



LUCAN NEWSLETTER



Established 1967

www.lucannewsletter.ie

Sub. €1

Sunday 21st December 2025

There is something special about Christmas Carols being sung by children at this time of year. They bring us back to our own childhoods, when the magic of Christmas — and particularly the anticipation — was palpable in every waking hour. For many of us now, that anticipation is more often than not crammed with the constant searching each day for the “last few bits!” Along with the magic of the lights and carol singing, stress and anxiety can often rise to the surface due to the materialism and over-the-top commercialisation of Christmas — a danger we can all easily fall into.



I am sure that, like me, many of you find that Advent — that four-week build-up to the Christmas festivities — offers us a window of renewed anticipation and excitement, as we attend Nativity plays and hear children sing their hearts out. As adults, we would be wise to treasure these moments in our churches and schools, allowing ourselves to pause and let the “reason for the season” filter through our eyes and ears and down into our hearts.

I have a deep fondness for Advent and the Christmas season, and I must say that I have been truly blessed this year to receive such a warm welcome from everyone I have encountered since my arrival in Lucan. It is a genuine joy to be with you all as I strive to help you grow closer to the Lord.

I have discovered a tremendous sense of community among the people of Lucan and Esker. So many of you, day in and day out, generously offer your time and dedication for the betterment of the area, and the preparations for Christmas are no exception.

At this time, it is important that we remind ourselves that this season calls us to renew our hope and joy, as we celebrate the birth of a child in an animal shelter in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago — a birth that changed the world forever. This child is God incarnate, who became one of us to usher in a hope and joy that can never be extinguished, no matter the struggles in our own lives or in the world around us.

I would gently encourage you to enjoy the lights of the Christmas trees in your homes, the decorations along our streets and in our squares; however, do not miss the Light of the World waiting for you in the manger.

Thank you once again for your kind wishes and warm welcome. May I take this opportunity to impart God’s blessing upon you and all your loved ones, and may the Light of the World fill your hearts with hope, peace, and joy this holy season.

Fr. Bill O’Shaughnessy

Lucan Citizens Information Centre

Our telephone number is **0818 07 5090**

www.citizensinformation.ie

Email – lucan@citinfo.ie

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



Christmas Closing

Our office in Lucan will be closed from 1pm on Tuesday 23rd December and will reopen on Tuesday 6th January, 2026.

Citizens Information Phone Service – Christmas Arrangements

Closed on 24th, 25th 26th December and on 1 January, 2026.

Reduced opening hours from 9 am to 5 pm on 22nd, 23rd and 31st December

Normal opening hours resume on Friday 2nd January, 2026.

HELPLINES

Samaritans – Would it help to talk to someone?
Free to call 116 123
24 hour Confidential Line

Women's Aid - Free phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week– 1800 341 900
Email helpline@womensaid.ie

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (RCC) national helpline 1800 77 88 88

Men's Aid – Phone 01 554 3811 - 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday
Email – hello@mensaid.ie

Senior Helpline – National confidential listening service for older people
1800 80 45 91 – 10 am to 10 pm every day

Alone – phone 0818 22 20 24 – 8 am to 8 pm 7 days a week

Childline – phone 1800 66 66 66 – 24 hours a day, every day

Parentline – 01 – 873 3500
It's ok to ask for help – helplines are open Monday to Thursday 10 am to 9 pm and Fridays 10 am to 7 pm

Pieta – 24-hour Crisis Helpline – 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444

AWARE - your supporting light through anxiety, depression or bipolar disorder
Free phone - 1800 80 48 48 or 01 524 0360 – support line is available 7 days a week from 10 am to 10 pm.
Email – supportmail@aware.ie

Focus Ireland – Changing homelessness, changing lives
phone – 01 - 881 5900
email help@focusireland.ie

AA – Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholicsanonymous.ie

To speak to an AA member call 01 842 0700 and press option 1 when asked to do so.

Email – gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

GA Gamblers Anonymous

Call 01 – 872 1133

087 262 2804 (10 am to 10 pm)

SVP - Society of St Vincent de Paul – phone 01 884 8200

Email – info@svp.ie

Bodywhys -The eating disorders association of Ireland
National helpline 01 210 7906

Family Carers Ireland – National Freephone
Careline 1800 24 07 24

The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland -
Alzheimer's National Helpline 1800 341 341



Normal Opening Hours from Tuesday 6th January 2036

Walk-ins to see an Information Officer

Tuesday: 10am – 12pm and 2pm to 4 pm
Wednesday: None
Thursday: 10am – 12pm and 2pm to 4 pm

Reception open

Tuesday: 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm
Wednesday: 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm
Thursday: 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm
We are closed on Mondays and Fridays.

Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS) is open Monday to Friday 9 am to 8pm on 0818 07 4000

MABS – the Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State's money advice service, guiding people through dealing with problem debt for over 20 years. MABS phone service is open Monday to Friday 9 am to 8 pm on 0818 07 2000



Greetings from all at Lucan Newsletter



We wish all our readers at home and abroad a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful and very healthy 2026.

We thank all our readers, and those who contribute to the weekly edition.

Thank you to our **Sales Outlets** and **Advertisers** – we ask all to do your best to support local businesses!

Big thank you to our very reliable **Collation Team** who also distribute the publication each week. Thanks also to **Christy Gannon** who makes sure we have our paper in time every week, and is always there whenever we need a hand.

