



# LUCAN NEWSLETTER



Established 1967

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

Sub. €1

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

## Christmas – The feast of Family



It never ceases to amaze me, the enormous lengths people will go to in order to be with family at Christmas. Airports all over the world will bulge at the seams, and ferries will be choc-a-bloc. Joyful airport scenes of tearful embraces will be shown on news bulletins in the days before Christmas.

The recent storm damage at Holyhead port has jeopardised the prospects of thousands of Irish people, who may not now make it home for the big day, disappointment looms.

It's almost as if there is something at the heart of Christmas that triggers an inbuilt homing mechanism in the human psyche, a yearning to be with family and loved ones.

When you consider the reality that lies at the heart of Christmas; the reaching out of our creator to come among us, and make his home in our midst, it's hardly surprising that our response is a kind of echoing of God's reaching out in love.

In coming among us, Jesus has chosen us as his family, and has created a bond between and among us, that has fundamentally defined who we are, members of God's own family.

At Christmas time even the 'unchurched' find themselves drifting towards Mass. Somewhere deep in the heart, the call to celebrate the bond of family with God is still managing to be heard. The flame of faith, once lit, never fully goes out.

A parish community is in effect a 'family of families' united under God, and our homing instinct will bring us together in our Father's house in great numbers at Christmas. If we keep focused on the one who gathers us, and his message of unconditional love, then the true meaning of the feast, in all its powerful simplicity can truly enrich our lives.

The commercialisation that surrounds Christmas can be overpowering leaving us financially and mentally drained. If we fix our eyes on the one who comes, we draw life from the very source of life himself and we will be greatly enriched.

I wish all our parishioners every joy and blessing of the season. Cherish the precious time with family in a spirit of gratitude to God, and I pray that the blessings of the Christ-child will be with you and your families at this wonderful season.

*Philip Curran*

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parishes

## 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



### Opening hours

#### 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

### Lucan CIC Christmas Hours:

Lucan CIC 0818 07 5090

**Friday 20th Dec to 1st Jan - closed**

Thursday 2nd Jan - 10-12 and 2-4

**Friday 3rd Jan - closed**

Our usual hours resume on Tuesday 7th January 2025.



### CIPS Hours

Monday 23rd Dec 9-5

Reduced hours (Phone lines closed from 5pm)

Tuesday 24th Dec 9-5

Reduced hours (Phone lines closed from 5pm)

Wednesday 25th Dec **CLOSED** Christmas Day

Thursday 26th Dec **CLOSED**, St Stephen's Day

Friday 27th Dec **CLOSED**

Monday 30th Dec 9-8, Normal hours

Tuesday 31st Dec 9-5

Reduced hours (Phone lines closed from 5pm)

Wednesday 1st Jan **CLOSED**, New Years Day

Normal hours resume from Thursday 2nd January 2025 - 9am-8pm

### HELPLINES

**Seniorline** – National Confidential Listening Service for older people. Freephone 1800 80 45 91 Lines are open 365 days a year from 10 am to 10 pm.

**Alone** - phone 0818 222 024

**Family Carers Ireland** – No one should have to care alone. National freephone careline - 1800 24 07 24

**Jigsaw** [www.jigsaw.ie](http://www.jigsaw.ie) – we understand and support young people's mental health.

**Childline** - [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie), phone 1800 666 666, 24 hours a day.

**Parentline** – 01 8733500- Mon to Thursday 10 am to 9pm, Fri 10 am to 7pm

**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** – free 24 /7 crisis helpline 1800 247 247, Text HELP to 51444

**One in Four** – ending the trauma of childhood sexual abuse – 01 6624070 or email [info@oneinfour.ie](mailto:info@oneinfour.ie)

**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)

### Addiction Treatment

**AA** – Alcoholics Anonymous 01 8420700 meeting [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/findameeting](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/findameeting)

**GA** [www.gamblersanonymous.ie](http://www.gamblersanonymous.ie) 087 2622804, 10 am to 10 pm

**Treoir** – Informing unmarried parents – phone 01 6700120 email [info@treoir.ie](mailto:info@treoir.ie)  
Treoir supports parents who aren't married to each other.



Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year from the staff & volunteers at Liffey Sound 96.4FM! And a special thanks to the newsletter team for all the work you do during the year!

[www.liffeysoundfm.ie](http://www.liffeysoundfm.ie) or catch up on Facebook **Liffey Sound 96.4FM- Lucan's Community radio station!**

## 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 2025.

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.

Thanks also 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 look forward to hearing regularly from all our local clubs and organisations, in 2025, which hopefully will be a good year for all.

**The first issue of Lucan Newsletter for 2025 will be for Sunday 12th January.**

All items for inclusion should be at the usual addresses not later than 10pm, **Wednesday 8th January 2025.**

*Lucan Newsletter Team*



## Lucan Toastmasters

**Next Club Meeting:** Our next meeting is on **Thursday 2nd January at 7:45pm at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip** and guests are most welcome to join us. Come along on the night or contact [vpmlucantostmasters@gmail.com](mailto:vpmlucantostmasters@gmail.com) to register your interest.

**Mini-Meeting at Lucan Library:** On 11th January, we invite you to join us at Lucan Library for a taster meeting designed to give you a flavour of what to expect at Toastmasters. We'll be on hand to answer any questions you might have.  
**Saturday 11th January, 2025**  
**12 noon-1:30pm, Lucan Library, K78 V295**

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip at 7.45 p.m. Admission is free for new guests. Come along on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> January, where a warm welcome awaits you.

For further details, follow Lucan Toastmasters on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) or contact [vpmlucantostmasters@gmail.com](mailto:vpmlucantostmasters@gmail.com)

## CAN YOU GIVE THE GIFT OF PRACTICAL HELP THIS CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is a time of joy for many of us, however it can be a particularly challenging time for families in need, especially those with small babies.

