



Established 1967

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Sub. €1

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



The ongoing unfolding of the horrors in both Gaza and Ukraine cast a long shadow over our Christmas celebrations 2023. The fact that the land of the Lord's birth is in such turmoil, and so many innocents are suffering there, gives us all pause for thought.

The barbaric attack of Hamas on innocent Israelis has brought about a degree of retaliation so disproportionate, and of such ferocity, that it causes revulsion throughout the world. At the present rate of destruction there will be little left of Gaza in a short time. Estimates of the dead range from 10,000 to 18,500, and many of these have been women and children. We have all seen the deeply upsetting new reports, showing blood covered children crying out in despair, and the distraught parents cradling the bodies of their dead children.

The initial scenes from Israel, of the brutal Hamas attack were equally horrific, and we all shared the pain of the families of the murdered, the wounded and the kidnapped. These atrocities were the work of terrorists, lawless butchers, intent on inflicting pain. What we are witnessing now in Gaza are the actions of an elected government. Elected governments are expected to act, and react, in a civilized way, according to the rule of law, never attacking the innocent, that is what makes what we are witnessing so impossible to understand, and so utterly reprehensible.

The Director General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres has said "the situation is fast deteriorating into a catastrophe with potentially irreversible implications for Palestinians as a whole and for peace and security in the region". The General Assembly of the UN has voted by a majority of 153 nations to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire; – this has been vetoed by Israel's powerful political allies. The UN now seems to have run out of options, its resolution is non-binding, and the general assembly seems impotent.

Russia is stepping up it's attacks on Ukraine, with Tuesday nights attacks on Kiev damaging a children's hospital and leaving dozens of dead in their homes; this looks to be a conflict that will go on and on.

It's difficult to celebrate 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all' – the beautiful message of the saviour's birth, when so much suffering continues to be inflicted, and innocents are slaughtered. We really need to pray in these final days of Advent, that somehow peace can prevail, that the horrors of war will come to an end.

*Come, O prince of peace.*

*Philip Curran*

*St. Mary's & St. Patrick's Lucan.*

## Lucan Citizens Information Centre

Our telephone number is **0818 07**

**5090**

[www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

Email – [lucan@citinfo.ie](mailto:lucan@citinfo.ie)

Our office is located in the Ballyowen Castle Youth and Community Centre, Ballyowen, Lucan



### Christmas and New Year arrangements

Our office will be **closed from Friday 22nd December to Monday 1st January 2024** and we will reopen on **Tuesday 1st January 2024** at 10 am.

### Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS)

0818 07 4000 – Christmas holiday opening hours: CIPS will be open as usual up to Thursday 21/12/23

Friday 22/12/23 – 9 am to 5 pm

Closed on 25, 26 and 27 December.

Thursday 28/12/23 and Friday 29/12/23 – open from 9 am to 5pm

Closed on Monday 1 January 2024 and normal hours will resume on Tuesday 2 January 2024

### Support Groups

**Friends of the Elderly Ireland**, phone 01 873 1855, email [info@friendsoftheelderly.ie](mailto:info@friendsoftheelderly.ie)

**Women's Aid** 1800 341 900 – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, visit [womensaid.ie](http://womensaid.ie)

**Men's Aid** - 01 554 3811 Mon to Fri 9 am to 5 pm, email [hello@mensaid.ie](mailto:hello@mensaid.ie)

**Pieta House** – 1800 247 247, Text HELP to 51444

**Samaritans** – 116 123 – 24/7

**Aware** – supporting your mental health - support for you or your loved ones.

Email [supportmail@aware.ie](mailto:supportmail@aware.ie). Freephone 1800 804 848 Monday to Sunday 10 am to 10 pm

### Housing

**Threshold** – free and confidential advice to help tenants with housing problems – 1800 454 454 [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)

**Focus Ireland** – 01 8815900, email [help@focusireland.ie](mailto:help@focusireland.ie), [www.focusireland.ie](http://www.focusireland.ie)

### Charity regulator

The Register of Charities has a record of every charity, so check you're giving to a registered charity and give confidently this Christmas.

Tel: 01 6331500.

Email [info@charitiesregulator.ie](mailto:info@charitiesregulator.ie)

## Becoming an Irish citizen through naturalisation?

Naturalisation is when you become a citizen of another country, usually because you have been living there for a number of years. To apply for naturalisation in Ireland, you must be physically resident in Ireland for a certain length of time.

You can also read about:

Citizenship by birth or descent

Citizenship through the Foreign Births Register

All applications to become a naturalised Irish citizen are decided by Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) on behalf of the Minister for Justice. The Minister has absolute discretion as to whether or not to grant naturalisation. The Minister considers a range of information available to decide on an application for naturalisation.

You apply online for Irish citizenship. If you have already submitted a paper form, you can continue to submit documentation by post.

Paper forms continue to be available to those who cannot access an online service. To request a paper form contact [citizenshipinfo@justice.ie](mailto:citizenshipinfo@justice.ie)

There is an application fee of €175. If your application is successful, you may have to pay a further fee of up to €950 (see 'Certification fees' on our website for exceptions to this fee).

Full information on this topic is available on our website.



## Esler Active Retirement Association

We have had a very busy season at our club. All the usual activities took place, including Scrabble, Cards, Chaerobics, Dance, Quiz and Bowls.

Some members availed of a break to Kilkenny which was a great success. While there, we visited the Rock of Cashel, Swiss Cottage, St. Canice's Cathedral, and Kilkenny Castle. A group of 15 members attended the Active Retirement Eastern Region Christmas dinner, in Lawlor's Hotel in Naas.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party in Kennys this Friday, and our in-house celebration on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> when we close for the holidays.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all, and looking forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

*Treasa, Secretary*

## Sarsfield Park Residents' Assoc.

We would like to thank all the local businesses who sponsored our residents draw on Monday last, Congratulations to all our winners, we are hopeful our residents will continue to support our local businesses too. We are hoping that we will receive a visit from Santa to the estate before his big day.

