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## **FEBRUARY 2022**

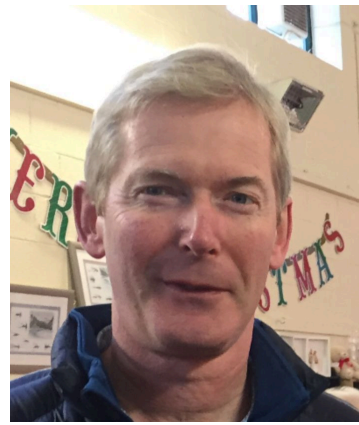
### **In this month's newsletter:**

- Christmas in Tullow Photos
  - Parish Organisations
  - The Story of Down Syndrome India
  - Register of Vestry Members
  - Glendruid Dolmen
  - Tullow Treasures
  - ....and much more
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## The Rector Writes

There is something about the month of February that makes it very special to me. It may be because it was the month I was born, but I believe it is far more than that. Although there is an ongoing debate as to whether the season of spring begins in February or March, I would argue that much of spring's groundwork becomes apparent during February. The days are growing longer and brighter. And although we can often get the coldest weather of the year at this time, we can also see the beginnings of new growth. Snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils add welcome colours after the 'monochrome' of winter. This, in turn, alerts us to beginning of the growth season and for many gardeners, begins the cycle of lawn cutting and maintenance.

This year we have a further reason to celebrate February. The announcement of the lifting of most Covid-19 related restrictions on 21<sup>st</sup> January has meant that most of us can now look forward to experiencing a return to a more recognisable normal. Of course, it does not mean that Covid-19 has gone away, but with a high level of community vaccination and new viral therapeutics, we no longer have to fear the worst health outcomes. However, for many, the letting go of fear and anxiety will take some time and for some, professional help will be required to enable them to move forward. The necessary enforcement of self-isolation during the worst of the pandemic has translated to lonely isolation for too many and has resulted in a lack of confidence in self and in society. For those delighted and excited with their new found freedoms, I would pray that they may have patience and understanding with those less enthusiastic. For those fearful of reengaging with others, I would pray that they may have the faith to do so. To quote 1 Corinthians 12:12, 16, *'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the*



*members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.'*

It is my hope and prayer that as a Church community we will all find the confidence to get back to meeting each other again in prayer and fellowship in a regular and safe manner. Over the coming weeks we will be planning towards a Lenten Course and a parish Spring Fair. Details of both and all other activities will be communicated in due course.

**From the Register:**

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of John Weir who died on 10th of January.