Community Connect is Ireland's Baby Bank charity, working across Ireland to provide practical support to mothers and babies in need. They are asking you to make a big difference to a mother and baby in need this Christmas, by sponsoring a package of essential items.

Every little bit helps, and your generosity could mean the world to a mother and baby this Christmas.

Just €20 will allow them to put together a MamaBag of essentials for a mother, offering her comfort and support;

€50 will cover all the essentials for a pregnant mother's Hospital Bag, giving her reassurance and dignity during this special time; €75 will pay for a beautiful BabyBox and a thoughtful MamaBag, to give mother and baby a strong and supportive start, or choose your own amount, and they can use it to make a combination of gift packages, reaching many more families with essential support.

Community Connect's volunteers will make up the BabyBoxes, MamaBags and Hospital Bags, and deliver them directly to the families who need them.

To sponsor, go to [www.communityconnect.ie](http://www.communityconnect.ie) or call 085 875 8366.

*Thank you for your support.*

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Sponsor a Gift Package and help a family in need this Christmas

Scan the QR code or visit [www.communityconnect.ie](http://www.communityconnect.ie) Reg. Charity No. 20208558

# Parish Notes

## St Mary's, Lucan

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

### Confessions:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 10.30am to 11am

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm

### Christmas Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

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

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

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December:**

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

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December:**

11am and 6.30pm Vigil Mass

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December:**

10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January:**

11am daily

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January:**

11am Mass and 6.30pm Vigil Mass

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January:**

10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm. (NOT a Vigil Mass for the Holy Day)

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Feast of the Epiphany**

**Holy Day:** 10am and 7.30pm

(Weekday Masses as normal from 6<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.)

All Masses are live-streamed on

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

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

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

*Fr Philip, Fr. Ubaldo, Fr Pius, Fr Samuel,  
Sr Geraldine, Cathy Burke*



### Christian Meditation:

Wishing everyone all the Blessings of Christmas. See you again in 2025.

*Sr Geraldine.*

### St. Mary's Readers' Roster January 2025

The roster for readers at the Saturday vigil, 12 noon and 7pm Masses on Sundays in St. Mary's for the month of January 2025 has been sent to all readers by email. If any reader has not received it a copy is available for inspection in the sacristy.



## Thank You

I wish to thank all my kind neighbours and friends for the many Mass cards and get well wishes received following my recent fall. And for all the prayers offered for my speedy recovery.

**I wish you all the Joy and Blessings of the infant Jesus.**

*Sr Geraldine.*



## St. Mary's SVP Conference, Lucan

Thank you all for your wonderful response to our recent Church SVP Christmas Appeal. Thanks also to societies, groups, individuals and schools for their contributions to help provide assistance to those in need in our community.

Wishing all our clients, contributors and helpers, a safe and peaceful Christmas and a healthy 2025.



**Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
St Mary's Conference,  
Lucan**

**For assistance, phone: 01 8550022  
or email: [info@svp.ie](mailto:info@svp.ie)**

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

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

### Confessions:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 10.30am to 11am. **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm

### Christmas Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**  
**10am: Morning Mass**  
**6.30pm: Children's Mass with Blessing of Crib.**  
**8.30pm: Vigil Mass**

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

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

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December:**  
**10am Daily Mass**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December:** 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** 10am daily

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**  
9am, 10.30am, 12 noon

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January:**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**  
**Holy Day: 10am**



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

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

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

*Fr Philip, Fr. John, Fr. Ubaldo, Fr Pius,  
Fr Samuel, Cathy Burke*

### Wednesday Coffee Morning:

We wish to thank Tony Cullen for supplying the music for our Christmas Coffee Morning. We enjoyed a lovely musical gathering.

Also thank you to Sr. Rosemarie for her delicious Christmas Cake.

***We wish all our friends a Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2025.***



## Divine Mercy, Lucan South

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

### Emmanuel Masses:

Our Advent Novena of Masses preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus will be celebrated as follows:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 7pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December: 6pm

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 7pm

The Masses will be offered for various intentions including Young People and Young Adults, Families, Prisoners and People suffering with addictions and more.

### Christmas Mass Times:

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

Normal Sunday Masses: **10.30am** and **12 noon**

**5pm: Family Mass**

**8pm: Vigil Mass**

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

All Masses will be livestreamed on [www.lucansouthparish.net](http://www.lucansouthparish.net)

## Ecumenical Reading of the Nativity Lucan Village at the Christmas Tree

**Christmas Eve**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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**



## Acknowledgement

### James Mulligan Redmond Eternal rest 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 Age 8 years young



In memory of our son James, we the Mulligan/Redmond family would like to thank everyone who attended James's funeral in Wexford. We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to friends, neighbours and the Lucan community past and present for all the support throughout James's illness. Every message, Mass card, well wish, knock on the door, phone call, medals, holy water from Lourdes and your prayers did not go unnoticed and was a huge comfort when our beautiful son James was sick.

It really meant the world to us knowing there was so much love, prayers and hope surrounding James. Lucan was a second home to James and he loved coming up to visit his grandad Ted and all his aunts and cousins. James was a very special boy taken far too soon.

Please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our thanks and appreciation.

*Siobhain, Dave, Ryan and all the Mulligan family.*

You never said I'm leaving  
You never said goodbye.  
You were gone before I knew it,  
And only God knew why.

A million times I needed you,  
A million times I cried.  
If love alone could have saved you,  
You never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly,  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a place,  
That no one could ever fill.

It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone  
For part of me went with you,  
The day God took you home.