The committee are taking a small break for Christmas and New Year we'll return on Feb 12th (St. Bridgids Day Falls on the 5th).

	Prize	Hse No
1	Voucher Seasons On the Weir	57
2	Voucher Collins Butcher	6
3	Voucher Kennys	43A
4	Voucher Carrolls Gastro Pub	126A
5	Voucher Stag Cycles	5
6	Voucher Centra Lucan	122
7	Voucher Collins Butcher	45
8	Voucher Collins Butcher	120
9	Voucher Artisan Pantry	117
10	Bottle of Brandy O'Neills	75
11	Gift Set Kinirons	29
12	Gift Set Kinirons	60
13	Voucher Paddys Barbers	91
14	Voucher Paddys Barbers	17
15	Bottle of Wine Power & Smullen	32
16	Box of sweets - Declan Callaghan	28
17	Box of sweets - Declan Callaghan	53



## Thank You Thursday at Lucan Library

Thank you to all who came along to enjoy the library events last Thursday 7th December. Pictured here are musicians Claire Sherry and Stephen Fagan, whose music was enjoyed by all!



Lucan Library will host the annual **Winter Craft Fair this Saturday 16th December, 10am to 4pm.** All welcome.

## Lucan Toastmasters

Lucan Toastmasters is a friendly, vibrant club which offers a safe environment to develop public speaking and communication skills. Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st December at 7:45pm at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip and guests are most welcome to join us on the night for an evening of engaging entertainment and some festive cheer!



**Do you want to finally conquer your fear of public speaking?**

**Do you have a speech or presentation coming up that you need help with?**

**Do you want to make new friends?**

**If so, then Lucan Toastmasters is the place for you.**

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip at 7.45 p.m. Admission is free for new guests – don't worry, you won't be asked to speak! Come along on **Thursday next, December 21st**, where a warm welcome awaits you.

For further details, check out Lucan Toastmasters on Facebook or Instagram, our website at [www.lucantoastmasters.com](http://www.lucantoastmasters.com) or email us at [vpmlucantoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:vpmlucantoastmasters@gmail.com)

**Lucan Newsletter's Christmas Edition will be published on Sunday next, 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Our first edition in the New Year will be for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**





# Parish Notes

## St Mary's, Lucan

[www.lucanparish.com](http://www.lucanparish.com)



**Sunday Mass Times:** Vigil: 6.30pm  
Sunday: 10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm.

**Weekday Masses:** Monday to Saturday 10am.

**Masses live-streamed on** [www.lucanparish.com](http://www.lucanparish.com)

### Confessions for Christmas:

**Monday and Wednesday** of Christmas Week:  
10.30am to 11am.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 10.30am – 12noon  
and 2pm to 4pm

## Christmas Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**6pm:** Children's Vigil Mass  
with Blessing of Crib.

**8pm:** Vigil Mass

**10pm:** Vigil Mass



Please note there is **NO** Midnight Mass on  
Christmas Eve

**Christmas Day: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9am, 10.30am and 12 noon**

There will be **NO** evening Mass on Christmas  
Day

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on  
Saturdays. (funerals permitting)  
from 10.30am to 11.30am. *All welcome.*

**Christian Meditation:** We meet every Tuesday  
night at 8pm in the Parish Bungalow.  
*All welcome, Sr Geraldine.*

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** During exposition of  
the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet to the Divine  
Mercy with devotions, is prayed every  
Wednesday morning in St. Mary's Church after  
the 10am Mass until 11am (unless there is a  
funeral). *Divine Mercy Devotion St Mary's.*

**Baptisms:** Dates are bookable on line. If you  
need to cancel email: [secretary@lucanparish.com](mailto:secretary@lucanparish.com)

**St Mary's Scripture Reflection:** Every Monday  
Evening 7.30 – 8.30pm in the Bungalow. **JOIN**  
**US** - You are Welcome to come any Monday.  
We reflect on the Gospel Reading of the  
following Sunday.

**Visits to the housebound:** If you are housebound  
you can call Deirdre at the parish office  
(01 621 7041) we will be happy to call on a  
monthly basis.

**Church Art Calendars For 2024:** Now available  
at the Parish Office and Sacristy. Cost €2.

**Deepest Sympathy** to the wife,  
son, family and friends of  
**Paul Mullally**, Celbridge and to  
the wife, family and friends of  
**Bryan Rabbite**, Esker Lane.  
*May they rest in peace.*



**O Holy Night**

A Christmas Story in Carols  
with  
St Mary's Chorale  
Colette and Michael Grant  
St Mary's Youth Choir

Sunday 17th December @ 3.30pm  
In St Mary's Church, Lucan

Retiring collection for Blanchardstown Hospice

## Well Done

Well done to **Aontas Youth Choir** for a very enjoyable  
evening of Christmas Carols  
in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday night –  
so much talent!!



Looking forward to seeing you at Masses in  
St. Mary's during 2023.

God Bless you all and a Happy Christmas.

*Sr. Geraldine, Breda and Maureen.*

## St. Patrick's Esker/ Dodsboro/Adamstown

[www.stpatrickslucan.ie](http://www.stpatrickslucan.ie)

**Sunday Mass Times:** 9am, 10.30am,  
12 noon.

**The 10.30am Family Mass** is aimed at younger parishioners and their families.

**Weekday Masses:** Monday to Saturday at 10am.

All Masses livestreamed at [stpatrickslucan.ie](http://stpatrickslucan.ie)

### Confessions for Christmas:

Monday and Wednesday of Christmas Week:  
10.30am to 11am.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 10.30am – 12noon and  
2pm to 4pm



## Christmas Mass Times:

### Christmas Eve: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**6.30pm: Children's Mass  
with Blessing of the Crib.**

**8.30pm: Vigil Mass**



### Christmas Day: Monday 25<sup>th</sup>

**9am, 10.30am and 12 noon**

**Adoration:** Adoration is held every Saturday morning after the 10am Mass from 10.30am to 11.30am. All are welcome.

**Confessions:** Confessions after Saturday 10am Mass **and after Thursday 10am Mass.**

**Tea/Coffee:** Every Wednesday Morning 10.30am in the Parish Centre. **All are welcome.**

**St Patrick's Prayer Meeting:** Meeting every Monday night in the Pastoral Centre, (Side of St Patrick's Church) from 7.30pm to 8.15pm.



