

Thanks to Mervyn Galbraith and all those who have signed up to assist with the St Peter's Dunboyne work party on Saturday 20th April at 11.00am to tidy up the graveyard.

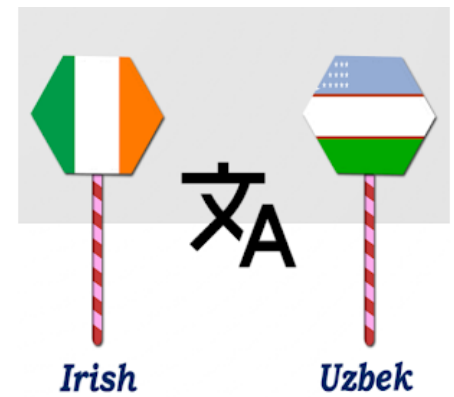


*Leo Prendergast's painting entitled 'Wildflowers'. Leo is an oil painter, artist and writer based in Clique Studios, Straffan, Kildare.*

# St Patrick's Day in Uzbekistan

By Rev Alan Stewart

When I was younger, I worked for the National Training Agency, FÁS. Many people were surprised when they learned that FÁS had a company called FÁS International. This company tendered successfully for business worldwide. At any given time, there were staff working in countries all over the world. Many countries wanted to apply to join the EU for funding and implement the FÁS training and employment model. Sometimes FÁS would work with another company and other times go it alone. When FÁS needed experience not available in the organisation, they would team up with another contractor and bid together to secure the contract. On one occasion I was working in Uzbekistan, based in Tashkent with a team of Dutch experts. The team was led by a young Dutch man, who had two teenage nephews who had joined him for a gap year. These lads were a great hit with the local girls, with their blonde hair and blue eyes; James Bond had nothing on them! I was working with a local consultant called Ahmed, who translated for me and generally filled me in on what I needed to know. He was also my driver - at weekends he drove me to places of interest, like the temples, tombs and shrines at Samarkand.



It was mid-March, and I was looking forward to St. Patrick's Day. This particular year St. Patrick's Day fell on a Saturday. As the locals worked on a Saturday and I didn't, I wanted the Monday off like at home. It was the week before St. Patrick's Day and also the Dutch team leader's 40th birthday. We held a surprise party for him, with a present of a painting of the Emir's tomb in Samarkand. At the party, in conversation with Ahmed, I suggested that I should get the Monday of St. Patrick's weekend off. I explained to him that at home in Ireland in the event of the national holiday falling on a Saturday or a Sunday, we would get the next working day off as well. Ahmed was deep in thought and then as if to clarify it repeated: "two days for one Saint? He must be very holy". "Yes" I replied, "he is the Patron Saint of Ireland and we turn everything green to celebrate him and wear shamrock, a little green plant". Then he asked a question I had never been asked before, or even considered: "what is the saint's other name?".

While I was thinking of a reply, and to this day I don't know what I would have said, one of the young Dutch lads piped up "Kluivert". "Patrick Kluivert", he repeated, a famous Dutch footballer, and the Irish and the Dutch were in fits of laughter. The locals didn't understand the laughter. On our way back from the party the traffic was particularly heavy: stop start, stop start, for ages. I was complaining about it and Ahmed said "when God made traffic he gave us patience". We were approaching a very busy junction, and from my seat I could see the traffic light was about to change. "St. Patrick will make the light green any moment" I said, and as I expected, the lights changed. Ahmed said nothing, and I wondered if I had insulted him.

As time went on and the days lengthened, we visited more places of interest and soon the contract finished and we all said goodbye. Ahmed drove me to the airport and guided me through the process to the departure desks. Finally, I wished him all the best and as he shook hands with me he smiled and said "very holy Saint Patrick... two days for one saint!".