## Anniversaries

### Margie Donnelly (nee Murray) 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Don't think of her as gone away  
Her journey's just begun  
Life holds so many facets  
This earth is only one  
*Missed and loved always and for ever  
Ron and your extended family.*

### Teasie Greene 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 19<sup>th</sup> December

Also **Bill** who died 6<sup>th</sup> November 2004  
Late of Finnstown  
If memories bring us closer  
We are never far apart  
For you are always with us  
In our thoughts and in our hearts  
*Always remembered by your loving family*



## For Jean

Gone from us but leaving memories  
Death can never take away  
That will always linger  
While upon this earth we stay  
You were someone special Jean  
Someone set apart  
Your memory will live forever  
Engraved within our hearts  
*Your friend Frances and family*

## Tess Keogh 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 22<sup>nd</sup> December

In loving memory of our Mam  
We hold you close within our hearts  
And there you will always remain  
To walk with us throughout our lives  
Until we meet again  
*Always in our thoughts  
Peter, Ray, Trudy and family.*

## Michael (Joe) Ryle 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 29<sup>th</sup> December

May God above continue to surround you with His magnificent love. The years go in, but our thoughts of you seldom grow dim. The happy times we shared allow us to picture you here, so very near. Special Christmas we send out too, to our loved ones who have joined you in your heavenly home Dad. Our dear Mother, your loving wife **Maureen**, and your sweet baby grandson **Darragh Michael**. Our hearts were deeply saddened also in the past year by the sudden and unexpected passing of our brother, your son **Tomás (Tom)**. Thank God Tomás is near to you Dad and Mam, as it gives us such great solace, to know he's so near to those he holds so dear. Special Christmas remembrance also Dad for your two brothers **Fr Kevin** and **Fr Sean Ryle**.

*May they rest in peace.*

Sweet Sacred Heart of Jesus we sincerely thank you for holding our loved ones in your merciful, loving peace this Christmas and please you will do so forever more.  
*With all our love at this special time of year Joe and always, your loving family*

## Charlie Smith 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 21<sup>st</sup> December

Late of Hillcrest Grove  
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 loved one  
And thanks for all you've done  
We pray that God has given you  
The crown you've truly won  
*Loved and missed by your loving wife Pauline,  
daughters Lesley and Paula, grandchildren Dylan,  
Luke, Amelia and Abi.*



## Sarsfield Park Residents Association

We would like to wish all our members, neighbours, businesses a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Rumour has it we will have a visitor for the Kids on the 22nd there will be lots of happy children that night

We received some notification last Friday that work will be starting on the apartments on Dec 17 and unfortunately the laneway will be closed from January 2 (no reopening date)

The results of our generously supported Christmas draw are as follows:

- 1st Collins Butchers Voucher – 107
- 2nd Courtneys Voucher – 47
- 3rd Collins Butchers Voucher – 67
- 4th Collins Butchers Voucher – 126
- 5th Bottle of Brandy (O’Neills) - 9
- 6th Centra Voucher – 118
- 7th Artisan Pantry - 76
- 8th Centra Voucher – 31
- 9th Micks Veg Shop - 13
- 10th Paddys Barber -34
- 11th Paddys Barber - 42A
- 12th Jewel Hairdressers – 60
- 13th Kennys Voucher – 74
- 14th Tin of Sweets - 46
- 15th Tin of Sweets – 81



Thank you to you in the Newsletter all for your continued support and I wish each of you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year



**Anam Cara** - supporting parents after bereavement, are hosting their first Online Bereavement Information Evening of 2025 on Tuesday 7th of January 2025. This online talk is for bereaved parents only.

Here are the details of this ONLINE event

Date: **Tuesday 7th of January 2025**

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Guest Speaker: Niamh Finucane

Parents can register using the below link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUpf-CrpzgoGtVXWDZD0n1jmDt8xT43Hc6o#/registration>



We had two busy mornings last weekend planting native trees and shrubs for

biodiversity in Griffeen Park. South Dublin Co Co supplied the plants, tools and expert advisers to direct this Mini Woodlands Project. We were joined by Transition Year students from Coláiste Cois Life and also some individual students from Lucan Community College and St Joseph's College. Also we were joined by our newly elected TD Paul Gogarty, as well as Big Tree Adamstown Environmental group and South Dublin Community Volunteers.



Why not take a through Griffeen Valley Park and see if you can spot the fruits of our work close to Griffeen Valley Nursing Home. You can learn more about this project by checking out the South Dublin Co Co website

<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/latest-news/mini-woodlands-in-south-dublin.html>

Thank you to all who organised this event, as well as all who participated. We had a most enjoyable morning working together and the weather was very kind to us on both days.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and especially the Lucan Newsletter team.

*Kevin O'Loughlin,  
Chair*



## Times for Felicitation and Thanksgiving

For Lucan Communities and our Newsletter Teams.

For Autumn/s quiet river which darkly mirrored the falling leaves, and woodland paths bring an inner silence to the jewelled light of Winter.

For A Sunday visit to the Chapel Royal at I.M.M.A. which surprised us with a gift of one hour's relaxation.

For the circular planted garden spot opposite Ardeevin and extensive ivy cleaning from wall opposite Tandy's Lane, showing the ancient stone faces.

For the skill and artistry of the stonemasons etc at work both on the long demesne wall and within the demesne proper.

For the fascination of watching reimagining of the Lucan's environment, and in hope of restoration to the Coad Stone circular insets of the pillars on both the 'Italian gates@ and on those of Griffeen Bridge – some very damaged.

For safekeeping and return of sculpture 'Methuselah and Son' to village plaza and perhaps one day a sculpture of Sarsfield.

For an interesting note about the front garden of 'Lucan House' – apparently to be known as 'Parce Italiano' in recognition of 80 years Italian connection in Lucan and will continue to accommodate Riverta's Buffalos.

For beautiful newly planted trees in the demesne, but sadly 3 *Junipers* behind a seat on the river walk are sick.

For Tennis Courts in St. Catherines Park – ready for next season and happy days.

For being enlightened about the front of the *Cornus Kousa* Tree whose berries are edible and taste an alchemy of syrup and custard.

Having seen the film *Conclave* with Ralf Fiennes, one wonders if our dear elected might sequester to find courage and formation.

Voltaire is quoted as follows, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century: "3 things a constant on the mind of Humankind – Climate, Government, Religion".  
Qué vero - Peace

May Christmastime be a place of love, family and friendship, blessed by happiness.