Thank you, to all who sent us Christmas Greetings, and passed on many nice compliments about our publication. Hope Santa brings you everything on your lists!

We send special good wishes to all who are ill, or in hospital this Christmas – our thoughts are with you all.

We look forward to hearing regularly from all our local clubs and organisations, in 2026, which hopefully will be a good year for all.

The first issue of Lucan Newsletter for 2026 will be for Sunday 11th January.

All items for inclusion should be at the usual addresses not later than 10pm, **Wednesday 7th January 2026.**



Lucan Newsletter Team

Lucan Drama

Everyone at Lucan Drama would like to send Christmas greetings to all the readers of the Lucan Newsletter. Thank you to the fabulous people of Lucan for your continued support and encouragement in 2025.



Also, huge thanks to everyone at Courtney's for their amazing support, and if course a very big thank you all the team at the Lucan Newsletter.

We are working on new productions for 2026 and look forward to seeing you soon.

Happy Christmas all!

Lucan Drama - Bringing Drama to your Doorstep

Lucan Goal Mile



Christmas Morning 10 – 12 noon
Lucan Harriers A.C. Track

Run, Walk, Jog or Talk

One mile to support Goal Ireland's work throughout our world, also helping those less fortunate enduring war, famine, and oppressions worldwide.

No pre-registration required.

Donations on the day or see www.goal.ie for online donations and T-shirts etc.

Info: 087 2132244 – G. Martin

A Christmas Wish

One Christmas Eve

I wished for you.

I put your name upon a card,

And sent my love to you.

To my surprise,

My wish came true.

Now my Christmas Card,

Has brand new names.

With more gifts beneath

The Christmas Tree.

I never thought a Christmas Wish

Would come so true.

But that's what comes

From loving you.

There are many more

To love tonight,

They sit around our Christmas tree.

I tell them 'Make a Christmas Wish',

Like I did long ago.

Stephen Byrne.



The Lucan Festival Committee wish all our supporters a very happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to 2026 Lucan Festival.

Parish Notes

St Mary's, Lucan

www.lucanparish.com



Confessions:

Tuesday 23rd December: 10.30am to 11am

Wednesday 24th December: 10.30am to 12 noon
and 2pm to 4pm

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December:

10am: Morning Mass

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

8pm: Vigil Mass

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

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December:

9am, 10.30am and 12 noon

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

Friday 26th December:

11am Mass (in place of the normal 10am Mass)

Saturday 27th December:

11am and 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 28th December:

10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm

Monday 29th December to Friday 2nd January:

11am daily

Saturday 3rd January:

11am Mass and 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 4th January:

10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm.

Monday 5th January:

Weekday Masses as normal from 5th January
at 10am.



Tuesday 6th January:
Feast of the Epiphany
Holy Day:

10am and 7.30pm

**We wish all our parishioners every
blessing and joy of the
Christmas season.**

**We look forward to seeing you over the
Christmas Period.**

Fr. Bill O'Shaughnessy P.P. Fr. Ubaldo

Muhindo C.C. Fr. Pius Faruna C.C.

*Fr Justin Obijuru – Team Assistant, Deacon John
Gormley, Sr Geraldine Smith, Cathy Burke –
Parish Catechist*

Christian Meditation:

**Wishing everyone
all the Blessings of Christmas.
See you again in 2026!**
Sr Geraldine.

St. Mary's Readers' Roster January 2026



The roster for readers at the
Saturday vigil, 12 noon and 7pm
Masses on Sundays in St. Mary's
for the month of January 2026 has
been sent to all readers by email.
If any reader has not received it a
copy is available for inspection in
the sacristy.

Deepest Sympathy to the wife,
family and friends of **Adam Piotr**
Borkowski, Gandon, Lucan, to
the husband, family and friends of
Marie Gough, Hillcrest and
Dodsboro and to the wife, family
and friends of **Liam Fitzpatrick**,
Willsbrook and formerly Ardeevin.
May they rest in peace.



All Masses are live-streamed on
www.lucanparish.com

Presentation Sisters Christmas Card for this year
as they celebrate their founding 250 years ago on
Christmas Eve.

St. Patrick's Esker/ Dodsboro/Adamstown

www.stpatrickslucan.ie



Confessions:

Monday 22nd December: 10.30am to 11am

Wednesday 24th December: 10.30am to 12 noon
and 2pm to 4pm

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December:

10am: Morning Mass

6:30 pm: Children's Mass of Christmas

8:30 pm: Vigil Mass

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December:

9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:00 Noon

Friday 26th December and Saturday 27th:

10:00 am

Sunday 28th December

Sunday: 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon

Monday 29th December to Saturday 3rd January

10:00 am daily

Sunday 4th January

Sunday: 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon

Monday 5th January: 10am and 6.30pm

Vigil Mass for the Epiphany

Tuesday 6th January - Feast of the Epiphany

Holy Day: 10:00 am

**We wish all our parishioners every
blessing and joy of the
Christmas season.**

**We look forward to seeing you over the
Christmas Period.**

*Fr. Bill O'Shaughnessy P.P. Fr. Ubaldo Muhindo
C.C. Fr. Pius Faruna C.C. Fr. John Hassett C.C.
Fr Justin Obijuru – Team Assistant, Deacon John
Gormley, Cathy Burke – Parish Catechist*



St Patrick's Parish Wednesday Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to Dave, Anne, Tom and Tony, members of the Folk Group, for the beautiful music at our Christmas gathering on Wednesday 17th December. Thanks to Pat for providing the cookies, and also to Sr Rosemarie for not only one but two beautiful Christmas cakes, which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Fr Bill for dropping in.