## Our Journey with Mary During Advent

You are invited to join our  
**Advent Reflection**  
at Kairos 125 Castlegate Way.

**Final Date: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. - 11.00 - 11.30**

Come early and enjoy a chat and refreshments!

*All Welcome, Sr Angela*

## Divine Mercy, Lucan South

[www.lucansouthparish.net](http://www.lucansouthparish.net)

**Sunday Mass Times:** Saturday Vigil: 6pm.  
Sunday Masses: 10.30am and 12.00 noon.

**Weekday Masses:** Mon.-Fri: 9:15am. Sat: 10am

All Masses will be livestreamed on

[www.lucansouthparish.net](http://www.lucansouthparish.net)

## Christmas Mass Times:

### Christmas Eve:

**5pm: Children's Mass**

**8pm: Vigil Mass**

### Christmas Day

**10.30am and 12noon**



## Advent Novena: Emmanuel Masses

You are invited to participate in an Advent Novena, the Emmanuel Masses, as follows:

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>** at 12.00 noon

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Weds 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7.30pm

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 9pm

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6pm

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** at 12 Noon.



You may write out intentions, which will be left in front of the altar for all of the Masses.

*"His name will be Emmanuel, God with us."*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Confessions every Saturday 5.15pm and after the evening Mass.

## Adoration and Holy Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

**Mon:** 7.30pm: Divine Mercy Adoration

**Fri:** 1.15pm: Adoration MMPH Cenacle

**Fri:** 2-3pm: Divine Mercy Devotion/Adoration.

**Prayers of the Church:** Mon. to Fri.: 8.40am.

The Church is open Monday to Friday from **10am to 1pm** for private prayers.

**Wednesday tea/coffee morning:** There is a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake after 9.15am Mass every Wednesday in the St. John Paul II Room (room with tables and chairs to the right of the porch at the main Church entrance).

*All are most welcome.*

## Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at the Village Green at 1pm.

Ecumenical Reading of the Nativity including Christmas Carols with members of the Presbyterian Church, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Catholic Churches. **All welcome**



## Birthday Remembrance

### JENNIE MORRIS

**6<sup>th</sup> Birthday away from home 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Mother,** Our lives change day by day  
But our love for you will forever stay  
Your love, life and joy we celebrate  
On this very important date  
Happy birthday in Heaven  
*Love always Jean x*

#### **Nanny / Granny Bus,**

Goodbyes are not forever  
Goodbyes are not the end  
They simply mean we'll miss you  
Until we see you again  
So we send you a happy birthday  
With love on your special day  
*Happy Heavenly Birthday Nanny from your grandchildren Karen, Lisa, Kevin, Breda, Andy and Rachel*

#### **Nanny / Granny Bus,**

Gifts are beyond reach right now  
So we send our love wrapped in a bow  
And our thanks for yours too  
Happy birthday to you.  
*Happy Birthday Granny Bus from your great grandchildren, Laurajane, Nikki, Daniel, Kelsie and Craig x*



## Anniversaries

### CHARLIE SMITH - 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

A sudden call from God on high  
You had no chance to say goodbye  
Without farewell you fell asleep  
But memories of you we'll always keep.  
Rest in peace Charlie.  
*Sadly missed and loved by your loving wife Pauline, daughters Lesley and Paula and grandchildren Dylan, Luke, Amelia and Abi*

### PATRICIA O'BRIEN - 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

A light from our household is gone  
A voice we love is stilled  
A place is vacant in our home that never can be filled  
Lonely is the home without you  
Life to us is not the same  
All the world would be like Heaven  
If we could have you back again  
The happy hours we once enjoyed  
How sweet their memory  
But death has left a vacant place  
This world can never fill.  
*Your loving family*

### SHAMIE BOLGER - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

In loving memory of our beautiful, beloved husband, Dad and granddad Shamie Bolger.  
Also remembering our beloved daughter/sister and aunt **Georgina Bolger** whose 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary occurred 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Separated in life, united in Heaven. Rest in peace.  
When we remember happy times  
The thoughts we hold most dear  
Are the times we shared together  
The days when you were here  
If only we could see you Dad for just a little while  
To hold you close and hug you and see your big smile  
But God would never grant this wish  
As he would surely know that if we ever had you back  
We would never let you go.  
Not a day goes by we don't think of you both.  
Always in our thoughts and prayers  
No one could fill the void you both left.  
*Very sadly missed and always remembered by Mam (Philly), sons James, John and families*

### MARY O'BRIEN - 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 14<sup>th</sup> December

Late A.G.P. Lucan.  
We hold you close within our hearts  
And there you shall remain  
To walk with us throughout our lives  
Until we meet again, so rest in peace dear Mary  
And thank you for all you've done  
We pray that God has given you  
The crown you've truly won.  
*Love and miss you, your loving husband Martin xxxxx*

In loving memory of my Mother.  
Your life was love and labour  
Your love for your family true  
You did your best for all of us  
We will always remember you  
Once upon a memory, someone wiped away a tear  
Hold me close and loved me, thank you Mother dear.  
*Mark and Regina, granddaughter Amie and great grandsons Sonny and Luca*

Mam, If I could have one life time wish  
One dream that could come true  
I'd pray to God with all my heart  
For yesterday with you.  
*Missed every minute of every day, Tracey and Ian*

Even though you are not with us  
You are still in our hearts  
We hope you keep watching over us from Heaven  
And are winning at Heavenly bingo.  
*Love you always, Sam, Mya, Layla, Noah and Issac*

Thinking of you every day Mam  
Happy memories have replaced  
The sadness your absence brought.  
Always in our hearts and minds.  
*Love forever, Roy and Elaine*

## Lucan Planning Council

An update on our door-to-door petition to get the NTA to engage with us to address the bus and traffic problems:

We continue to get overwhelming support on the doors as we proceed to get the views of the greater Lucan population. We are doing an in person petition to ensure we get as many viewpoints as possible. Due to the recent bad weather we have not as yet completed the callbacks due to people being out when we called.