May the New Year be kind to us in this wonderful and fragile world.

Breda L.C.

## CURRAGH DOG WALK

In aid of Kildare Animal Foundation

Sunday 29 December at 12 noon

Starts at carpark NEXT to T.R.I.

Join us (even if you don't have a dog) for a lovely stroll around the Curragh Race Course.

Just turn up and donate on the day

*All monies raised go to the care of sick and injured animals at the shelter*



**Happy Christmas** to all our Readers, some on the far side of the world this Christmas. We hope all have a safe and enjoyable time!

And just before the big day, we have a little day – the **Winter Solstice**, falling exactly at 9.19am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December!

That day will be precisely 7 hours and 50 minutes long, and after that daylight will increase slowly by 2 minutes per day.

### 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,  
Breath 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.



**We send special Christmas Greetings to Sr. Geraldine**, down in Cork at the moment. We had a surprise visit from her at the Newsletter Office last week, and she is looking forward to being back in Lucan soon.

**Apologies** for cutting short some articles in this week's issue. Space was tight, and we tried our best to get everyone in!

## Ballyowen Castle Community Centre

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

Telephone: 01 253 6105 or 085 867 1245



**Chess Tournament:** Lucan Festive will be holding a chess tournament at the centre on 30th December, Under 15's 11am-3pm  
Adults 4pm-8pm. Contact [lucfestevents@gmail.com](mailto:lucfestevents@gmail.com) for info.

**Christmas Closure:** The centre will be closed from Monday 23rd Dec. until Monday 6th Jan.

**A Message from the Centre:** We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited Ballyowen Community Centre this year and participated in our programmes and activities. Your support has helped the centre flourish within the community, and we look forward to building on this success in the coming year. We can't wait to welcome you back to the Centre and maybe see some new faces. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year from all at Ballyowen Youth & Community Centre.





# SCHOOL NEWS



## St. Joseph's College

**St Vincent de Paul Fundraising Calendar:** The St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal is taking place this weekend, raising much needed funds for families in the run up to Christmas. We are selling our 2025 Calendars in St. Joseph's all this week in school & in Centra, Lucan Village. All money goes to St. Vincent De Paul. The Calendars have been created by our students in TY, showing beautiful images of Lucan and surrounding areas! Students can buy a calendar from Ms. Bligh in cash or by Revolut / Card from Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024. The Calendars make great planners for 2025, and can be used in any office, kitchen, bedroom or classroom! They also make great Christmas gifts to family and friends abroad.

**Christmas Carols in Marymount:** Ms. Mellett, Ms. Kearney, Ms. Ennis and Ms. Whelan kept up a fantastic 27 year long tradition last week as they brought students up to Marymount Nursing Home to sing Christmas Carols to the residents. A



fantastic tradition in St. Joseph's that we hope continues long into the future.

**TY Fair:** Well done to all our TYs who took part in a fantastic Christmas Fair. There over 50 stalls set up in the assembly hall and the TYs sold Christmas themed treats and baked good to the whole school. Well done to all the TYs and to Ms. Whelan for organising.

**Carol Service:** The annual Christmas service took place on Wednesday afternoon at 12:30pm. 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.

**Under 14 Soccer Team:** Hard luck to our under 14 soccer team who lost out to St. Wolstans, Celbridge on Tuesday morning in their league game.

**Future Leaders:** Our Transition Year Future Leaders group were very fortunate to have a talk with Dr. Angela Parvu from Alfa Medics. This talk was in relation to Alfa medics campaign "a healthy life is your choice".

**Senior Politics:** The senior Politics and Society students in the school welcomed Shane Moynihan TD and Barry Andrews MEP to the school last Friday morning. There was a fantastic and engaging discussion on representative democracy and the need for more women in politics in Ireland.



## Stamp Collection for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council

**Conservation Council:** TY class 4a4 are collecting stamps to help fundraising for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, a National Charity which works to preserve Irish Bogs. 4A4 Environmental Studies class ask people to leave a 1cm border of paper around used stamps and drop them into the school's reception marked for the attention of Ms. Kearney or Ms. Dunne. This simple action helps remove paper from waste streams as Christmas approaches. Students are delighted with the stamp donations received to date and wish all readers a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

**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

**Instagram:** @stjosephscollegelucan

**Website:** [www.stjosephslucan.com](http://www.stjosephslucan.com)



## Coláiste Phádraig CBS

**Home Economics:** Our 1<sup>st</sup> yr Home Economics students have been busy getting into the festive spirit by baking and decorating gingerbread biscuits and scones. The 1<sup>st</sup> yrs have demonstrated skills of aeration, melting, oven management, lining a tin and creative decorating skills during the process. Ms. Woulfe has been very impressed by their eagerness to listen, learn and apply the skills they have picked up in class. Their final products looked and, most importantly, tasted very good!

**Football:** Our u16 football team have topped their group in the Dublin Junior Football "C" League after two impressive victories last week. On Monday they defeated Coláiste Cois Life 4-08 to 1-08 with Liam Gamble (2-0), Conor McHugh (1-02), Henry Greene (1-0), Derry Ware (0-3), James Duffy (0-1) and Ciarán O' Sullivan (0-2) getting the scores. The team then defeated Oatlands College 2-15 to 1-07 on Thursday to ensure top spot in the group and a home 1-4 final in January. Conor McHugh while Rory Clarke scored the goals while Derry and Ciarán continued their fine form by kicking a number of important points.

**Music Club:** The Music Club started the Christmas festivities off this week as the library was opened up on Monday to allow all students and staff, who wished to come, enjoy some musical performances and get into the festive spirit. Daniel McDevitt kicked off the show with his debut oboe performance. He displayed excellent skill and breath control whilst playing 'Silent Night', 'O Holy Night' and 'White Christmas'.