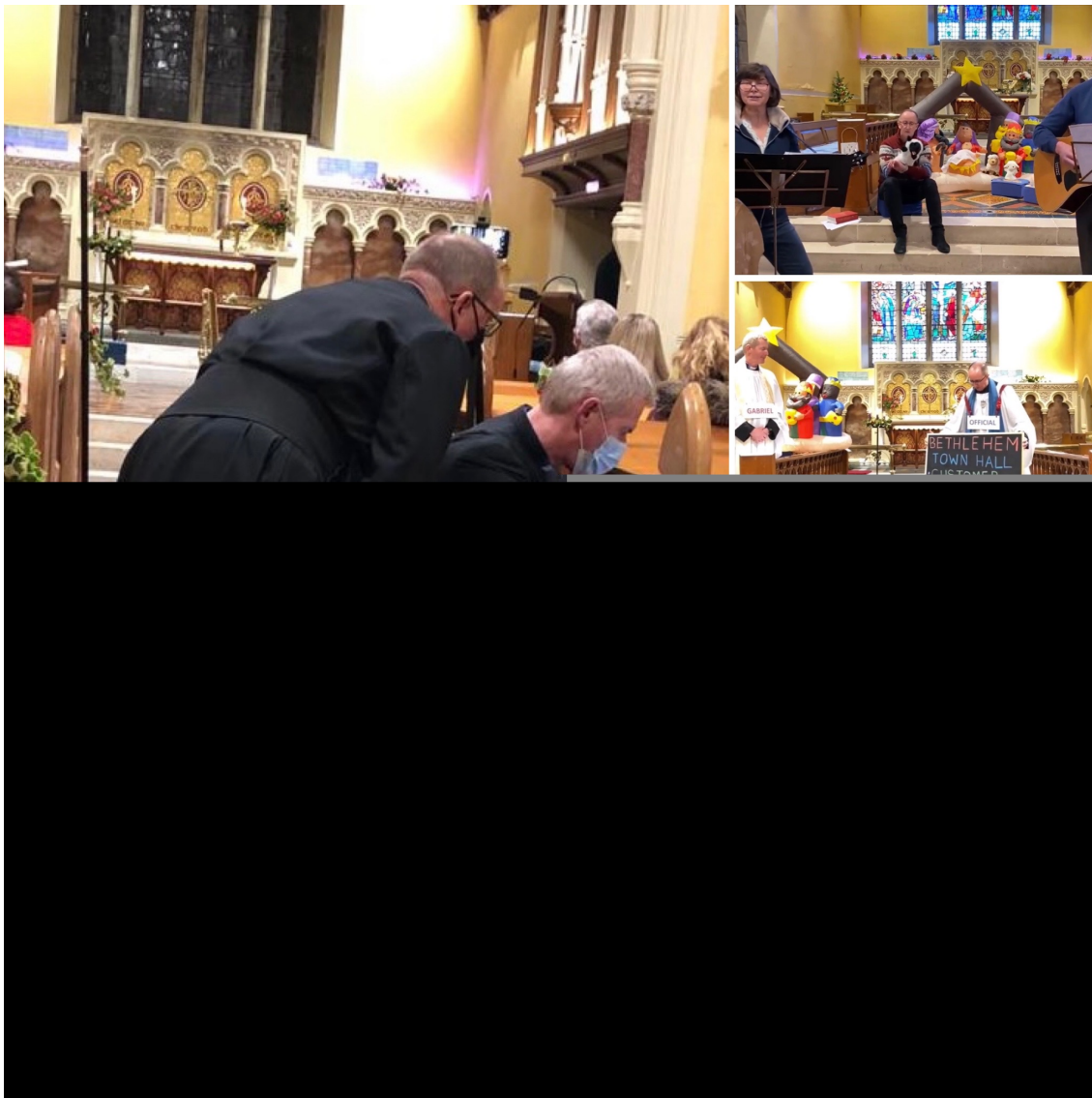
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

At time of writing Covid restrictions have just been lifted so there aren't many Dates for Your Diary just yet. The Sustainability Group, which has nearly been redundant for the last two years, will be meeting very soon to plan some activities over the next few months. A Spring Fair and a much-postponed return visit by the African Gospel Choir are just two of the events to look forward to. If you have any ideas for activities for all or different age groups please let us know.

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## NEWS



### Christmas in Tullow Church

Once again we had to change our plans due to Covid-19 but, once again, people in the Parish met the challenge and we had a lovely Christmas - though maybe not with the Services format we were used to. Christmas started with two beautifully decorated trees inside the church and outside. Thanks to Alan for his hard work in decorating the trees and putting up the lights in the church, and also to the generosity of the Cooper family who, as they have done for many years, donated the trees.

The Rector and Alan (aka Men in Black) worked tirelessly to ensure that the familiar Services went ahead and were a safe mix of live-streamed, pre-recorded and live Services. The images above show the Carols around the Crib Service and the Family Service on Christmas Day. In all, seven Services were prepared and delivered in the seven days over Christmas and huge thanks are due to John and Alan.



There's a special atmosphere in the church at night especially for the Carols by Candlelight Service - even if there are only the choir and readers present. Well over 800 people viewed the Service on Facebook alone so the beautiful singing by the choir, under organist and choirmaster Paul McNulty, was obviously much appreciated.