The main concern is Lucan will be choked with traffic within a few years if nothing is done. Public transport has been removed as an option for many due to intransigence of NTA and we intend raising this as it contradicts government policy.

We postponed our on the street public meeting due to the cold spell and will reschedule. On foot of informing the Junior Minister Jack Chambers of the extent of our door to door activity, he has requested a meeting. This should happen in January.

It has become clear that Minister Eamon Ryan is focused on climate action and we question his attention to detail on Public Transport in Ireland. We will raise this.

Thanks again to everyone for your support.

Wishing you all a safe Christmas on the roads.

*Caitríona McClean, Secretary.*



CONTACT  
podcasttraining@liffeysoundfm.ie  
TEL: 01 6109339

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**New - for January 2024**  
**Places limited**



Information and support for those who have completed treatment for cancer

### Survive and Thrive Programmes 2024

The Marie Keating Foundation's **Survive and Thrive** programmes have been created to help men and women who have finished cancer treatment to adapt to their 'new normal' after a cancer diagnosis.

The programmes include information and support guided by facilitators, lots of discussions on issues such as coping with emotions, feelings, stress and anxiety; becoming a self-manager - managing fatigue and other symptoms; changing nutritional and physical activity needs.

There is lots of engagement which creates a space to learn and grow and empowers you going forward in life.

This is an eight-week programme, Tuesday evenings from 6.15 –9pm, we would love to help you to transform yourself and meet people who have gone through a similar experience who get you and you get them.

**Programme Commences Tuesday 9th January – 27th February 2024.**

For further information contact Fiona on 087 9657144 or 01 628 3726 or e-mail [fsullivan@mariekeating.ie](mailto:fsullivan@mariekeating.ie)

**To book a place log on to**  
[www.mariekeating.ie](http://www.mariekeating.ie)

All programmes are free to attend but places are limited and registration is essential.



### Happy 13th Birthday and 10th Birthday

to brothers **Conor** and **Eogan**  
celebrating this week.



Hope you enjoy your Gaming Bus on Saturday.

*Love Nanny and Granddad Cummins.*





### **Not many more sleeps now!**

We hope all are getting into the spirit of Christmas at this stage, with lots of special events all over Lucan – something for everyone!

**Winter Solstice!** Next Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December is the shortest

day of 2023 – after that day, it's onwards and upwards as we wade out of Winter.

### **Winter Solstice Blessings**

May the longest night and the shortest day  
Bring rest to your mind and soul, I pray.  
May you find guidance and may you find peace,  
As the cycle of light will slowly increase.  
Embrace the magic that the darkness bears,  
Breathe deep in the chill and shift in the air.  
May you always be blessed  
with the light from within,  
And may well-being be yours  
as the new cycle begins.

By the way, Birdie spotted buds on some of the trees this past week, and the daffs are peeking above the ground all over the place – strange times.....



We spotted this cheerful Santa in Shackleton estate, and there are lots of lovely displays of reindeers and even unicorns in the local estates.

## **Christmas Story**

Some say that it is just a story  
An old, old, legend of long ago,  
A tale for simple folk and children,  
Too far for those who claim to know.

To believe it is too hard they say,  
It's just some peasant lore,  
The Son Of God born on Earth,  
On a lowly stable floor.

Too hard to believe they say,  
That God became a man,  
To call home His scattered flock,  
And restore His creation plan.

That shepherds heard no angel sing,  
There was no guiding star,  
No baby in the manger,  
Nor wise men from afar.

Then there's no candle in my window,  
No stocking waits upon my hearth,  
No choir singing out at midnight,  
Peace and joy to all the Earth.

But if there's a child within your heart,  
Dreaming the wonder true,  
Your every day will be a Christmas Day,  
And the story will be always true for you.

*By Paddy Mulhern*

## **Winter Musings 2023**

Happy Seasonal Greetings to everyone, to neighbours, friends, our community, to walkers, talkers, joggers, thinkers – all who enjoy our Lucan parklands. May Christmas be a time of peace and togetherness.

A flotilla of canoeists river-running on Annalivia.

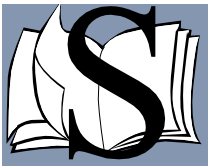
Woodpeckers have learned to excavate holes in ESB poles. As per W.B.C. and that strange looking bird photographed on street light recently was a smaller cormorant called 'Shag', in mating plumage.

Issue of barbed wire fencing on riverside path past farmer's gate in Demesne needs resolution, as does clearing and securing of balustrades of our beautiful bridge.

*May we have the grace to look up and out to our  
New Year and say very simply with hope and love,  
Happy New Year. (Maya Angelou)*

*Brida L. Conalty.*





## SCHOOL NEWS



### St. Joseph's College

#### Carol Singing in Marymount Nursing Home

Thank you to Ms. Kearney, Ms. Mellett & all the wonderful Carol Singers who visited Marymount Nursing Home on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December for a very enjoyable evening! 'Silent Night' and 'White Christmas' were favourites in this 26<sup>th</sup> Year of Carol Singing - a great Christmas tradition!



**Badminton at St. Joseph's:** Well done to all our 3<sup>rd</sup> & TY students who took part in the U16 Badminton Competition in Adamstown Community College on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, which included Lucan Community College and Kishoge CC also. Congratulations to Naima Shah and Vanessa Osayande who won medals for the Spirit of Badminton.