Next up was a guitar trio made up of Seán O' Meara and brothers Adam and Luke Wheeler. They produced an impressive and uplifting performance of 'Jingle Bells', while Adam delighted the audience with an encore of 'The Pink Panther Theme'. Logan Murphy then displayed amazing natural talent while performing 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' on piano and his own improv piece on guitar. Aaron Kelly has nurtured his love for Irish traditional music this year in the Music Club and he decided to play 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' on the Tin Whistle, which went down really well with the audience. Our two senior pianists, Freddie Molloy and David Farrelly, then wowed the crowd with their performances of 'All I want for Christmas is You', 'Last Christmas' and 'The Christmas Song'. Well done to all performers who had the courage to get up in front of their peers and thank you to all who came to support.



**Winter Fair:** The annual Winter Fair was held in the canteen on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December and it proved to be a huge success with all stock completely sold out! The TY students decorated the canteen with Christmas decorations and then set up their own stands packed with an assortment of goods and wares for sale. There was a wide selection of tasty treats available to students and staff on the day from Christmas ski-balls to homemade cookies, coloured cupcakes to kinder Buenos, cinnamon muffins to chocolate pretzels, and snow-capped fairy cakes to delicious marshmallows and rich, fudgy, chewy brookies. There were also some beautifully crafted homemade wooden reindeer decorations that sold very well, as well as darts, a bean bag toss, mini-golf and soccer keepy uppy challenges with great spot prizes on offer.



The numerous raffles and guess the number of sweets in a jar competition were also popular. All of the students did a fantastic job presenting and selling their products using all the skills and tips they picked up in their Business classes. The 5<sup>th</sup> yr students who turned up after 12:30pm managed to land themselves numerous bargains as the prices were reduced in order to sell off all stock!

**Coding:** 124 of our 1st and 2nd yr Coding students took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge in November. This challenge introduces computational thinking to students, by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. It is run in over 60 countries and takes place every November. The aim of Bebras is to get students all over the world excited about computing. In this an international problem-solving competition, students had 40 minutes to answer 15 puzzles. 3679 students took part in Ireland, with an average score of 78. 73 of our students scored over the average. From this, 8 students have qualified for the national final held in Maynooth University in April; Adam Breen, Sean Finn Hennessy, Ryan McElhinney, Dara Power, Matthew Carroll, Adam Wheeler, Daniel McDevitt and Ayman Ahmed. We wish them the best of luck in the final.

## Lucan Community College

**Junior Production of 'Elf'** Congratulations to everyone involved in the fantastic performance of 'Elf'. The students looked and sounded like professional actors as they told the funny and wholesome tale of Buddy the Elf who arrives to New York to find his father. All of the cast were amazing as well as the back stage crew who played a blinder organising everyone. A huge congratulations to Nathan King, Class Curie who played the protagonist that is Buddy himself. A mention to both Oisín Argaud and Alannah Hickey who both took on the daunting task of singing a solo. A huge thank you to both Ms Molloy and Ms. Nolan on all their hard-work and dedication putting this show on.



**St. Vincent De Paul Collection:** A huge thank you to Lucan CC community who raised €1058 in our annual SVP secret bag collection. Every year students are asked to make an anonymous donation to help this worthy cause that helps vulnerable people. The money is raised for local SVP charity, St. Patrick's Lucan. On Wednesday night, the school also held the annual end of year concert, all money collected will also be donated to SVP.

**TY attend 'Go Quest'** The TY group visited Go Quest in Carrickmines at the start of December and in groups of 4 or 5, they tried to decode unique challenges. Fun and critical thinking all in one! The students had a limited time to solve various challenges, succeed and gain points for their team. Well done to the winners!

**Fundraiser for Saoirse O'Driscoll:** Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our school fundraiser in Honour of Saoirse O'Driscoll and her dad who is rowing 4800km across the Atlantic Ocean to raise funds for Heart Children Ireland. We raised a total of €1405.70 during our non-uniform day. Link is on our website should you want to contribute.



## 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 2025. 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  
Introduction to Computers Internet and Email,  
Introduction to Office Skills,  
Personal Effectiveness, IT Skills,  
Work Experience,  
Customer Service,  
Medical Terminology for Medical Secretary,  
Introduction to Psychology,  
Bookkeeping Using Sage Software.

For more details, contact  
[lorrainekavanagh@ddletbaes.ie](mailto:lorrainekavanagh@ddletbaes.ie)  
or call (01) 6283557.



## Lucan Active Retirement Assoc.

We meet in St Andrew's Parish Centre, Main Street, Lucan, on Thursdays at 11.30am. New members always welcome, come and join us in a friendly atmosphere and meet new friends. There is a charge of €4 each week to cover costs but there is no charge for your first meeting. Lots of activities to enjoy. Bowls, scrabble, cards, drama and choir. Coffee break at 1pm. Organised trips in Ireland and abroad.

**Our AGM will be held on Thursday 23rd January 2025.**

## The Epic Origins of Hurling

From a translation of the original work **Sceal na hIomána** - the history of hurling before the GAA, which ran to about 820 pages of dense academic print in Irish. There is much in the way of fascinating detail on the ancient game to be discovered within the book's covers, from early reference in the mythology of Cúchulainn through the ages to where it stands today.



Available exclusively online in hardback at Amazon. Information: visit [www.epichurling.com](http://www.epichurling.com) Or phone **Michael McGrath at 0872837687**.

### Chapter 24 has some seasonal pieces.....

*For about the twelve days of Christmas, no man could drive a cow to the hill because of aches in his back and bones; others had black shins; another man hobbling on one leg for a month, and much more besides.*

There were two traditions linked to the games seasons in Ireland. Summer matches were played in the south, east and west while in the north winter competitions were the norm.

May Day and Halloween were the two most important festivals – the beginning of summer and of winter. The main festival occasions for games in Ireland were Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and May Day.

