



TULLOW PARISH CARRICKMINES NEWSLETTER



A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to You and Your Family

If you are reading this on the Gmail app make sure you click on VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE at the end otherwise you'll miss half the newsletter!

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

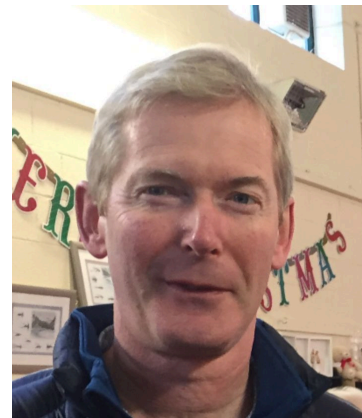
In this Month's Newsletter:

- Calendar of Events
 - Christmas Services
 - African Gospel Choir
 - Evergreens New Year Outing
 - Winter Fair
 - Remembrance Sunday
 - Service of Remembrance
 - President Higgins and Tullow
 - Parish Organisations
 - ..and much more
-

The Rector Writes

As we embark on this 'preparation 'season called Advent, we often find ourselves on a fast slippery slope to Christmas without either the time or space to reflect on what exactly it is that we are preparing for. That is very unfortunate as we can miss the kernel of 'Christ' in Christmas. The incarnation of God's son, Emmanuel, 'God with us', is one of the greatest miracles of our faith. *'For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'* John :3:16

Advent also heralds in the beginning of a new Church year. And beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough will be promoting a 'Year of Mission' which it is hoped will be a shared journey or renewal and purpose. Central to this is a Diocesan Prayer Movement which individuals are encouraged to join and to actively participate. The following URL gives further information



about this initiative and it also contains a link to enrol. <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2025/04/02/2025-prayer-movement>

As we move through this season of Advent, may we be enabled and empowered to truly celebrate Christ with us this Christmas.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

Sunday 23rd November – Nico (Nicolas) Guy Redmond, son of Gary Redmond and Sue Percival and brother to Hannah. May Nico grow in the faith into which he has been baptised.

CALENDAR

Some people have mentioned that they used to find the calendar in the printed newsletter useful. In the absence of a printed edition an alternative is to screenshot this calendar and print or put into your photos on your phone. Let us know if you find this useful.

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th December African Gospel Choir

Friday 12th December Tullow Friends Christmas Lunch

Sunday 14th December Family Carol Service

Sunday 21st December Carols by Candlelight

JANUARY

Sunday 11th January Family Service

Advance notice: Pre-loved clothing sale in 2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





Christmas is a very exciting time for little ones and, as well as the **Family Service** at 10.30am on Christmas Day, there are two Services which are geared especially to them.

Family Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at **10.30am** followed by seasonal goodies in the Parish Hall. A great chance to get together to celebrate the season.

Carols around the Crib Christmas Eve 10.30am - for all ages but especially the little ones.

This year's **Carols by Candlelight**, on Sunday 21st at 7pm, will be extra special. It will truly be by candlelight — 250 candles will create a beautiful, seasonal atmosphere and the augmented choir will make this a memorable occasion for the grown-ups too, and not just because of the mulled wine and mince pies waiting in the Parish Hall afterwards!

Sunday 14th 10.30am - Family Carol Service

Sunday 21st 7pm - Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 10.30am - Carols Around the Crib

Christmas Eve 9pm - Holy Communion Service

Christmas Day 8.30am - Holy Communion Service

Christmas Day 10.30am - Family Service followed by short Communion Service

TULLOW PARISH PRESENTS

AFRICAN GOSPEL CHOIR



The image shows a group of African Gospel Choir members performing in a church. They are wearing black robes with colorful, patterned collars. Some are singing into microphones, while others are holding books. The background features a stained glass window and church pews.

Tickets €20
Book on [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie)

6th December
7.30PM

African Gospel Choir and Band Tullow Church Saturday 6th December
7.30pm

Be Enthralled and Inspired

Join us for an unforgettable evening of soul-stirring music, uplifting melodies and a touch of Christmas at the **African Gospel Choir** event - their fourth visit to Tullow.

Experience the joy and energy of gospel music as you immerse yourself in an evening of celebration and praise. Be prepared to clap your hands, tap your feet, and sing along to powerful songs that will touch your soul.

Tickets €20 (including booking fee) on Eventbrite.ie here

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/african-gospel-choir-tickets-1910113925169?aff=oddtcreator>

If you prefer not to book on Eventbrite please contact Mandy Swanwick on 086 1532502 or Jane Bowes on 086 8418138



Evergreens Walking Club Sunday 4th January

We have arranged our post Christmas seasonal walk when the days are short (or damp!) and it's great to be out!