Happy Christmas to everyone.

We will be back on Wednesday December 31st.

Ecumenical Reading of the Nativity

Lucan Village

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December

1pm

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

**Come and join us
in celebrating our
common faith**



Divine Mercy, Lucan South

www.lucansouthparish.net

See website for Christmas Arrangements

That Joyful Christmas Sound

The moon is out the stars shine bright,
Another holy Christmas night,
The church bells toll, a call to prayer,
Excited children stop and stare.

Is Santa travelling through the skies?
With presents for the girls and boys,
The faithful all across the earth,
Celebrate their saviour's birth.

The river meanders through Lucan village,
Oblivion to all the talk of pillage
It's seen the changes down the years,
Somewhere welcome, some brought tears

Jingle bells are ringing, that joyful Christmas sound,
Twinkling lights and melodies, spread goodwill all around,
Let's all hold hands and sing along to every song we know
Christmas is so joyful, as the excitement starts to grow.

The sound of church choir singing just lifts our spirits high,
We think of all our family, and all the years gone by,
We pray for family members, who are far away from home,
And refugees in Ireland, who are feeling all alone.

And while the moon and stars above, are shining o' so bright
Let's make a wish together, on this special holy night
Let's wish the world to be as one, with peace throughout the land
And may your God protect you, and may your Christmas go as planned

Benny

Christmas Greetings to our neighbours, in appreciation of your care and help in every way. May peace, happiness and wellbeing be your always.
May the New Year be a time of good health, success, and hope for peace and good will for all.

B.M.L.C.



Waiting for the Birthday Boy.....



The crib at St. Mary's is ready and waiting for the great event.

1995 – We never got the chance to bring you these pieces from our archives, such was the volume of weekly contributions, so here goes!

Excavation started on Esker Hill, to enable the construction of new 'town houses, now Mount Gandon.

New Thatch! Courtney's Pub commenced work on their thatched roof – the first thatch in Lucan in this century.....

Ballyowen Castle Shopping Centre was refused planning permission at this time.

Hottest Weather! In 2nd July issue, we reported the hottest weather since 1976 –
"We should cherish every moment of it, even as we swelter. It may be another twenty years before we see the likes again!"

Lucan Demesne purchase – with assistance from a lot of local groups, South Dublin Co. Co., Fingal County Co. Co, and Kildare Co. Co. came together to purchase the land with Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Michael D. Higgins bringing us the final good news before year's end.

Mary Ryan – Land's End to John O'Groats!
Local woman, Mary, cycled 928 miles in nine and a half days, raising £8,500 for ARC cancer support group. She kept in touch with us throughout her journey, mentioning that she enjoyed a swim in Penzance before starting her great feat....

Lucan Newsletter –

We wondered about the Internet and Emails! All new to us, but we'd have to face it.



Winter Solstice this Sunday 21st December, at exactly 3.03pm! After that, the days will gradually grow brighter, and we'll be welcoming Spring.... It might sound like we're wishing our lives away, but these dark dreary days can get us down!

You have to hand it to our Village Traders!

They certainly have great hearts entering into the Christmas spirit, with lots of lights and decorations, despite all the ongoing parking / traffic problems which are affecting each and every one of them.

Do your best to visit them over the next few days, and give them hope for 2026.....



Lucan's lovely Laura partners Traitor's Paudie on Dancing with the Stars....



Pic. RTE

We've just learned that Lucan's Laura Nolan will partner Paudie Moloney in the upcoming series of *Dancing with the Stars*. If you remember, Laura took the Glitterball Trophy last year, dancing with Rhys McClenaghan. Looking forward to the new show!



250th Anniversary of the Founding of the Presentation Sisters

Tribute from the Presentation Sisters in Lucan

On Christmas Eve, 1775 the Presentation Sisters were founded by Nano Nagle and three companions in a small mud cabin in Cork city. This year is the 250th Anniversary of that event which will be celebrated throughout 2026.



In 1867 the Sisters arrived in Lucan to serve the people as educators in both Primary and Secondary schools. This community of teaching sisters said good bye to Lucan in 1994. The legacy and spirit of Nano Nagle lives on in the schools through the dedication and leadership of wonderful school staffs.

Today the convent has a new name, 'Mission House,' and a new community of Presentation Sisters whose work is to support and care for the Presentation Missionaries who come to Ireland for rest and renewal from all five continents.

As we approach the 250th Anniversary, we thank the people of Lucan and its surrounds for your support and companionship down through the years. We will remember you especially in our prayers on Christmas Eve. Website: www.pbvm.org

Congratulations & Gratitude to the Presentation Sisters from the Lucan Parish Community

The Presentation Sisters were founded 250 years ago by Nano Nagle in Cork. Nano Nagle founded seven schools in Cork in her lifetime despite the fact that Catholic education was suppressed and warranted imprisonment for any providers. Nano was innovative and very brave in her endeavours. She didn't throw it in the face of the authorities but instead found ways of gathering schools of boys and girls quietly.

Nano Nagle was born to a wealthy family and could have lived a very different and comfortable life. She was urged into her educational mission by her experience of God's call through the poverty of families and children of the time for whom she knew education could be transforming.