There was a long tradition linking hurling to the Christmas holidays. In 1496 Henry VII forbade games among tradesmen, slaves and servants but he omitted the Christmas holidays – games could be played at that time – and that law remained on the Statute Books until 1845 under the title, “The bill for maintaining artillery and the debarring of unlawful games”.

We have found very little direct evidence about hurling at Christmas before the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland and most of it relates to the North of Ireland. The evidence we have dates from the period 1825 to 1835 - old memories relating to ancient customs that lived until 1798 when they were destroyed by the repression that followed the Rebellion at that time.

In Antrim a written record dated 1835 states: “Before 1798 the people here were given to recreation and social gatherings. They used to gather for a few days at Christmas and Easter, but, since the act of prohibiting public gatherings was passed in those troubled times, their appetite for pastimes has greatly declined”.

James Boyle wrote about the parish of Finvoy, in September, 1835: They have given up completely almost the forms of entertainment they were so given to, once upon a time, like dancing, common playing (a sort of hurling) at Christmas; ... they have given them up completely”.

“We have no Patterns or Pattern Days”, wrote Rev. Robt Tráil in Ballintroy in 1814; no special customs, apart from one big group of people who gathered on the strand in White Park to play “common” or “shinny” on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. There was hurling on Rathlin Island in 1835. “Dancing is the first form of entertainment, and a little common playing at Xmas.”

Eoin Mac Neill could remember the making and preparation of the hurleys; and he hurled as a youngster in Glenarm, but he said “Christmas Day was for the free holders”. He said: “On Christmas Day, the older men who used to hurl once – 40 or 50 a side played a game. When an old man in our place was asked to explain the placename “Shinny Hill” in in Baile an Mhadaidh in Carn Locha, Co. Antrim, he said, “That is where they used to play hurling on Christmas Day”.

In Culdaff, Co. Donegal in 1866 “during the Christmas holidays they used to enjoy a game of “Kamman” and in the parish of Carndonagh around 1834 “boys used to drive a small wooden “craig” with a crooked stub they called a “common”.

### Christmas Contests Outside of Ulster

There were two big annual contests in Ennis, Co Clare – townlands playing one another on Stephen's Day and “chapel areas” playing each other on St. Patrick's Day. There were also contests on Christmas Day and on St. Stephen's Day in Mayo on fine plains. Older generations recalled watching these games until the year 1860. Daithí Ó hUaithne mentions Christmas contests further south in Connamara. He considered the event was a ritual of some sort.

Another account of Christmas games comes from Leap, Co. Cork where a storyteller claimed the game played was not “hurling” as southerners knew it; “they had no hurleys, but sticks with a sloped head. The “sliotar” (ball) they used, was a piece of wood, exactly as they had in the North.

There is evidence of a hurling contest in Cork “a kind of Christmas athletic hosting” before the birth of the GAA. This took place at [Tulach Riascaigh](#) between the Powers and the Morgans usually on St. Stephens Day.

## Sofiya Christmas Dream 2024

Sofiya sleep on Christmas Eve, her heart  
was full of cheer  
For in her dreams, that magic night, it's  
the best time of the year  
She'd been to see her grandma who was  
always bright and jolly  
The house was warm and cheerful with  
baubles, lights and holly



She dreamt her sister woke her as their dog  
jumped on the bed  
As their little kitten Whiskers, demanded to  
be fed

"Let's go and see has Santa  
come", her excited sister cried  
So they sneaked down to their  
living room and had a peek  
inside



O' what a sight before them as  
they gazed under the tree  
Two shinning bikes and helmets, they were  
as happy as could be

Their mam and dad then joined them and  
they hugged each other tight  
"Now back to bed and get some sleep, it's  
the middle of the night"

Grandma came for dinner, they ate all they  
could desire  
Then Dad sat at the piano and Gran sat by  
the fire  
Dad played the tunes we all knew well and  
Mam sang her favourite song  
It was a lovely Christmas Day and we were  
home where we belong

Sofiya heard the howling wind as she woke  
up in her bed  
Her mind was in a turmoil with thoughts  
racing through her head  
She wasn't in her lovely house, just down the  
road from Gran  
Now a refugee in Ireland since that awful war  
began

She's living in a hotel room being looked  
after by their Mam  
Her Dad tries to contact them as often as he  
can  
It's Christmas Day in Ireland but the war  
goes on at home  
Sofiya can't hold back the tears as she talks  
to Gran by phone.

*By Benny*

## Kindness

It could be the guy in the Woodie's ad  
Mending Mrs. Higgins' gate  
Or the driver who waits at the bus stop  
When a passenger's running late.  
Or the woman who holds an open door  
To let you walk straight through  
Or the neighbour who moves your wheelie  
bin  
From the kerb to your side gate for you.

It could be the staff in the local shop  
Who carry your bags to your car  
Or the friend who is never too busy  
To phone you to see how you are  
Or the colleague who stays late to help you  
To make sure your deadlines are met  
Or the teacher who gives "great work"  
stickers  
To the pupil who has no home yet.

At the checkout it could be the person  
Who insists on you going ahead  
Cos you've only two items to pay for –  
A litre of milk and some bread –  
It may be the cyclist who stops for you  
To let you cross the street  
Or the teenager sitting inside the train  
Who gets up to give you his seat.

It may be a nod or a gesture It could be a  
wink or a smile  
But it counts as a real act of kindness  
To a person who's feeling fragile  
It needn't cost a single cent. It only costs a  
thought  
To make a difference to someone  
Without anything being bought.

*Rita O'Brien  
Lucan Writers Group*



## An Spideog - The Robin

When Redbreast sings from  
up on high,  
Expect good weather by  
and by.  
But if beneath your thatch  
he hides,  
Then frost and bitter winds are nigh





Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



### Miyawaki Forest

On Friday 13 of December 2024, in collaboration with @100\_million\_trees and with the support of AIB, we made a massive step towards environmental sustainability in our club. With the help of club volunteers, we were able to plant 1,700 native Irish trees, making us the proud stewards of the largest mini forest on any sporting site in Dublin!