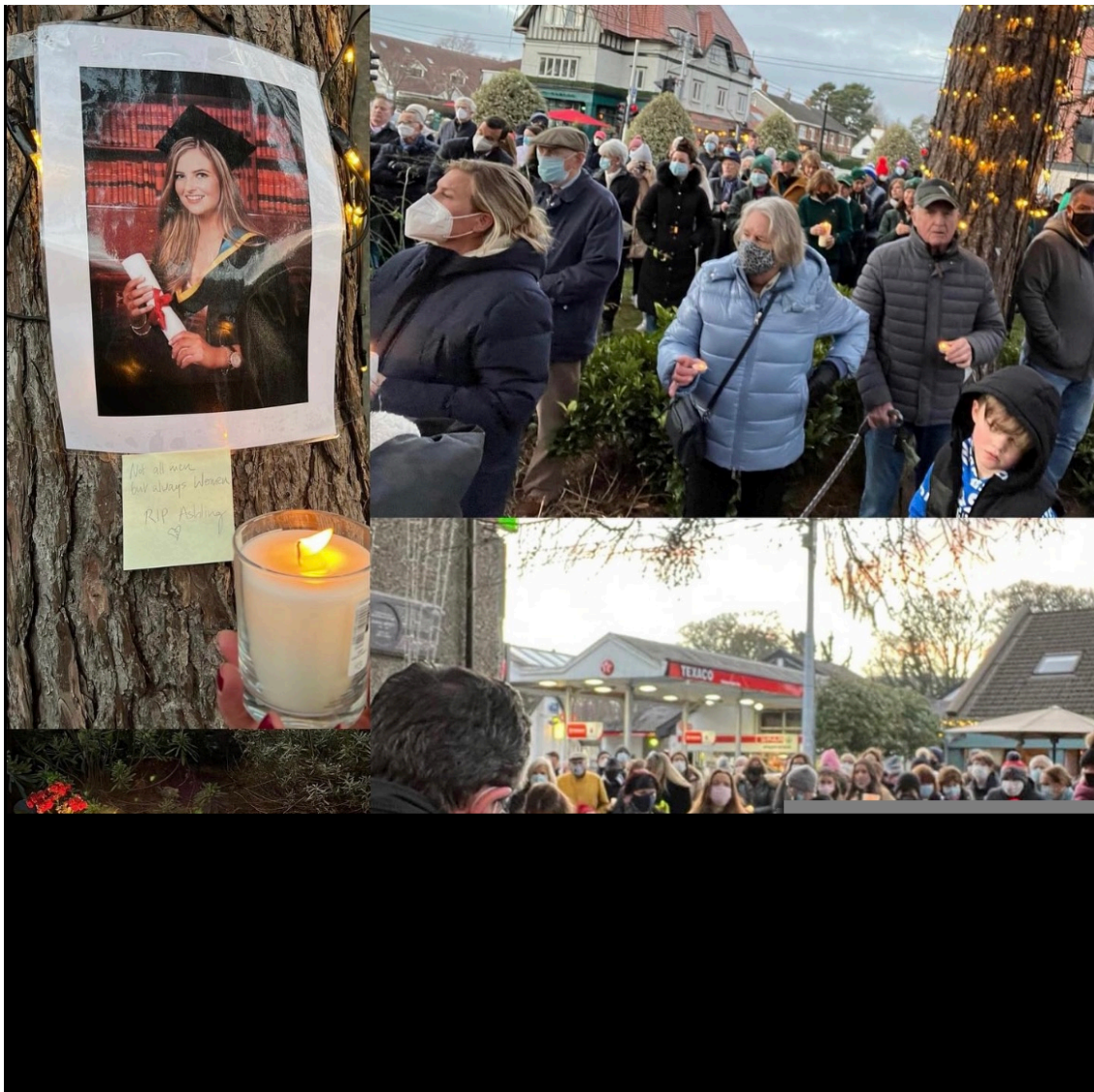






Tullow Church has a well-deserved reputation for its floral decorations - although these photos don't do the decorations justice they do give a flavour of the individual pieces which combined to such lovely effect. Huge thanks to the team of floral artists, organised by Sandra Ruttle.

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### Ashling Murphy and Aoife Beary

The whole country was united in grief and horror at the murder of Ashling Murphy while she was out jogging near Tullamore. In common with many other places, a vigil was held in Foxrock Village on Sunday 16th January. Organised by FACE (Foxrock Area Community and Enterprise), over 300 people were there to remember Ashling and also local girl Aoife Beary, both of whose lives were tragically cut short. The Rector, Fr Killian Dunne and Maeve Davidson, community worker from Foxrock Parish spoke movingly; the young Pegum family of musicians played beautifully and local girl Anna Kearney added to the emotion of the occasion by her haunting singing.

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For the last few years **Down Syndrome India** has been one of the charitable organisations which are supported by Tullow Parish. The children, whose lives we have saved by donating funds for life-saving surgery, have been previously featured in this newsletter and we are delighted that they are all thriving.

Bray Women's Refuge is the other major charity supported by the Parish.



Several charities are also supported via the green jar and occasional special collections.



**This is the very personal story, written especially for this newsletter, of how Down Syndrome India was founded by the inspirational Dr. Rekha Ramachandran. *2.5 minute read***

### **It Started 40 Years Ago - Down Syndrome India**

Sometimes when we reflect on life we realise that many incidents and people have had a major impact on it...what would life have been without a 'Babli' who has been instrumental in creating change, not only in my life but on every person she has come in touch with.