Today, there are over 2,000 Presentation Sisters worldwide, carrying on the Mission of Nano. Her recognition as one of the greatest women of Ireland derives from dedication to the poor and oppressed. Her mission between the cutting edge of the gospel and the miseries of her day inspires the Presentation Sisters to minister in joyful service, responding to current needs throughout the world in faithfulness to the gospel.

*The Universal Church recognized Nano on October 31, 2013, as a woman of faith, hope and heroic virtue by declaring her **Venerable**. Once evidence of*

an authentic miracle is attributed to Nano's intercession with God, she acquires the title Blessed. Another miracle initiates canonization and public recognition of Nano as a Saint.

(www.presentationisters.org/who-we-are/nano-nagle/)

The Presentation Sisters arrived in Lucan in 1867 for the expressed purpose of providing education for the girls of Lucan and surrounding areas. They were welcomed with a joyful and a loudly applauding crowd as they entered the community in horse drawn vehicles. As in many other parts of the country, this provision of education was made available by the Presentation Sisters (along with other religious orders) long before the state was to follow suit. We have two Presentation schools in our community of which we are very proud: Scoil Mhuire Girls National School and St Joseph's Girls Secondary School. While there are no Presentation Sisters working in the school the gifts (charism) of the foundation is protected and supported by CEIST, the Trust in which the schools are now vested. The values of Faith, Justice, Education, Hospitality and Compassion are core to the vision of every Presentation school.

Nano Nagle was often called the Lady of the Lantern as she carried gentle light to guide her steps through the alleyways encouraging families to engage in education and avail of charitable services when

needed. She shone a light of hope and of courage in a time when it could cost dearly to step out of line.

We offer a heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Presentation Sisters as we all celebrate the 250 years since the foundation of the congregation in 1775.

Each member gave/gives of themselves generously so that they are both free to serve God in prayer and in service to those who need their services. While the number of sisters active in service in Ireland is relatively small now, the numbers are growing rapidly in other parts of the world in response to both vocation and needs. We are fortunate that Presentation Sisters continue to live among us here in Lucan where we enjoy their companionship and their contribution to parish life. As the sisters remember us in prayer, we will remember them in prayer also.

The legacy of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters continues to be relevant today. We need to continue to hold up shining the lantern of hope into the dark corners of today's world. May we be inspired by the courage of Nano Nagle to stand up for what is truly needed in order to always seek to preserve the dignity of every person in our community, particularly those on the margins.





SCHOOL NEWS



St. Joseph's College

Sixth years careers talks: A sincere thank you to Sophie from National College of Ireland who came into our sixth year students during the week to provide them with informative insights into their level 6 and level 8 degree pathways. Also, Dr. Louise Higgins came into the school on Monday to talk about careers in Psychology. She informed students of education, training and potential careers in the area and answered any questions our students had.

Local Schools athletics: A massive well done to our athletes who were competing in the local schools 4 x 500m relays. Our TY team won and second years came second.

Opening of extra autism classes: Last Wednesday we had the massive pleasure of opening two new autism classes in our school. These rooms are dedicated to the specific learning needs of students in our school with specific needs that will help them flourish and reach their potential. The spaces will be a learning environment and home for 11 wonderful students with inclusion and growth and the forefront. Thank you to Adam Harris, Emer Higgins TD for attending the ceremony in the school

Fifth year politics trip to Brussels: Fifth year politic students were invited to visit Brussels and the European parliament by Regina Doherty MEP. Our students were taking place in a simulation debate with other Irish schools and other European third level students on the topic of AI. This mock debate was a fantastic opportunity to see how ideas are challenged, negotiated and shaped directly in practice. A massive thank you to Regina Doherty MEP for the invite.

Visitors in the school: This week we welcomed Shane Moynihan TD and Barry Andrews MEP by Zoom to talk with students. Shane Moynihan came into our senior Politics classes for a Q&A. They covered a wide range of topics on the economy, foreign policy, transport, migration, misogyny and studying Politics in university. The students really enjoyed it and several are considering a career in Politics. Our TY European Ambassadors attended a webinar from Barry Andrews MEP all about the key issues in European Politics. They will now use this information to spread awareness across the school year.

Basketball: Huge congratulations to our U16 basketball team who are now regional winners, after defeating Manor House in the final on Thursday

last. It was a very tight match, with St. Joseph's only going ahead at the very end of the 3rd quarter. The team will now go on to play in the National playoffs in January. Thank you to Manor House for a great game and to all our supporters. Special shout out to Saoirse O' Dowd, MVP on the day.

Visit to the Mexican Embassy: Our 6th-year Spanish students attended a visit and talk today at the Embassy of Mexico in Ireland, where they were received by the Chargé d'affaires, Mr. Tomás Olvera López. Our students learned important facts about Mexican culture and about the 50-year partnership between Mexico and Ireland. They also successfully answered several questions in Spanish, received meaningful gifts, and had the honour of placing the Baby Jesus in the Embassy's nativity scene.

Senior Debating: Our Concern senior debaters were in action on Friday. They were opposing the motion 'Global commitments to ending world hunger are a load of hot air'. We are eagerly awaiting results after another fantastic performance.

Carol Service: The annual Christmas service took place on Wednesday afternoon at 12 noon. It was a fantastic celebration for the whole school community where we all took time give thanks and reflect. A special mention to our school choir who were fantastic on the day.

Junior camogie final: St Joseph's Lucan captured the Junior Championship Title after a gripping contest and an epic 'game of two halves' against an excellent Castleknock Community College side. Final score to clinch the Championship Title was 4-11 to 2-12.