**TY Christmas Fair:** A huge well done to all our entrepreneurs in Transition Year who held their annual Christmas Fair On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

The whole school was treated to a vast array of products, including hoodies, crocheted gifts, jewellery and sweet treats, to name a few! All students are preparing for their involvement in the Student Enterprise Award Competition and this day certainly puts their skills of research, product design, sales, marketing and customer relations to the test! A fantastic €350 was raised by all businesses for the Children's Health Foundation! Thank you to Ms. Lynn and Ms. Dunne for organising all!



### Fundraising 2024 Calendar

Joey's Tidy Towns Calendar 2024 is on sale in St. Joseph's College & Centra, Lucan. All proceeds will go directly to the Lucan Conference of the St. Vincent De Paul. €10.00 each.



### Lucan Community College Night Classes

Spring term is opening for booking on our website [Lucancc.ie](http://Lucancc.ie). If you would like to meet new people, make new friends and learn a new skill, why not try one of our fun evening classes.

Couch to 5K, French, Italian, Spanish, Irish, Knitting, Crochet, Art Portfolio Preparation, Drawing and Watercolours, Tai Chi, Yoga, Kettlebells, Gardening, Leaving Cert Irish and Leaving Cert French.

## Coláiste Phádraig CBS

**Soccer:** Our **senior soccer team** drew 3-3 against Castleknock CC on Thursday in their final group game of the Dublin Metropolitan League. It proved to be an entertaining and dramatic encounter with both teams going on the attack from the kick-off. Castleknock took the lead early in the 1<sup>st</sup> half before Tyler Doherty equalised with a typically composed right-foot finish from just inside the box. Castleknock scored their second soon after and they led 2-1 at half-time. Lucan equalised 10 mins into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a brilliant goal. Alhassan Benfayed whipped in a beautiful ball into the box from out wide and John Donohue made a clever near-post run across the keeper and got on the end of the cross to tap home from close range with his right foot. Castleknock took the lead for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the match soon after but Tyler Doherty equalised from the spot late on for Lucan to secure top spot in the group a home match against Adamstown CS in the Dublin West Regional semi-final.

Our **u17 team** failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the League after agonisingly losing out on goals scored. Despite winning two of their three games, the team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the group after suffering a 9-3 defeat to Castleknock CC on Friday. An understrength Lucan, missing some key Transition Year players who were on work experience, struggled to deal with the lively and talented Castleknock forwards throughout the game. Eoin Maher (2) and Will Smith scored the Lucan goals but unluckily they are only team in the entire competition to have won two games in the group stages and not qualify for the next round in January.



**Badminton:** Coláiste Phádraig's Badminton Club is going from strength to strength with good numbers attending training in the Sports Hall every Wednesday after school. The training sessions go on for 90 minutes and the more experienced senior players generously give of their time to coach the younger, inexperienced players. Rohit Tummala, Joel Emmanuel, Abhinav and Aniruddh Sriram have been guiding and advising the 1<sup>st</sup> yr players in particular, teaching them the basics such as hand grip, footwork, serving, stance, drop shots and the very popular smash shots!

**PE:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> yr PE students have been working overtime in recent weeks on their PAP (Physical Activity Project), which is one of three assessment components of the Leaving Cert PE course and worth 20% of the overall marks. The students had to select an activity from any competitive sport and they had the choice of competing the project as a performer, coach or choreographer. They could choose from a wide range of activities such as orienteering, rock-climbing, canoeing, life-saving, water-polo, gym work, aerobics, gymnastics or any of the main sports that young people participate in. The students must complete the PAP in the official State Examinations Booklet and submit it digitally in a folder by the end of this week. They must include three videos of themselves as well so it is a really hands-on, practical project that they must take full responsibility for. The videos are to be annotated with voiceovers and/or subtitles as this is important for identifying which of the 4 distinct performance goals (chosen by each student) the video footage pertains to. A number of the students chose gym work for their project and they were in the school gym after school over the past week putting the finishing touches to their work. The students will next complete a performance assessment (worth a further 30% of the overall marks) before sitting the written exam in the summer (which is worth the remaining 50% of marks).

**Christmas Service:** St. Mary's Church, Lucan hosted a heart-warming Christmas service for our 2<sup>nd</sup> yr students on Tuesday morning. The occasion brought together students of diverse faiths and beliefs and, under the guidance of Fr. Ubaldo, the service not only celebrated the spirit of Christmas but also helped foster a sense of community and belonging. There was an uplifting festive atmosphere at the service that resonated with joy and excitement thanks to the collective efforts that made the occasion memorable for everyone involved. We are very grateful to Fr. Ubaldo and the parish for their unwavering support and for creating a welcoming space for all to share in this festive season.

**Hurling:** Our senior hurlers were eliminated from the Dublin League after suffering a narrow defeat to Templeogue College on Monday. Killian Costello impressed with an excellent performance as he scored 2-06, including a lot of well-taken frees, while Patrick Ryan added a further 1-2. However, Lucan eventually lost 4-13 to 3-14 in an open and entertaining game with both teams looking for the win that would secure qualification to the next round.



## The Crossing - A Celebration of the Winter Solstice at Adamstown!

Starting off the day with an Illustration Workshop with award winning Illustrator Karen Harte and followed by a Solstice Headdress Making Workshop. Astronomy Ireland's Daniel Moore will give a presentation on the Night Sky followed by the chance to see the night sky for yourself from the telescopes in our mini observatory on the roof of Adamstown Community Centre!

We have gathered local stories from the community which will be shared by Emily Duffy and followed by a magical storytelling session with local Storyteller Jack Lynch.

We close the solstice evening with a unique event spotlighting local talent and special performances including The "First Indian Dance School In Ireland" - DBDS Ireland, Musicians and Singers - Kelly Fell, Lousie Sharkey and Lucy Ledwith, K-pop dance group FearNot as well as music from Ansh and Music from Asa.