Born on the 8th of Jan in the year 1981, in circumstances that shook me and our family...she was premature and was called a blue baby. I accepted that but not what followed after that...12 pediatricians peered into her crib and made very pathetic sounds as if to say there was no hope ..

Yes my friends what seems like a lifetime of experiences, I was given one

shock after another. My little one was born with multiple medical issues. If I trace them the average parent will go into a shock.

Born with bilateral cataracts and a weak respiratory system, she needed surgery within 2 weeks of her birth.

Having a medical condition is a fact...but what is not acceptable is the attitude of the medical world. Every door we knocked on gave us no hope or worse still left one feeling absolutely helpless. The first doctor said leave her in an institution, go home and have more children. Some said she was a 'Waste'.

Shocked and disappointed I decided to take the situation in my stride and started attacking the so called pediatricians who were either not aware or disinterested in treating our children. Every child to me is first a child and then a child with a condition...Every where I went the same lines were thrown at me...Babli has Down Syndrome so she will be LIKE THIS....Like what?

Insensitive, callous, ruthless and misinformed...that was my description of the entire medical community and the society...It was left to us as parents to take it up and start fighting for our children. 1981 to 1994 was a war...every conference I would make it a point to address the pediatricians and try and make a change in their language. It was evident that it was now or never. No other individual should ever face such a predicament.

At every stage we faced resistance. Babli was born with multiple medical issues that were not identified at birth...bilateral cataracts, developed glaucoma and had four surgeries by 18 months. With this was the fact that she had a very weak respiratory system and had two bouts of pneumonia while she was just recovering from surgery. The doctor on call informed us that she would not survive the pressure on her lungs...I refused to accept this. For six weeks I tended to her while she was gasping for breath and kept her close to me to pass my warmth and positive energy...not for a moment did I think that she was critical. And yes after six weeks she bounced back and smiled at me as if to tell me that we had won the battle.

Joining school was again a huge challenge. Schools were discouraging, and guided us to special schools, where children with other challenges were grouped together. I challenged that and fought for her rights and got her into an inclusive set up. It was a battle, and continues to be in some states, but we are slowly getting to a more inclusive world.

Sports, dance, theatre were all Babli's interest. We pursued them with support and Babli set the trend for all the others. She was a national gold medallist in

swimming and was a natural classical dancer.

This gave us a clear idea of how to shape the lives of children born with Down Syndrome in India. We slowly started moving from state to state bringing both the parents and the medical community into our fold. The biggest hurdle was a different language in every state. With the help of local groups we covered every corner of the country and today we can proudly share that we have slowly but surely empowered parents, siblings, friends and the community at large. We reach out to children from the remotest parts of India and give them medical care, early intervention and financial support for surgeries.

I am proud to say that 40 years later we have seen some change in the attitude of doctors, and definitely a more accepting society. We proved that individuals with disabilities were as capable as us given the right opportunity. They have tremendous potential and that should be identified and promoted. It has been a very satisfying journey and we continue to reach out to every family struggling with issues.

Today we have a huge medical community that is very supportive and better still are the school systems where children are integrated. We are working very hard towards an inclusive society.

***Tullov Parish you have been one of our biggest supporters and all the children you have given financial assistance to are thriving.***

Thank you for supporting us.

**If you would like to support Down Syndrome India please gather your spare coins and notes. There are special tins to put them in at the back of the church (left hand side when leaving) or contact Joyce Buckley on [joysibuckley@gmail.com](mailto:joysibuckley@gmail.com) - it's as easy as that!**

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## PARISH ORGANISATION

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### Register of Vestry Members

Being on the Register of Vestry Members means you can have a say in what goes on in the Parish – you can elect people to the Select Vestry, contribute to any debate, vote at the annual Easter General Vestry. You can also, but ONLY if you wish, be nominated or elected to positions such as Church or Glebe Warden or represent the Parish at diocesan level. Being a registered vestry

member does NOT mean that you will be expected to do more work or contribute more time or money than if you are not registered.

The Register of Vestry Members is revised at the beginning of each year. If you would like to be on the register please contact the Rector who will send you a form but make sure you do it soon as the completed form has to be back with the Rector **before 15th February**.

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### **Badminton - Parish Hall Thursdays 8.30pm**

Now that the restrictions allow, we are back in the hall after several false starts over the last two years. We hope this time there is no further interruption. We must also be thankful that all the group has come through the pandemic unscathed, particularly those who contracted the virus.