Gold Gaisce Award for St. Joseph's Student: Congratulations to Nazia Rafiq, who was presented with the Gold Gaisce Award by President Catherine Connolly at the Irish Museum for Modern Art, Kilmmainham Hospital on Monday, 15th December. Nazia completed all the challenge areas of the Gold Gaisce Award over four years completing 52 weeks of each of the Physical Recreation, Community Involvement and Personal Skill, undertaking over 80 km of an Adventure Journey over 4 days and completing a residential project – all the while completing a degree in Medicine and during Covid times. It was a very proud day to see Nazia receive her Gold Award and it will certainly inspire many more to undertake and complete the Gold Gaisce Journey now.

Happy Christmas: We would like to wish all our staff, students and the wider school community of St. Joseph's a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Follow Us on Twitter: @StJosephsLucan

Follow Us on Instagram: @stjosephscollegelucan

Find us on our Website: www.stjosephslucan.com

Coláiste Phádraig CBS

Young Scientist 2026: As the Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2026 approaches, excitement is building throughout the school. Taking place in the RDS from 7-10 January, the exhibition is one of Ireland's most prestigious student STEM events, attracting innovative young thinkers from all over the country. This year, our school is proudly represented by a talented group of 17 students who have spent months researching, testing, experimenting and refining their projects. Their dedication, curiosity and scientific creativity have been evident throughout the process, and we wish them the very best of luck on the national stage.



Fundraising: Over the past term, our school community has once again demonstrated its generosity, compassion, and commitment to helping others. Through the simple but meaningful act of donating bottles and cans for recycling, our school has raised an impressive €300, all of which has been donated to Crumlin Children's Hospital.

This contribution is being directed specifically toward the parents' accommodation unit, a vital facility that provides parents with a place to stay close to their child during hospital treatment. These units help keep families together at a time when comfort, reassurance, and emotional connection matter most.

At the heart of this initiative is Ms. Casey, whose efforts, dedication, and leadership have made this project possible. From promoting the initiative, to managing the collection bin, to overseeing the final donation, Ms. Casey has led this project with passion and purpose.

Coláiste Phádraig was bursting with festive colour and cheer on Thursday, 11th December, as students and staff took part in A "Wear a Christmas Jumper for Jigsaw" Day. The event raised €418.20, all of which will be donated directly to Jigsaw, a vital mental health charity that provides free therapy and support services to young people aged 12–25 who are struggling with their mental health.

Winter Fair: The canteen was transformed into a festive marketplace on Thursday, 11th December, as the annual Christmas Fair burst to life in a vibrant display of creativity, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit. Organised and run by the Transition Year students, the event proved to be an enormous success, with every last item selling out by the end of the day.

Food lovers were spoiled for choice. Among the many stalls, the scent of freshly baked cinnamon cookies drifted through the air, drawing people toward tables laden with cupcakes, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, and snowman-themed cakes. Candy canes were a popular pick, as were the mini-lanterns made by students and the ever-enticing freshly spun candy floss. More adventurous visitors



sampled delicious Indian sweets such as gulab jamun and jalebi, which sold out almost as quickly as they were set on the table.

Among the most popular attractions of the day was the Ho-Ho Homies stall, which drew one of the longest queues in the canteen. Students and teachers flocked to buy their beautifully wrapped Christmas crackers, indulgent tray bakes, and perfectly baked cookies.

Visitors with a sweet tooth were spoiled even further at other stalls selling chud cookies, marshmallow bites, biscoff brownies, blondies, Oreo cookies, and rice krispie cakes, along with festive Christmas baubles. The hot chocolate stand—complete with whipped cream and marshmallows—was the perfect winter warmer, especially for those taking a break from games and browsing.

A Christmas-themed target-throwing game, similar to darts, offered gold, silver, and bronze prizes to those with the most accurate aim. A huge well done to all three TY classes for delivering an event that truly captured the festive spirit and brought the whole school community together!



Soccer: Our 1st yr soccer team were beaten 3-2 by Skerries CC on Thursday in the 2nd rnd of the Leinster Cup. Lucan took the lead after 10 mins when the lively Luke Whelan pounded on a loose ball in the penalty box to tap home at the unguarded near post.

They deservedly led 1-0 at half time, having created numerous opportunities in a dominant 1st half display, but a poor 10min spell in the 2nd half ultimately cost them the game as their opponents scored three goals to take control of the match. A late strike by Brody Williams from the edge of the box was too little, too late as Lucan exited the competition in disappointing fashion.

Christmas Wishes: The staff and management of Coláiste Phádraig would like to wish the readers of The Lucan Newsletter a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully 2026 brings joy and happiness to all.

Guímíd Nollaig Shona agus bliain úr, lán le dóchas agus féidearachtaí, oraibh go léir.

Lucan Community College

Badminton Blitz: Our senior squad of badminton players had a fun and exciting competition on Tuesday afternoon. Medal winners in each of their respective levels were Matthew/Ian, Bogdan/Andrew & James/John. The spirit of the blitz, as voted by the students were, Ben, Taylor & Michael. Many thanks to our badminton coaches, Ms Geraghty Ms Clarke, Mr Hughes & Ms Gallagher.



Nursing Home Appeal: A huge thank you to all students across our school community who were so generous donating gifts to our local nursing home in Peamount. There were numerous gifts given, and I am sure the residents will be very happy this Christmas time. A big thank you to Mr. Clancy who organised this appeal.