### Programme of events 16th December:

**13:30 - 15:00** Inner Light: Art Journaling and Vision board workshop

**15:30 - 17:00** Solstice Headdress Crafting Workshop

**17:30 - 18:30** Introduction to the night sky with Astronomy Ireland

**18:45 - 19:15** A sharing of Local Stories from 'Our sun, our moon' project

**19:30 - 20:15** Magical Storytelling Session

**20:30 - 22:30** The Crossing: An Evening of Live Art celebrating the Winter Solstice

Don't miss out and book your tickets today!

Book Tickets Now:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/sofft-productions-54478950743>

## NAGARHOPE

### Christmas Cards for Sale

€5 for Pack of 10

Available from 191 Beech Park

Also available from the Parish Office.

Or contact 087-0666891

## 160 Years of Mount Sackville



In 2024 Mount Sackville will proudly celebrate 160 years of education in Ireland. The

school was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Chapelizod, Dublin in 1864. As part of the celebrations, we invite past pupils and staff to share your stories, photographs or any archival materials of your time here or your association with the school.

*You may contribute items:*

**By email:** [memories@mountsackville.ie](mailto:memories@mountsackville.ie)

**By Post:** Mary Delaney, Mount Sackville Secondary School, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, D20WP68

**In person:** Please present the material to the school reception in a sealed envelope with your name and address to ensure you have the original material returned safely.

We look forward to celebrating our rich history and our school community, past and present!



## Adult Education Service

The Adult Education Service in Lucan Education Centre, on Esker Hill are currently enrolling for free and flexible part-time courses commencing in January / February 2024. These Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) courses are at times to allow you to choose between one and four different subjects to fit around your busy life. Each subject is 4 hours, 1 morning per week. This can lead to QQI qualification.

*The following subjects are available this term:*

Spanish for Beginners; Office Procedures;

Wellbeing and the Internet; Data

Entry;

Developing your Business English

Language Skills; Working with

Microsoft Excel;

Working with Microsoft Word; Work Experience;

Medical Terminology; Bookkeeping: Manual &

Computerised.

For more details, contact

[lorraine.kavanagh@ddletbaes.ie](mailto:lorraine.kavanagh@ddletbaes.ie) or call (01) 6283557.





## Weather Miscellany

### The Start of The Irish Meteorological Service.

The Irish Meteorological Service was established in December 1936. It took over the existing meteorological organization in Ireland from the British Met. Office. Transatlantic flights were planned to take off from Foynes, Co Limerick. It was felt necessary to expand the observational networks and set up a forecasting organization to service the needs of

Foynes. Initially flying boats and other aircraft used the airport, to be followed by regular aircraft after World War

Two. Shannon Airport Weather Station was established in 1938 and followed by Dublin Airport in 1939. Already weather stations at Valentia (1866), Birr (1872) and Malin Head (1885) had been set up.



### Ireland's Oldest Weather Station

Valentia Observatory is about 1 kilometre south-west of the town of Cahirciveen on the 'Ring of Kerry'. It was originally sited on Valentia Island (1866) but it was moved to the mainland in March 1892 to much improved accommodation. Valentia carried out the usual surface weather measurements: temperature, sunshine, rainfall and wind. In addition, it does upper-air measurements, ozone monitoring, geomagnetics, seismology, solar radiation and environmental monitoring. Valentia has a mild climate throughout the year which is influenced by The Gulf Stream and the prevailing west or south-west winds. Frost, when it comes tends to occur in January and February.

The average maximum temperature in winter is close to 10C. In summer it is close to 18C.



### 'The Troubles'

Brendan McWilliams describes in his book, "Weather Eye, The Final Year", an incident that took place one night in June 1921 during The War of Independence. Some armed men arrived at the observatory and requisitioned a theodolite and a telephone. This did not affect the daily routine as telegraphic communications were unaffected and normal weather reports continued to be issued. However, during The Civil War there was fighting in nearby Cahirciveen and telegraphic communications were interrupted for a time. But by mid-1923 Valentia Observatory's reporting

routine was back to normal and happily has continued ever since.

### Weather Poems

#### The Little Rain

*The great rain is over,  
The little rain begun,  
Falling from the higher leaves,  
Bright in the sun,  
Down to the lower leaves,  
One drop by one.  
Mary Coleridge.*



If you want to shelter from the rain don't pick an oak tree as it has many horizontal branches which release the rain fairly quickly on those seeking shelter. Branches that slope up to the sky make better umbrellas than horizontal ones. They channel the rain towards the trunk and away from those people under the tree. Poplar and beech are examples of trees to look out for as shelter during a heavy shower!

### Who Has Seen the Wind?

*Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang  
trembling,  
The wind is passing through.  
Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.  
Christina Rossetti.*



Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) was an English writer of romantic, devotional and children's poems. She also wrote the words for the carol. "In The Bleak Midwinter".

### Record Temperature on October 9, 2023.

On October 6 a heat dome approached Ireland from Europe. It came over us and brought very high October temperatures to Ireland. This unusual spell of weather lasted from October 6 to October 10.



Phoenix Park Weather Station recorded 23C on October 9. This was its highest ever temperature for that month. The normal afternoon temperature for that time in October is 14C. From the 11<sup>th</sup> onwards the weather was very unsettled with above average rainfall. This was in complete contrast to the mini-Indian Summer we had early in the month! It's worth weather watching in these climate changing times.

D. T.

# POLITICAL NOTES

## Cllr. Paul Gogarty P.C.

"Not just at election time" Tel: 087-2752489

Web: [www.paulgogarty.com](http://www.paulgogarty.com)



**Lucan House sale to SDCC:** The sale of the Italian embassy house and grounds to the Council has been concluded and is now awaiting approval by auditors in Italy. Was delighted to have played a small part in sowing the seeds during my time as Mayor in 2018. For all the current information available go to my website and search for 'Lucan House'.