We have sorely missed our annual dinners for too long, and it is a priority to rectify this position as soon as everyone is comfortable. In the meantime we are well stocked up with shuttlecocks plus tea and biscuits, and look forward to lots of action on the court.

Newcomers welcome, just come along to the Parish Hall on a Thursday night at 8.30pm (no racquet necessary)

Paddy Bowes 086 2585194

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### **Evergreens Walking Club**

Next walk: Sunday 13th March

Route: Little Sugarloaf circuit

Spring has arrived and we have hopefully put Covid 19, with all its variants, behind us. So all are welcome back to our first walk of the season. We meet at 12.00 noon after church/coffee. Full details in the March Newsletter.

Below is a photograph taken earlier in the month from the summit of Djouce looking down on a cloud inversion, with the Great Sugar Loaf mountain just visible.

Donald Gill 087 1270592

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## Tullow Book Club

*American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

All round agreement that this book was gripping but harrowing and not recommended for bedtime reading. A must-read book to give an insight into some of the stories behind people under the threat of death, having to leave their homeland for a life in a new country and all the clear and present dangers encountered in achieving this.

The book chosen for this month is *The Man who Died Twice* by Richard Osman  
Vera Tanner

**If you would like to read more....**

### Laureate for Irish Fiction Online Book Club

Colm Tóibín was recently announced as the new Laureate of Irish Fiction succeeding Sebastian Barry. He will present and host **The Art of Reading**, an online book club. Over the course of the year, the Laureate will discuss a selection of titles by Irish writers, highlighting outstanding Irish writing and celebrating the reader and book clubs. In some cases, the Laureate will be joined by the featured writer in conversation about their book. The first online book club event will be available for streaming on Thursday 24 February. In this event Colm will be in conversation with Claire Keegan about her recent book *Small Things Like These*.

Readers, book lovers and book clubs everywhere are invited to join in the Art of Reading with the Laureate, to read these outstanding books and tune in every month for the discussion.

Sign up for The Art of Reading Book Club monthly events via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LaureateIrishFiction](https://www.facebook.com/LaureateIrishFiction) and follow @LaureateFiction on Twitter #TheArtofReading and Instagram laureateirishfiction.

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### **Tullow Bowls Club - Tuesdays 7.30pm Parish Hall**

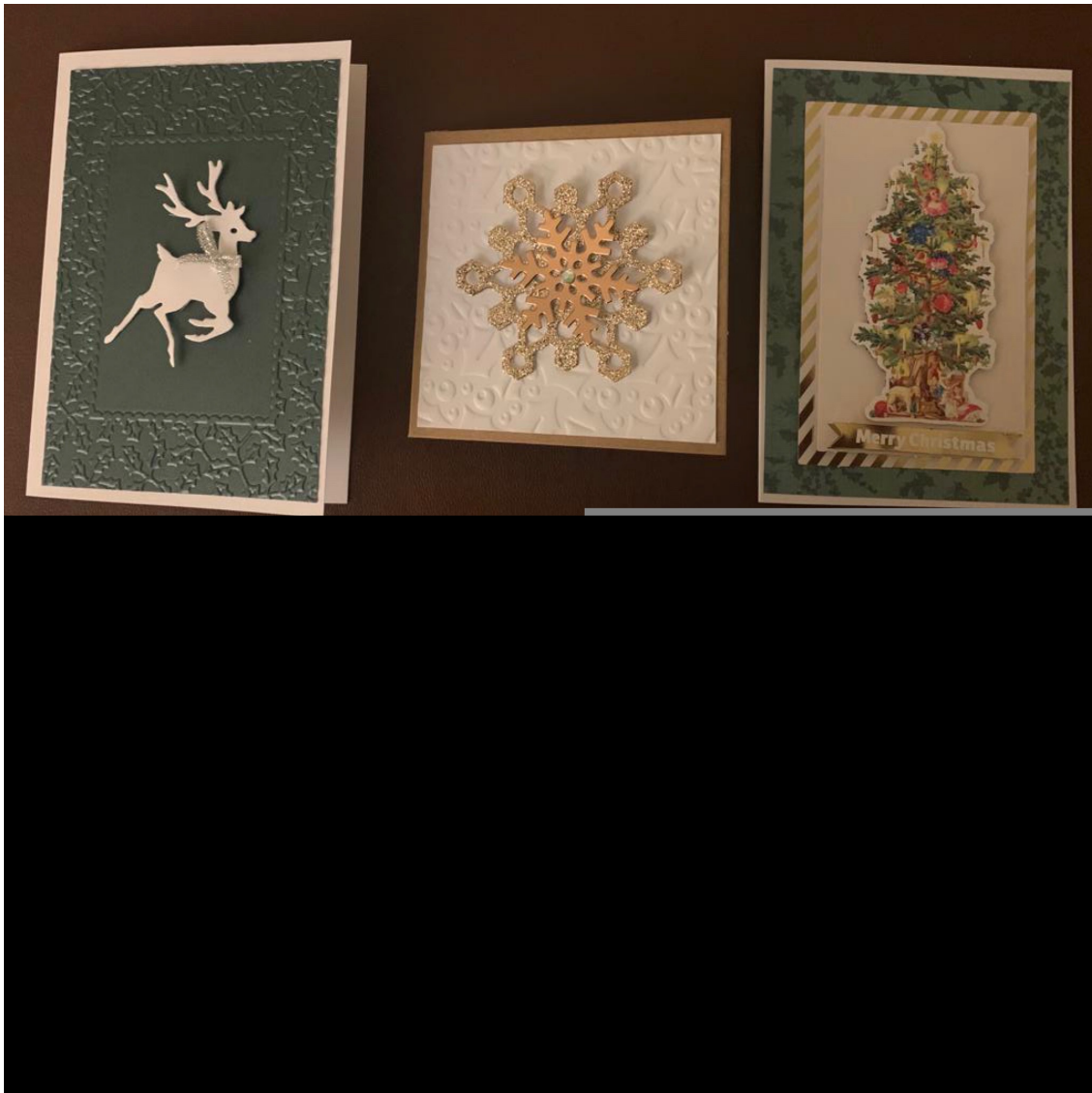
Having extended our Christmas break we are now resuming indoor bowling on Tuesday 1st February at 7.30pm. Tea about 9.00pm.