DDLETB Ethos Team: The Ethos Team recently represented Lucan Community College at the Interschools Meet-Up event, where they showcased the strong values at the heart of our school community. The students presented their School Box, which they thoughtfully designed and created to reflect how Lucan CC lives out its core values of Respect, Care, Equality, Community and Excellence in Education. Through a confident and engaging presentation, the team demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Their hard work, creativity, and commitment clearly highlighted the positive ethos of our school and made a lasting impression on all in attendance. The students represented Lucan Community College with great pride and did the school extremely proud. Well done to all involved!



SVP Christmas Collection: A huge thank you to everyone in our school community who once again have been so generous in donating to St Vincent de Paul to help local families in need. We collected over €2000. We had our annual Christmas Carol concert in the gym on Wednesday night. A huge thank you to the Parents' Association for providing some mulled wine and mince pies beforehand. Thank you to Mr Murphy for coordinating the event and to our wonderful choir and music team for providing many Christmas tunes and a little spirit too.

Lucan B.N.S. 1959



The above photo, taken by an Irish Press photographer, in the Phoenix Park, back in 1959, is of a Lucan B.N.S. Gaelic Football team.

Back Row, L-R: Johnny Graham, John Murray, Frank Dunne, Larry Knowles, Stephen Byrne, 'Fingers' Behan, Niall Bruton, and 'Jemser' Mahady.

Front Row, L-R: 'Rockie' Byrne, Cyril Dunne, Declan Hughes, Mattie Murray, 'Fango' Reid, (Capt), 'Dickser' Dowling, Frank O'Neill, and 'Anto' Speight.

Larry McCarthy was School Principal at that time when the school was situated in St. Mary's Church Yard,

Thank you to **Paul Dunne**, who sent in the photo.



Anniversaries



Shamie Bolger

4th Anniversary, 16th December

In loving memory of our dear beloved husband, Dad, and Grandad Shamie Bolger whose fourth anniversary occurs 16th December 2025.

Also remembering at this time our beloved daughter/sister and Aunt **Georgina Bolger whose 4th Anniversary occurred 30th August 2025.**

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 great 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.*



Sean Burke

17th Anniversary

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts

Sadly missed by all the family

Mass on Sunday 21st at 12 o'clock



Michael Anthony Conalty

We gave him back to God
Who gave him to us
But you did not lose him in giving
So we did not lose him on his return
Life is eternal and love is immortal
Death is only an horizon
The limit of our sight
Lift us up strong Son of God
That we may see more clearly
Rest in Peace M.A.

Breda

Margie Donnelly (nee Murray)

8th Anniversary, 23rd December

*Always loved and missed by Ron,
grandchildren, extended family and friends.*



Veron Dobbs

1st Anniversary, 1st January

If I could sit in Heaven,
Even for a day, the pain in my heart
Would temporarily go away.

I'd put my arms around you
And whisper words so true,
That living life without you
Is the hardest thing to do.

No matter how I spend my time,
No matter what I do,
There's no morning, noon or night
That I don't think of you.

*Loved and missed every day,
your loving husband Christy.*

**Anniversary Mass is at 12pm Sunday 4th
January, St Patrick's Church, Esker**

Veron Dobbs

If we could have a lifetime wish,
A dream that could come true,
We'd pray to God with all our hearts
For one more day with you.

In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still,
In our heart you hold a place
That no one else can fill.

*Loved and missed every day, your loving
daughter Arlene, son in law Phil and grandson
Dean.*

Christopher (Christy) Dignam

2nd Anniversary

Late of Airlie Heights. RIP.

"Lonely is the home without you Christy

Life to us is not the same
All the world would be like heaven

If we could have you back again."

Sadly missed by Nuala and family.

Christy Dignam

Remembering my brother Christy also my mam
Kitty whose birthday remembrance is also at this
time.

"Still loved, still missed, still so constantly
remembered"

Joe

Teasie Greene

18th Anniversary also

Bill who died 6th November 2004

Late of Finnstown.

We think about the Good Times

The days we spent together

And the happiness we shared

We have beautiful memories to treasure.

Always Remembered by your loving family

Tess Keogh

6th Anniversary, 22nd December

No matter how life changes
No matter what we do
A special place within our hearts
Is always kept for you.
*Sadly missed and remembered by
Peter, Ray, Trudy and family.*



Michael (Joe) Ryle

Passed: 29 December 1997

Dear God thank you so, the year seems to have arrived and gone so quickly. And knowing you have constantly surrounded our father Joe with your loving care, has made it so much easier and given all great comfort.

Dear God, you said

"Peace I bequeath you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you"

Therefore, we place all our trust in you Dear God, and we greatly appreciate, if you would continue to keep our father Joe and all our lovingly departed in your wonderful loving peace and care always.

Sending also Joe a loving Christmas remembrance to your loving wife and our mother **Maureen** R.I.P. your son **Tomás** R.I.P., your grandson **Darragh Michael** R.I., your brothers **Fr Kevin**, and **Fr Séan** Ryle R.I.P., and your sister **Nóra** R.I.P.

Joe you are missed, and loving remembered always by your family.



Charlie Smith

15th Anniversary, 21st December

Late of Hillcrest Grove, Lucan
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why.

*Sadly missed by your loving wife
Pauline, daughters Lesley and Paula,
grandchildren Dylan, Abi, Luke and Amelia*

Quote:

Father, at this special time as blessings
all increase, the Angels gather round
about with Christmas hope and peace.
Now help us, Father, once again, to
seek your star above, as reaching out
across the world, we share your
Christmas love.