When: Sunday 4th January 2026

Where: Dalkey and Killiney Hill area.

Meet at Parish Hall at 12.00pm, after morning tea/coffee.

All parishioners and friends are welcome. Please wear warm outdoor clothes and suitable footwear.

The route is on good tracks but will involve some steps.

Bring a hot drink in a flask and a light lunch.

We will finish up in a local hostelry.

Afterwards we will all retire to the Rectory for a meal, by kind invitation of John

and Vera. While there I will present a short slide show on an early Alpine climbing trip to Arolla in Switzerland.

Donald Gill 087 1270592

Tullow Friends Christmas Lunch Friday 12th December

So many people have been looking forward to the Tullow Friends Christmas Lunch in Foxrock Golf Club that it is now booked out. It was a very enjoyable occasion last year and this year is sure to be the same.

NEWS





Winter Fair 29th November

The Winter Fair was one of the highlights of the Tullow year. For weeks and days beforehand the preparations were in full swing - crafts, jams and chutneys being made, cakes baked, posters designed and erected, publicity organised, flyers distributed, raffle prizes, bottles, jewellery, books and bric à brac gathered and sponsorship sought.

The parish hall and the church were hives of activity the day beforehand as the container was emptied and stalls set up. This year bric à brac, party clothes and books were in the church and the feedback was that it worked much better.

Despite heavy rain there was a very good attendance from early on and the teas and coffees were very popular. So many parishioners (and friends) worked so hard beforehand, and on the day, that it was deservedly very good news that **€10,000** was raised. This is a wonderful amount and means that the parish's chosen charities - Bray Women's Refuge and Down Syndrome India - will share €1,000 between them.

There are far too many people who deserve thanks to be mentioned individually but Sandra Ruttle who led the organisation of the fair certainly deserves special recognition. Not only did she lead the organisation right down to the smallest detail, she gathered substantial sponsorship for the map which all attendees were given - that sponsorship helped bring the total to €10,000 - she also contributed to the deli stall and helped put up posters!

Thank you Sandra and huge thanks to everyone who worked and who bought and who cleared up afterwards - very important 🧡



Almost ready!





Service of Remembrance Sunday 23rd November

This time of year is particularly difficult for anyone who has lost a loved one and it can be very emotional as memories flood in. The Service of Remembrance conducted by the Rector at the end of November was beautifully put together with specially chosen readings, prayers and hymns and provided solace for many in the large congregation.

Where possible, relatives of people whose funerals were held in Tullow over the last number of years were contacted and invited to the Service. Many people also came to remember their own relatives and friends who died elsewhere

over the years. All were appreciative that their relatives are still remembered.

Candles were lit for each family group and the dimmed lighting and extra candles in the church all added to the peaceful and poignant, but healing, atmosphere.

Remembrance Sunday Service Sunday 9th November

The Remembrance Sunday Service in Tullow is always a special one, not least because we remember the 17 members/associates of the parish who were killed in both world wars.

As well as remembering those who fell in conflict, new life was also celebrated as the names of babies who were baptised in Tullow in recent years were read out and a candle lit for each of them.



Tell Us Your Good News!

There must be many good news stories in the parish so please tell us - we'd love to share them - any good news is welcome. Tel Jane Bowes 086 8418138 or bowesjane91@gmail.com

PARISH ORGANISATION

After Church Coffee

We need volunteers for the after church tea and coffee on Sunday mornings. **Please help by volunteering** to join a panel of coffee/tea makers - it's very easy!

Rota for December

Sunday 7th - Merle Dowling and Glynis McConnell

Sunday 14th - Meta and Jonathan Morton

Sunday 21st - Sandy Feenan and Barbara Cooper

Sunday 28th - No coffee after church

Thanks so much to those who volunteered for December. We need volunteers for January and February so if you enjoy the Sunday morning coffee please offer to help out occasionally.

Please contact Barbara Cooper on 086 8446274 or email barcoop@gmail.com and let her know when you'd like to help

Badminton Club Thursdays at 8pm in Parish Hall

The members play social badminton (not league) and we're also experimenting with pickle ball on the last Thursday of the month.

New members always welcome. 086 8418138 if you'd like to know more.

Outreach - Bray Women's Refuge

Christmas is a particularly difficult time for the women and children who need the help of Bray Women's Refuge. Please help by leaving new ladies' and children's pyjamas in the basket at the back of the church. Tea, coffee, Christmas biscuits and selection boxes also very welcome.

Last date for leaving items in the church is December 13th.

Thank you.

Hilary Cran

Outreach - Down Syndrome India

To help us continue to fund life-saving surgery for little children please take a collection box from the Outreach area at the back of the church and pop your spare coins and notes into it.