To further promote biodiversity, we have also installed bat houses and will soon be building several bug hotels to create a thriving ecosystem within our grounds. In addition, we plan to rewild the area in front of the newly planted trees which will provide a vital habitat for wildlife.

We were delighted to welcome our club sponsors Supervalu Lucan and EdgeConneX to the event. Their generous support has been instrumental, and it was fantastic to see them join us in planting trees and investing in a more sustainable future.

As a club, we understand the importance of protecting our environment and want to ensure that future generations not only enjoy our facilities but also inherit a greener, more sustainable planet!



### Donate a Dress

Our Donate a Dress Fundraiser is back and will be hosted on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the club at 8pm. Please donate dresses, jackets, coats, tops & bags in good condition. This is a great way to declutter your wardrobe and promote sustainable shopping while also raising money for the club. Donations can be dropped off to the bar on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm. Tickets for the event will go on sale on January 1<sup>st</sup> and will cost €5. Contact Tracey Walsh 087 973 5655 or Colette Condon 086 379 9270 for more information.



### St Stephen's Day - 'Puck it for Marsy'

**Save the date!** - On St Stephen's Day (Thursday 26th December) there will be a Long Puck competition in the Club in memory of our former great, Derek Maher ('Marsy'), who passed away earlier this year. The competition will include categories for adult players, U18 players, and retired/non player in both men's and women's. The pucking will start at 1pm with refreshments in the bar afterwards. We are asking all adult and minor Hurling and Camogie teams to support this very special event and aim to have two or three entries from every team. Entry is €10

for adults, €5 for under 18s. Entry details will be advised in coming weeks.

### Lotto

We had no winner of last week's lotto jackpot of €1,000. The Numbers were 6, 7, 21, 24

The lucky dip prizes go to Kathleen Roche, Jackie Foley, Bridie Burke, Elaine Brennan, Triona Leonard.

This week's Lotto will be for a jackpot of €1,400. This draw is sponsored by O'Grady's Hearing Care Services.



### Dublin Senior Ladies Football Management

Congratulations to Paul Casey, Dublin Senior Joint Manager 2025. After a special convened meeting of the Dublin LGFA County Board, the Executive Committee have unanimously ratified our own Paul Casey and Derek Murray (Round Tower Clondalkin) as joint managers of the Dublin senior ladies football team. As we all know, Paul is an accomplished inter county player and played Dublin Senior football for 10 years, winning an All-Ireland in 2011. Paul has been a selector and defensive coach with the Dublin senior squad for the last seven years. Paul will be a busy man next year as he takes on this new role of Dublin Senior Manager as well as Lucan Sarsfields U8's boys. This is an incredible achievement and a very proud day for the club. We would like to wish Paul the very best of luck!

*Thank You for supporting Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club over the year. We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.*

The Staff of Lucan Library wish all their patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Lucan Library Christmas Holiday Opening Hours**

Last open day  
Monday 23rd December at 8pm

Reopening  
Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 9.45am

Registered My Open Library members have access to the self-service hours - ask at the desk for details on My Open Library



# FW Formula Woman Nations Cup

## IRELAND'S HANNA CELSIE QUALIFIES IN DUBAI FOR THE INAUGURAL FORMULA WOMAN GLOBAL NATIONS CUP QUALIFYING EVENT

*Hanna Celsie proved she was on the pace to comfortably qualify at the Dubai Autodrome race circuit for next May's FW Nations Cup finale.*



**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Dubai, UAE:** Irish racing driver Hanna Celsie successfully made it through the Formula Woman's Nations Cup

Qualifiers at Dubai Autodrome after three closely fought qualifying sessions on 12<sup>th</sup> December. On a unique day for motorsport, we witnessed race action in the form of a time trial set-up at the Dubai Autodrome circuit for 40 of some of the best female racing drivers from across the globe. Hanna produced an impressive overall performance throughout the adrenalin sapping day, to comfortably move on to the highly anticipated Formula Woman Global Nations Cup main finale, scheduled to take place in Dubai next May.

The qualifying event was made up of 38 selected drivers from almost 30 separate countries, which is a hugely impressive global cross section, that is down to the Formula Woman organisation and their extraordinary success of sourcing drivers who would most likely have never had the opportunity for competing at such a high level. Formula Woman Founder and CEO, Graeme Glew, reflected on the event, saying:

“Congratulations to Hanna on getting through. She drove sensibly in all three qualifying sessions, and keeping a clear head helped her overall performance. With a bit more practice between now and May, she will undoubtedly be even quicker at the final next year.

“There was some very impressive driving on show throughout the day and all the qualifiers will be delighted that they have made it through to Formula Woman Nations Cup.

“There is so much talent within Formula Woman, and we are extremely proud to have hosted such a successful event, here in Dubai. However, nothing stands still and we have already switched our focus to the main event when we return in May next year. Dubai is an inspiring and exciting location for motorsport, and we are committed to continuing to grow the Formula Woman brand on

a global level while using the impressive facilities available to us here.”

Hanna was clearly thrilled with her result and excited about the future, especially the FW Nations Cup finale in May next year. She said, “I’m grateful to be given the opportunity to represent my country and to be able to show the next generation that it is possible to follow your dreams!

“I feel my hard work and the endless support I have received has helped me qualify as it has pushed me to do better each time. My plan is to continue training and to push to improve my overall skills.

“Formula Woman has offered me a community of likeminded women with a passion for motorsport which is difficult to find. It has also offered me experiences and training that I never knew possible. My ultimate motorsport goal in the future is to keep driving, keep inspiring and get as far as I can, whether that be in Ireland or internationally.”

The Formula Woman Nations Cup will mark a truly special event in motorsport with its all-female grid and format.