Iris Hessielden



SVP - St. Patrick's Conference Lucan – Thank You

1 SVP - St. Patrick's 'in house' 7th December church collection totalling €5,670 we would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously it is very much appreciated and we would like to note all donations received are used and spend in the Lucan community.

2 Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada - A very big thank you to the pupils who fundraised and gave so generously we really appreciate it.

3 Thank you for all the 'blue envelope' donations handed into the church for SVP attention thank you all for your very generous donations.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025 THANK YOU

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who have supported the work of SVP, St. Mary's Conference throughout the past year. Donations were made at the monthly church door collections, via the parish website, to the sacristy or parish office, and to individual committee members. Many thanks to all donors.

The annual Christmas appeal at masses in early December amounted to an amazing €13,250. Thanks to the parish financial team for their help. Many other donations were made separately adding greatly to this amount.

Thanks to several of our local schools—principals, staff, parents, and students, who ran fundraisers for us: a Sale of Work at Scoil Mhuire GNS, a Carol Service at Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig, and calendar sales at St. Joseph's College.

Thanks to Leixlip Union of Parishes for their contribution.

Sincere thanks to the Newsletter staff for their continuous coverage.

Thanks to Fr. Bill, Fr. Ubaldo, sacristans Mary and Marie, and parish secretary Deirdre, for their encouragement and extra help in taking in donations. St. Mary's Conference are also grateful for the proceeds from the Church Giving Tree this year.

Thanks to our loyal monthly collectors.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

*May God bless you and your families over
Christmas, and throughout 2026.*



Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



Christmas Draw

Our draw takes place on Tuesday 23rd December in the clubhouse followed by a DJ spinning those Christmas tunes till late.

Please make sure all tickets are returned before 9pm on Saturday 20th. Don't miss out as there are some amazing prizes up for grabs. As always, we acknowledge the continued generosity of our loyal Sponsors and Partners.

Lotto

We had no winner of last week's lotto jackpot of €3,000. The Numbers were **2, 4, 11 & 16**.

Lucky dip's go to Ronald Malone, Judy Crowley, Michelle Armstrong, Caroline Gallagher and the McKelvey family. This week's Lotto will be for a jackpot of €3,400. This draw is sponsored by Dual Printing Ltd and will be led by Josephine Donohue.

A reminder to everyone that next week's draw will be held on an earlier date of Tuesday 23rd December.



Card Drive

Date: Fridays until 8th May 2026

Time: 8.00pm Sharp

Prize: 1st €50 (if 12 or more players),

Entry: €5 per player

Venue: Lucan Sarsfields Clubhouse (Bar)

Everyone is welcome- from beginner to those who played years ago and would like to resume playing. You don't have to be a Club member to play.

Contact Bill Ryan 086-8500376 or Mary Flannery 087-7469143 for further information.



Academy

We had our last academy sessions of the year at the weekend including a visit from the big man himself, Santa. A huge thank you to Alan, Ciara, Donal and all the coaches who work tirelessly throughout the year to make our academy what it is. We hope you enjoy a well-earned rest this Christmas.

Our Academy will return in the New Year.



Thank You for supporting Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club.



Merry Christmas from Lucan Library!



HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

Lucan Library will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from: **Wednesday 24th December to Thursday 1st January, inclusive.**

Please enquire with staff about My Open Library/ Extended Hours membership

Christmas at Farmleigh

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st December

Christmas Food and Craft Market. Farmyard 10.00 – 17.00. Music 12.00 – 14.00.

Festive Crib –
Outdoors.

Some events require tickets due to limited capacity. Free tickets will be available first come first served basis in the Visitor Hub in the Courtyard on the day.



Lucan Planning Council

Our proposal to address the many flaws in the C-Spine bus route will be launched this Saturday 20th December 2025, at 11am Spar Green Dodsboro. This proposal is to facilitate users with a disability, elderly, local access to nursing homes and other areas such as Chapelizod, St. Mary's Hospital and Phoenix Park. The bus route could be called C25 with a bus every hour, serving areas omitted in C-Spine.

Route would begin at River Forest Leixlip serving Confey rail station, Leixlip Village, Leixlip Park, Young's Garage, onto R403 to new link road beside Shackleton Estate to Lucan Adamstown rail station, via Dodsboro, Lucan Village, Liffey Valley, Chapelizod, Island bridge, Parkgate St. to city centre terminating at Custom House Quay or Connolly rail Station.

Our research shows this is the most feasible route to address many of the problems of C-Spine.

Direct bus access to Blanchardstown Hospital is still a major part of our campaign. We are grateful for the continued support from our local representatives, and we are always glad to meet you.

We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas wherever you are or whatever you are doing this Christmas. By reaching out to others and pulling together, we can make life better for everyone.

Caitriona McClean, Joe Byrne and Tom Newton

"Waiting in Joyful Hope in the Catholic Faith"

Some time ago a group of parishioners of St Mary's parish began a project that lasted two years researching and refreshing their knowledge of the Catholic faith, mainly through use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

This was done in response to Pope Benedict's call to all Catholics to deepen their faith. This has led to the publication of the book "Waiting in Joyful Hope in the Catholic Faith". It is an easy to read summary of our faith. Many have found the book helpful to them in their faith.

The book is available in the local public libraries, on Kindle and online.