Contact Joan or Jonathan if you'd like to join us. New members always welcome.

Joan Darling 01 2855021 087 6182846

Jonathan Morton 01 2894121 085 7793250

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### **Tullow Crafty Crew - Thursday Once a Month 2.30pm Parish Hall**

The first session of Tullow Crafty Crew for 2022 will be on Thursday

24<sup>th</sup> February.

A variety of crafts are represented and guest craft demonstrations / talks will

also be included from time to time during the year.

For further information please email: [margaretbreadon2@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbreadon2@gmail.com) or phone Margaret at 087 294 1078.

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### **Tullow Fitness League**

We are delighted about the response to the proposed fitness class which will be run by Yvonne McMahon from The Fitness League.

Yvonne plans to start on Monday 7th February at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall and she has been in touch with those who expressed an interest in response to the email which was originally sent to everyone on the Parish email list. To keep participants safe, at the moment she will be keeping to social distancing guidelines so, for the time being, the class is full but there may be places later on.

If you'd like to put your name in the waiting list, please email your details to [yvonnemcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnemcmahon@gmail.com)

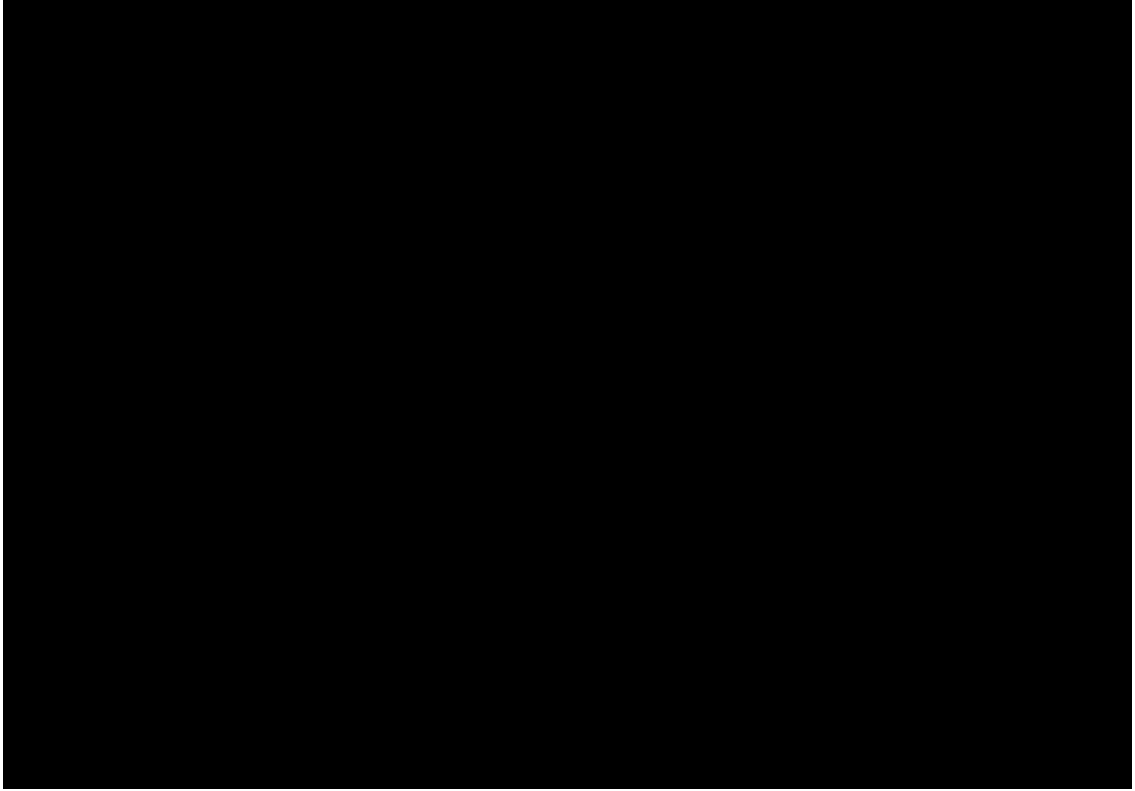
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### **Wednesday Coffee and Service 10.30am**

We're delighted to let you know that the Wednesday morning Service and Coffee will resume on Wednesday 2nd February. The Service in the church will be at the new time of 10.30am with coffee and chat afterwards.

All welcome.

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### **Tulow Treasures Silver Chalice**

The beautiful silver chalice used for Communion Services was presented to the church in 1919 in memory of Nurse Sophia Violet Barrett who lost her life when the RMS Leinster was torpedoed in 1918. The inscription reads: 'To the glory of God and in memory of Sophia Violet Barrett, torpedoed in RMS Leinster Oct. 10 1918, when returning to duty in France. Presented to Tully Church by her fellow members of Carrickmines St. John Ambulance. Nursing Div.'

Sophia Barrett, whose name is on the memorial on the outside wall of the church, was born in Glenamaddy, Co. Galway in 1884. She came home on leave from France and spent her last week staying with the Wilsons at their home, Carrickmines House, Brighton Road, Foxrock. Her sister Elizabeth Barrett Armstrong saw her off at Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire), so it seems most likely that there had been a family reunion in the Wilson house over the previous days.

After the recovery of Sophia's body, she was brought back to Carrickmines

House on Saturday 12th October 1918. Three Wilson sons had been killed in the war so we can only imagine the grief when Sophia was lost. On Monday 14th October her coffin, headed by a mounted escort of Hussars, was borne in an ambulance from Carrickmines to Kiltarnan Church where she is buried in the adjoining graveyard.

*Thanks to findagrave.com for some of the above information and photo of Sophia.*

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### **A Prayer About Springtime**

Springtime!

Your message of hope  
to a world tiring of winter's darkness,  
longing for that first crocus  
to push through cold, hard ground  
and spread its leaves,  
like arms outstretched,  
to its creator.