**Swimming Pool delay:** Less good news on the pool, which will won't be ready for handover this month. Not a huge surprise, but it's still immensely frustrating. Have yet another motion down on this for the Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Area Committee meeting. Search 'Pool Dec' on [paulgogarty.com](http://paulgogarty.com) after 4pm that day for the latest update.

**Bus User Survey:** If you haven't already, please do the survey at [www.bit.ly/BusCorrect](http://www.bit.ly/BusCorrect). Over 700 replies received so far.

## Emer Higgins TD – Fine Gael

01 401 3416. [Emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie)

**Lucan House:** Good news announced this week that the sale of Lucan House to South Dublin County Council has now been formally agreed with ownership to transfer by the middle of 2024. The council have allocated €10 Million to develop the site and a masterplan will be put out for public consultation.

**Lucan Bridge:** An engineering inspection of Lucan Bridge carried out in September 2022 found the bridge to be structurally sound. Standard maintenance is required particularly removal of vegetation. This will be carried out during the upgrade of the promenade in 2024. The next survey of the bridge will happen in 2027.

**Santa at Courtneys:** Huge well done to Lindsay and Linda who organised a brilliant Santa event at Courtneys all in aid of Aspen Counselling Services. Shout out to the fantastic Lucan Gospel Choir who performed on the night.

## Gino Kenny TD- People Before Profit

Phone: 085-7211574. Email: [ginokenny@oir.ie](mailto:ginokenny@oir.ie)

**Joint Committee on Assisted Dying (JCAD):** The JCAD had its final meeting this year and will continue its deliberations in Mid-January. The committee has been useful in understanding the complexities of the issue itself and proposed legislation. The committee has heard from a

plethora of interested groups on their views on assisted dying. I hope following the conclusion of the committee in March of next year the committee makes recommendations to the government to change the law in specific medical circumstances.

**Happy Christmas:** I would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers of the Lucan Parish Newsletter Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

## Sikandar Jahanzab – Fine Gael

Email: [sikandarijahanzab@gmail.com](mailto:sikandarijahanzab@gmail.com)

Phone: 086 894 6974.

**Update on the new council houses between Tor an Ri and Foxbrough:** I've had a number of queries from local residents on the timeline for the completion of the new council houses between Tor an Ri and Foxbrough. The housing department said that "there are 20 units slated for completion by Q4 2023 and an additional 49 units expected to be finished by Q2 2024" It's encouraging to see additional housing units becoming available for residents, addressing community needs, and contributing to the local housing needs. I'll continue to monitor progress and keep you updated.

**Update Traffic Management:** I also reached out to SDCC regarding the traffic management outside Griffeen Valley Educate Together NS as parents have raised with me concerns about safety for pupils entering and exiting the school. I was informed that this issue is already listed for discussion at the next Traffic Correspondence meeting scheduled for December.

## Caroline Brady - Fine Gael – P.C.

- 085 2551602 [info@CarolineBrady.com](mailto:info@CarolineBrady.com)

**Warmer Homes Scheme: a record €350m+** was allocated to SEAI in 2023 for energy upgrades boosting progress under the National Retrofit Plan. By Q3, 34,000+ property upgrades (double 2022), 12,000+ homes to BER B2 or higher (2 ½ times 2022), and 3,400 heat pumps (85% up on 2022) completed. This included 4,200 free upgrades to lower income homes (up 34% on 2022). Please feel free to contact me if you need information on the Warmer Homes Scheme.

**Footpaths:** following requests from residents in Woodview, I raised the issue of the condition of the pavements in Woodview at the T Junction. I will keep you informed as to progress.

**Esker Lawns Cemetery:** I made a submission to highlight issues regarding Planning ref. SD23A/0292 which proposes the development of a Crematorium at Esker Lawns Cemetery. I will keep you updated on progress.



## Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



**Hurling:** The management teams for next year's adult and minor hurling teams are currently being finalised. We plan to field six adult teams and three minor teams. Anyone interested in being involved in any of those teams please contact Vincent O'Connor (087 2075835) or Paul Stapleton (087 2058572) before Sunday 17th December.



**Juvenile/Coiste na nÓg:** U16B Team: Hurling Group D Championship Shield Final, Lucan 0-9; St. Patricks Palmerstown 0-9 (after extra time), Lucan won 2 - 1 on penalties.

Following both a hard-fought quarter final and semi-final the U16B hurling team were drawn against St. Patricks Palmerstown in the Group D Championship shield final on the 2nd December at 12th Lock. When the two teams met in the qualifying stages it was clear they were very evenly matched, with St. Patricks edging it by 2 scores on that occasion.

On a bitterly cold, but dry, afternoon in December, with a great crowd in attendance on the senior pitch the scene was set for a cracking final. Both teams had nervous starts and exchanged just one point each in the first quarter. Both goals were tested time and time again, but defences held strong. As the half-progressed St. Patricks took their chances well and lead at the break by 4 points to 1.

The second half started brightly for Lucan, and they soon started to eat into St. Pats lead and even lead by a point in the closing stages. St. Pats were not for giving up and stayed in the game and when the full-time whistle blew the sides were deadlocked at 7 points apiece.

Extra time followed, and St. Pats kept the momentum going and went 2 points ahead. But Lucan's resilience shown in the tight situations of their knockout games really shone through, and with the last puck of the sliotar Charlie O'Brien stepped up to equalise from a free to end the game at 0-9, 0-9.

A penalty shootout ensued and a masterclass in goalkeeping from both keepers pushed this epic encounter to sudden death. The final score which came from Charlie O'Brien was a bullet, which was incredibly stopped by the St. Pats goalkeeper but the sliotar trickled over the line. A cruel way to end what was a titanic battle, but there had to be a winner on the day.



This was a hugely deserved win for an incredible group of Lucan lads who have given everything to the team, adding a Championship win to their U15 Division 7 and U16 Division 6 league wins in the past 18 months.