K. Carroll



survive&thrive
Information and support for those who have completed treatment for cancer

Survive and Thrive Programmes 2026

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, we would love to help you to transform yourself and meet people who have gone through a similar experience who gets you and you get them.

Next programme - Tuesday 6th January - 17th February

For further information contact Fiona on 087 9657144 or 01 628 3726 or e-mail fsullivan@mariekeating.ie

To book a place log on to www.mariekeating.ie

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

 **Marie Keating**
FOUNDATION

1/1



Minister Emer Higgins TD – Fine Gael

01 618 3013. Insta: @emerhigginstd

Emer.Higgins@oireachtas.ie

Congratulations to Lucan United FC, who were awarded €25,000 under the Healthy Ireland Walking Tracks Fund, supported by the Department of Health and Healthy Ireland. This funding will enhance walking tracks and lighting, extending usage during winter months making physical activity more accessible for the community.



Beannachtaí na Nollag:

I would like to extend my best wishes to all Lucan residents. I hope you have a safe and peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. A sincere thank you to the Lucan Newsletter staff for their hard work and dedication to this brilliant publication.

Below are some emergency contacts should you need them over the Christmas:

Lucan Garda Station: 016667300

SDCC After Hours: 01 4574907

Electricity Emergency 1800 372 999

Report a Phone Outage 1800 773 729

Uisce Éireann 1800 278 278.

Gas Networks Ireland 1800 20 50 50.

Helen Farrell, Independent

Working with Paul Gogarty, TD, Independent

Email: hfarrell@cllr.s.dublincoco.ie

Tel: 087-2794936. Facebook: <http://bit.ly/4jHwrjR>

Lucan Village Works – SDCC’S December

Update: SDCC responded to my recent question on updated timelines for ongoing works:

- Lucan Demesne: Parking areas open; remaining works (gate, seating, furniture) due end of February 2026.
- Promenade & Liffey Weir: Steps and plaza near Lucan Bridge under construction; completion also end of February 2026.
- Village Green: Christmas tree area open; paving, lighting, benches, landscaping, and bandstand to follow. Full handover expected mid-March 2026.

Christmas Wishes to All!

Whether you celebrate Christmas with family, friends, or in your own special way, may this time be one of health and happiness for you all. Thank you to all those who have contacted me this year to represent your issues; it is a privilege to do this for my Lucan community, alongside Paul Gogarty, TD and his team.



Paul Gogarty TD – Independent

Working with Cllr Helen Farrell

“Not just at election time”

Dáil office: 01 6184078. WhatsApp: 0892364871.

Website: www.paulgogarty.com

Annual Report: In the last year I spoke in over 190 Dáil/Committee debates – “Well above average for a TD”, according to kildarestreet.com.

My team and I called to over 6,000 houses throughout the constituency, and I’ve also held over 70 hour-long café clinics.

Thousands of local and national issues were logged in this period, working closely in Lucan with my colleague Cllr Helen Farrell. There have been time constraints in publicising our work as much as we would like, but we have posted regular social media/website updates as time allows. Next year is likely to be equally busy with some major challenges looming.

Happy Christmas:

Thanks to the Lucan Newsletter staff for their dedicated work. Wishing them and all Lucanians a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year.

Cllr. Joanna Tuffy, Labour Party Representative.

Phone 087 392 0931

Email jtuffy@cllr.s.dublincoco.ie

All social media links at linktr.ee/joannatuffy

Happy Christmas to all Lucan residents. I look forward to representing you on the Council in 2026. I would also like to thank the team at Lucan Newsletter for all of their hard work on behalf of the community and wish them a Happy Christmas.

Shane Moynihan - TD – Fianna Fáil

Email: shane.moynihan@oireachtas.ie

Phone: 01-6184128. Find me on Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok.

Nollaig Shona:

Happy Christmas to all the readers of the Lucan Newsletter. Sincere thanks and best wishes to the Lucan Newsletter team for a well-deserved break!

DART+ SouthWest: I have raised the need to prioritise DART SouthWest as a critical public transport project directly with the Taoiseach on the floor of the Dáil this week. I will continue to fight to ensure this project is delivered as quickly as possible.

Clinics: I will resume my weekly Lucan clinics in the New Year. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact 01-6184128

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St. Mary's Camera Soirée

The Camera Soiree is on holidays until Friday 9th January 2026 but photos have kept coming for the back page of the Newsletter. Interestingly nobody submitted a photo of the Christmas Tree that has been installed at one corner of the building site that once was the village green. The absence of photos speaks volumes!

A bit of trivial information – the number of viewings of the group's exhibition on our YouTube channel is currently 180 which number is in line with previous exhibitions. So we are happy!

Donal submitted photos in monochrome of Carlow Railway Station. The station opened on 4 August 1846 and was operated by the Great Southern and Western Railway until 1924 when by act of the Dáil it merged with other rail companies to form the Great Southern Railway, the forerunner of Córas Iompair Éireann. CIE was established in 1945 as a private company and was nationalised in 1950.



Joe was in Dun Laoghaire and submitted photos of the harbour and Dublin Bay looking towards the Pigeon House.

He also submitted photos of the statue to Roger Casement which was installed at the end of the new jetty at the Dun Laoghaire Baths in 2021.



Frances submitted a photo taken locally of some fantastic Christmas illuminations.



*All that remains is for me to wish all our Newsletter readers
a peaceful Christmas and every good fortune in 2026*