Joyce Buckley 087 2988769

Select Vestry Meeting 17th November - extract from the minutes

- Investigations are continuing in an effort to provide a smooth pedestrian path over the grave. Drainage issues are proving to be problematic
- It is hoped to secure a grant to install insulation in the ceiling in the hall and replace the windows. This should help to reduce heating bills and will raise the temperature in the hall
- Parish Safety Statement was approved and agreed
- Parish Child Safeguarding Statement was updated

Other items are reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

Tullov Book Club

The Life Impossible by Matt Haig.

The opening couple of chapters lulled the reader into thinking they were going to have a nice gentle read. The writer paints a sad and dreary picture with the prospect of the main character escaping all of this for a life on the island of Ibiza. And that is where Grace's adventure took the reader to a very surreal world. All that can be said without spoiler alert is that good triumphs over evil.

Season's greetings to everyone from Tullov Book Club and happy reading.

January Book Club choice is *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

Vera Tanner

Tullov Bowls Club Tuesdays Parish Hall 7.30pm

If you would like information about the bowls or are thinking about joining please contact

Hazel Alexander 087 9719836

Jonathan Morton 085 7793250



Tullow Crafty Crew Parish Hall Thursday in late January 2.30pm - 4pm

Tullow Crafty Crew met on Thursday 20th November 2025. We had 12 attendees and we made Christmas table decorations. Next session will be in late January 2026.

Margaret 087 2941078

Wednesday Coffee and Service 10.30am

Do you like tea/coffee and a chat? Come along any Wednesday morning at 10.45am to the Coffee Room in the Parish Hall . All welcome.

A short Service is held in the church at 10.30am if you wish to attend.

Support Tullow Parish Hall Tenants

The Parish Hall has a wide range of groups and organisations using it. Please support them.

Little Star Preschool

Started again on 27th August.

www.littlestarpreschoolfoxrock.ie

Irish Dancing Classes for Children

With the renowned Chaney Farrell Academy. New pupils are welcome. Online registration at www.irishdancingclasses.ie

Yoga Classes

Catherine has classes on Mondays 8.15pm - 9.15pm

Feel stretched, not stressed. Suitable for all levels.

Contact: Catherine 087 7864853 catherinesyogamat@gmail.com

Take2

Take2 Performing Arts School is proud to be South Dublin's longest running stage school, established by Pamela Hughes in 1988.

Drama Classes: Monday-Thursday afternoons for 5–18-year-olds.

Exam & Feis preparation, small class sizes.

Musical Theatre Classes: Act, Dance, Sing! Saturdays 3–16-year-olds.

All students take part in our annual production in The Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire.

Contact: pamela@take2.ie or visit our website www.take2.ie

Now booking for September 2026.

The Fitness League - Celebrating 90 years of Inspirational Teaching!

Classes for the Active Retired. In the Parish Hall on Mondays 2.15pm - 3.00pm. Join anytime, €7 per class.

Exercise and music - a terrific combination! This is a standing and chair-based class. Improve your cardiovascular fitness and function as well as your posture, strength, balance and coordination.

Contact: Yvonne McMahon 086 3900223

www.thefitnessleague.ie

Tullow Brownies and Girl Guides Parish Hall Mondays 6.30 - 8pm

Irish Girl Guides is a youth-driven female organisation offering a varied programme for girls and young woman age 5-30. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader, please contact Alice on 086 3541195 for more information. No experience necessary!

JUST A THOUGHT

An Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

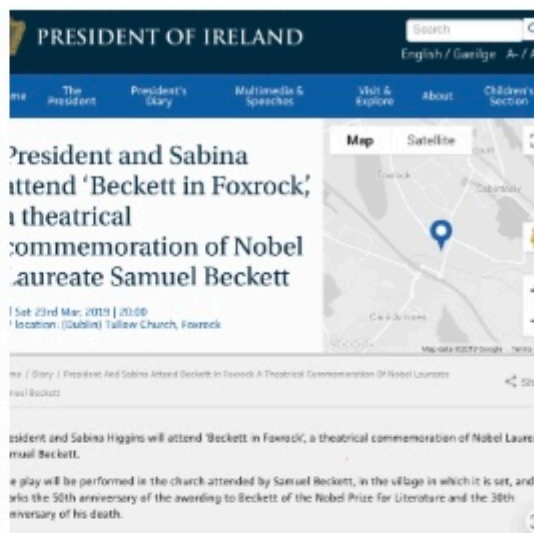
We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your
kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen



President Higgins and Tullow

In March 2019 President and Sabina Higgins visited Tullow. The occasion was a rare performance of Samuel Beckett's radio play *All That Fall*. The play is set in Foxrock and its performance by Mouth on Fire theatre company attracted international attention and the performance sold out weeks beforehand. As can be seen, many parishioners met the president at the post performance reception in the parish hall.