**Team:** Michael Casey, Eoghan Clarke, Cian O'Neill, Evan Doody, Olan Sullivan, Cian McCormick, Cathal Dowling, Adam McMahon, Killian O'Connor, Robert Melvin, Cian O'Gara, Ronan O'Flaherty (C), Charlie O'Brien, Lee Carroll, James O'Neill, Cathal Ryan, Eoin Murphy, Eoin Burke, Conall Duffy

**Scorers:** Jame O'Neill 0-4, Charlie O'Brien 0-3, Rob Melvin 0-1, Eoin Murphy 0-1

**Penalties:** Eoin Murphy 1, Charlie O'Brien 1.

### Social

The Christmas Draw is on Thursday 21st December at the clubhouse with finger food and live music provided by Madra. Don't forget to buy your tickets.

The Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club 25 Card Drive is on Fridays in the Clubhouse Bar. Time: 8.00pm Sharp. 1st Prize: €50 (if 12 or more players, 2nd Prize if 3 or more tables). Entry: €5 per person Everyone is welcome - from beginners to those who played years ago and would like to resume playing so please spread the word! Members are also welcome to bring friends. Call Bill Ryan at 086-8500376 or Mary Flannery at 087-7469143 for further information

### Healthy Club

Our safeTALK training in January is now fully subscribed. Thank you to our club members for registering for the half day training. It is very encouraging to see our members be so proactive in mental health training. We will run another safeTALK workshop in the Springtime. If anyone would like to pre-register for that course, please send an email with your name and team to [lucanhealthyclub@gmail.com](mailto:lucanhealthyclub@gmail.com)

Happy Christmas to everyone from Healthy Clubs and thank you for supporting our initiative in 2023.

### Lotto

We had one winner of last week's Lotto Prize of €8,600, congratulations to Bridie Burke.

The Numbers were **9, 11, 17, 27.**

We had an extra special draw this week for turkey prizes go to, Estele Carr, Christy Boylan, Sally O'Mahony, Frank Sherwin and Michael Treacy.

**The lucky dip prizes go to,** Aileen Byrne, Fergal Gavin, Mary Ryan, Paul Quinn and Andy Harkness.

Next week's Lotto will be for a jackpot of €1,000. The draw is sponsored by Clandillon Motors and will be led by Shay Hurson.





## Lucan ICA

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec:* This will be our last Craft Group morning of 2023 as we take our Christmas break

and will return to activities in January 2024. It's Christmas Party time Ladies! We will have our Guild get together this morning with Christmas goodies and some Christmas fun. Please wear your Christmas jumper or something red.

**Tea Hostesses:** Mary Curley and Pauline Bligh. We wish all our Members, Deirdre and all in the Parish Centre, also the Newsletter Staff who print our notes each week, a very happy Christmas, and good health and happiness in the New Year 2024.

We had a lovely day out at An Grianán last Tuesday for their annual Christmas celebrations. We attended demonstrations on wreath making, card and decoration making, and Christmas cookery and picked up some nice recipes and tips. Some of us were lucky in the raffle too and came home with some nice prizes.

We were well fed with Christmas dinner and evening tea, while being entertained by the Drogheda Gospel Choir singing Christmas Carols. Thank you to Noreen Doolan who sang a beautiful song too.

*Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise agaibh go léir agus an Bliain Nua 2024 shona diobh fresinn.*



## Lucan Library Christmas Closing

The Library will close from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4.30pm until Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 9.45am.

*Seasons Greetings to all our library patrons!*

**Toddler Time with Sarah Sparkles**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 10am

**Coder Dojo Club –**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 3.30pm - 4.30pm

No previous coding experience needed, just enthusiasm! Those aged 8-12 must be accompanied by an adult and please bring an adult library card for Wi-Fi access. Booking essential via Eventbrite.

**Cuidiu Breastfeeding Support Group:**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 10am. All welcome



## Lucan Harriers Track

Newcastle / Adamstown Rd  
(opp Supervalu)

**Christmas Morning 10 – 12 noon**  
**Run – Walk – Jog**  
**to support the most vulnerable!**

See [Goalmile.ie](http://Goalmile.ie) for virtual product purchase items details.

Open to everyone, just turn up and participate. All the family, dogs on lead welcome.

**For info:** [Goalmile.ie](http://Goalmile.ie)

Lucan Harriers Facebook or 0872132244



## Lucan Golf Club 2024



**Applications for Tee Box Sponsorship**  
**Now Open**

If interested, please contact:  
Paul Hennessy, Sponsorship Secretary  
Telephone: 087-1892478  
Email: [pghennessy8@gmail.com](mailto:pghennessy8@gmail.com)

## St. Mary's Camera Soirée

This week I begin with some more of Paddy's night-time photos of Dublin Zoo's "The Enchanted Zoo".



Donal and Kay submitted some still life photos, an appropriate term to describe the month of December. The Winter Solstice will be upon us soon and like the ancient Celts we can start to look forward to the re-awakening of the earth.



Joe got to Dublin Castle and sent in a photograph of the 18<sup>th</sup> century style Neapolitan Crib at the Chapel Royal. The contemporary artist Bruno Perchiazzi is the creator of the architectural setting of the crib in Dublin Castle. He is *one of the best-known representatives of the Neapolitan art of the Nativity Scene* and explains that there are four essential elements to a Neapolitan crib – the manger scene, the adoration of the Magi, the annunciation to the shepherds and surprisingly the tavern where all the dodgy people can be found!

The first crib in Naples was erected in 1340. It consisted simply of a cave, animals and holy figures. The inventor of the *Neapolitan* nativity scene was **St Gaetano da Thiene**. Encouraged by **St Francis**, he decided to go beyond the representation of the nativity alone. He gave more significant value to the rest of the scene, filling it with characters and places that mixed the sacred and the profane.

The present chapel was opened on Christmas Day 1814. It became known as the Chapel Royal after



King George IV attended service there on 2 September 1821. The chapel was designed by Francis Johnston who also designed the GPO on O'Connell Street.