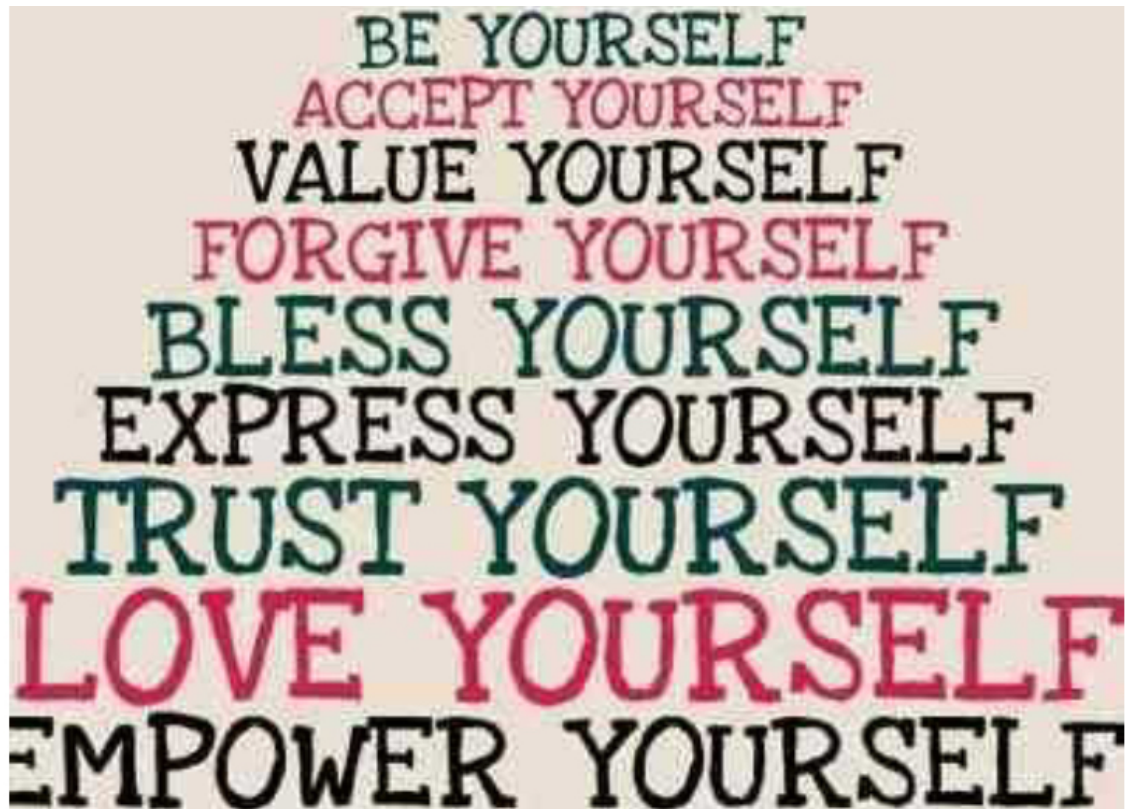
Springtime!

Our yearly reminder, if we needed one,  
that to a world that was dark and cold,  
a world devoid of love's sweet warmth,  
you sent your Son  
to break through our anxious nature,  
and, with arms outstretched  
on a cross,

he brought us  
hope.  
Thank you, dear Lord. **Amen.**

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## Teen Corner



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## 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](mailto:bowesjane91@gmail.com) or 086 8418138 if you find any.

The Glendruid or Brennanstown dolmen, just off Brennanstown Road, is in the news at the moment due to land sale and access issues. In case you haven't seen this piece of history, it's estimated to be c5,500 years old and is one of the finest of the Irish portal tombs. It is also one of the largest examples, its capstone has been estimated to weigh between 40 and 70 tonnes.

### *Photos:*

Top - 1880s courtesy of National Museums NI

Bottom - JIm Kavanagh January 2022

Courtesy of Facebook group Glendruid Dolmen Public Forum



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### **Extract from Minutes of Select Vestry Meetings 29 November & 17 January**

- Thanks expressed to everyone involved in Cakes, Cards, Deli and Hampers sale on 29 November. €1,200 raised plus €514 for three charities from the sale of cards
- Builder awaiting spring to start work on church roof
- Sustainability Group will meet to plan for full re-opening of the Parish
- Agreed to plan for Spring Fair and other activities

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### **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



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### **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.

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### **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](http://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](mailto: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, Facebook & Instagram**

The Parish website [www.tullowdublin.org](http://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.

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**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 Minister: Alan Rhodes  
Rector's Church Warden: Leslie Ruttle

People's Church Warden: Ken Gregory  
Rector's Glebe Warden: Ernie Porter  
People's Glebe Warden: Chris Wojnar  
Pastoral Assistant: Patricia Stewart  
Organist: Dr Paul McNulty  
Parish Treasurer: Don Beck  
Select Vestry Secretary: Jane Bowes  
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, Barbara Cooper, Bob Willis, Paddy Bowes  
Flower Rota: Sandra Ruttle  
Bell Ringer: David Cooper  
Church of Ireland Review: Jill Malcolm  
Badminton: Paddy Bowes  
Bowls Club: Jonathan Morton  
Tulow Friends: Cleo Ellis  
Tulow Book Club: Vera Tanner  
Altar Linens: Vera Tanner

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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](mailto:tulowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com)

Please forward to other members of your family



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