The performance was presented by Tullow Parish under the banner **Beckett in Foxrock**.

We wish President and Mrs Higgins a long, peaceful and well deserved retirement.



Photographic Archive and Local History

Please have a look in albums, boxes etc and see if you have any photos of people or places of interest to the Parish or the wider Foxrock area.

Jane Bowes bowesjane91@gmail.com or 086 8418138 if you find any.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB
Meet in Foxrock Church Parochial Centre

**ON TUESDAY DEC 16th @ 20:00 IN THE
PARISH PAROCHIAL CENTRE**

**OUR CHRISTMAS EVENT – SONGS, STORIES,
HISTORY ITEMS ON A CHRISTMAS THEME**



Admission Free for this night

Admission for Non- Members is EUR 5.00

Remember the Parish

Over the years legacies from parishioners have made a huge difference and the Parish is most appreciative. May I, once again, ask parishioners to please consider Tullow Parish in their wills?

Don Beck
Hon Treasurer

Remembrance Garden

Don't forget that the right to burial in our peaceful Remembrance Garden is

available to parishioners for €1,500 and a limited number of spaces for non-parishioners are available at €2,500. Please consider telling your friends and family about this oasis of peace. Contact the Rector if you're interested.

If you have a loved one in the Garden of Remembrance please take away flower pots and planters when they've gone past their best. At the moment, Ross, the gardener, removes them and puts them on the gravel strip near the back wall but they are very unsightly there. Thank you.

Parish Online Services and Parish Newsletter

The church is open for the 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Services. The 10.30am Service is live-streamed every Sunday so you can watch it wherever you are - just log into the Parish website www.tullowdublin.org. It's also available to view on the website afterwards and on Facebook at Tullow Parish whenever you wish.

If you know of anyone who is not on the Parish email list and would like to receive the newsletter and other communications from the Parish please contact

tullowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com or Jane Bowes 086 8418138.

Under GDPR regulations someone has to request to be put on the email list. If someone is on the Parish List and we have their email address then we are permitted to add them to the email list but we do need their email address so don't assume we already have it!

Website and Facebook

The Parish website www.tullowdublin.org and our Facebook page (search for Tullow Parish) are kept up to date by Alan R and, thanks to Samm, they are widely promoted - the effectiveness of this is illustrated by the very impressive viewing figures for the online Services.

Thanks are due to all these people who help to keep Tullow an active, vibrant parish. Let the Rector know if you would like to contact any of them.

Rector: Rev John Tanner 086 3021376
Lay Ministers: Alan Rhodes and Mandy Swanwick
Rector's Church Warden: Nigel Swanwick

People's Church Warden: Torren Gale
Rector's Glebe Warden: Ernie Porter
People's Glebe Warden: Chris Wojnar
Pastoral Assistant: Patricia Stewart
Organist: Nathan Whitley
Parish Treasurer: Don Beck
Select Vestry Secretary: Jane Bowes
Envelope Scheme: Torren Gale
Sustentation Fund: Owen Driver
Readers & Coffee Rota: Barbara Cooper
Connect Group & Clevis Drivers Rota: Jennifer Sowman
Wednesday Coffee: June Hayes
Parish Newsletter: Jane Bowes
Parish Hall Bookings: Jennifer Sowman
Parish Hall Committee: Rev John Tanner, Margaret Breadon, Barbara Cooper,
Jonathan Morton, Ernie Porter, Chris Wojnar
Flower Rota: Sandra Ruttle
Bell Ringer: Ken Gregory
Church of Ireland Review: Jill Malcolm
Badminton: Jane Bowes
Bowls Club: Jonathan Morton
Tulow Friends: Cleo Ellis
Tulow Book Club: Vera Tanner
Tulow Crafty Crew: Margaret Breadon
Altar Linens: Vera Tanner

Members of the Select Vestry:

Rev John Tanner (chair), Don Beck (treasurer), Jane Bowes (secretary), Patrick Abbott, Margaret Breadon, Hilary Cran, Torren Gale, Sheila Meredith, Ernie Porter, Alan Rhodes, Sandra Ruttle, Max Smyth, Patricia Stewart, Mandy Swanwick, Nigel Swanwick, Glenn Taggart, Chris Wojnar.

Welcome to the Tulow Parish newsletter. This is a very active parish so there's lots to report each month. We appreciate feedback - both critical and otherwise.

Email tulowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com

Please forward to other members of your family



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