वयिष्ठ और फिट4लाइफ महिला और पुरुष(18+)

यदि आपको चलना, दौड़ना, कूदना या फैकना पसंद है, तो ल्यूकन हैरियर आपके लिए है।

उपरोक्त किसी भी क्षेत्र में आपको प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए हमारे पास बहुत सारे प्रशिक्षक हैं और सभी का स्वागत है।

प्रशिक्षण समय और संपर्कों के लिए यदुआर कोड स्कैन करें।

## Oíche Nollaig

Don't blow the tall white candle out  
But leave it burning bright  
To show that they are welcome here  
This holy Christmas night.  
Keep the door upon the latch  
And leave the fire to keep  
And pray that they will stay with us  
When all the world's asleep.



*Mairtín O'Duireáin, Aran Islands*

## Cllr. Vicki Casserly PC – Fine Gael

Peace Commissioner. Tel: 0858317982.

[vcasserly@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie](mailto:vcasserly@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie)

**General Election 2024:** Thank you to each and every person who placed their trust and number one vote to me on November 29th. Although it was not my day, I greatly appreciated all the support, kind words and engagement with Lucan and the wider constituency. It is my greatest privilege to be your local councillor, and I look forward to continuing my work into 2025 representing our area to the best of my ability. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025.



## Minister Emer Higgins TD – Fine Gael

Office: 01 618 3013. Insta: @emerhigginstd

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EmerHigginsTD](https://www.facebook.com/EmerHigginsTD)

E Mail: [emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie](mailto:emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie)

**Beannachtaí na Nollag:** I would like to extend my very best wishes to all residents in Lucan. 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, it is greatly appreciated. Below are some emergency contacts just in case you need them over the Christmas holiday period. Lucan Garda Station 016667300. South Dublin County Council 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.

## Cllr. Caroline Brady - Fine Gael – P.C.

085 2551602. [CBrady@Cllrs.SDublinCoCo.ie](mailto:CBrady@Cllrs.SDublinCoCo.ie)

**Hillcrest Heights:** Residents raised concerns about vibrations on Hillcrest Heights coming from construction behind the road. A Senior Environmental Health Officer inspected the site, and the issue was resolved. Additionally, a damaged footpath on Hillcrest Heights was reported to the council for repair.

**Grants:** Housing Adaptation Grants are significantly improved, with grant limits increased by over 30% and income thresholds raised by 25%. The maximum Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People is €40,000, the Housing Aid for Older People Grant is €10,700, and the Mobility Aid Grant is €8,000. For forms or assistance with applications, please contact me.

**Aontas Concert:** Congratulations Aontas for a magical, festive performance in St. Patrick's Esker last week.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas. May Christmas bring joy, warmth, and happiness to you and your loved ones.

## Cllr. Joanna Tuffey, Labour Party

Phone 087 392 0931. Email [jtuffey@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie](mailto:jtuffey@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie)

All social media links at [linktr.ee/joannatuffey](http://linktr.ee/joannatuffey)

**Happy Christmas to all Lucan residents.**

Thank you for all your support and for your courtesy to the local Labour team in 2024. I look forward to representing you on the Council in 2025. 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.

## Paul Gogarty - TD

Tel: 087-2752489. Website [www.paulgogarty.com](http://www.paulgogarty.com)

**New Lucan Area Councillor:** Massive congratulations to Helen Farrell who was co-opted as my Council replacement on SDCC last Thursday. I was delighted to nominate Helen given her key involvement in the Campaign for a Lucan Swimming Pool and the Society for Old Lucan, as well as her many professional capabilities. Cllr Farrell brings a fresh, community-minded approach to politics and I look forward to working with her as part of a team.

**Dáil Resumption:** The Dáil resumed briefly on Wednesday to elect a Ceann Comhairle. So far there have been few real efforts to form anything other than a continuity FF/FG arrangement with the “rural independents”, who will add nothing to what is a stable, but stale configuration. I’ve had no approach from any grouping regarding forming a more dynamic programme for Government thus far.

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## Cllr. Liona O’Toole – Independent

0872795274. [lotoole@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie](mailto:lotoole@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie)

“Always working, always available”

**Bus Shelter Repairs:** I am pleased to share that my motion regarding safety concerns at the bus stop shelter on Esker Road (Stop No. 3368) was passed. It calls on the National Transport Authority (NTA) to take immediate steps to address issues raised by locals, including exploring temporary lighting solutions to ensure adequate visibility at the bus stop. Expediting plans to replace the existing shelter with one that meets modern accessibility and safety standards. Improving visibility by managing overgrown vegetation around the area. A formal letter will be sent to the NTA. I will keep residents updated on progress.

I want to extend my congratulations to Helen Farrell on her nomination onto South Dublin County Council as a co-op member. As an independent local councillor, I am delighted to warmly welcome Helen in her new role.





## St. Mary's Camera Soirée

This is the last report from St. Mary's Camera Soiree for 2024. As I write this the temperature outside is +12 degrees. I recall Christmas Eve of 2010 when the temperature in Lucan dropped to -16 degrees! We are promised a maximum temperature of +13 degrees on Christmas Eve this year.



This week Conor has submitted photographs taken along the river Liffey where the infrastructure has been illuminated for Christmas, in particular the façade of the Custom House and the Samuel Beckett Bridge with the National Conference Centre in the background. The bridge was designed by the Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava Valls, who also designed the James Joyce Bridge which joins the South Keys to Blackhall Place. The Custom House was James Gandon's first large-scale commission. It cost £200,000 which amounts to about €44 million today!



Donal was in the city photographing railway stations including Tara Street which is at one end of another bridge over the Liffey – the Loop Line constructed in

1891 to connect the rail services of the north and south of the city. It is undoubtedly the most controversial of the 21 bridges spanning the Liffey from Chapelizod to the port as it blocks the view of Gandon's Custom House.



Finally, Joe was in the State Apartments in Dublin Castle and submitted a beautiful photo of the Christmas decorations in St. Patrick's Hall, the grandest room of the state apartments, and containing one of the most important decorative interiors in Ireland.

*Until next year stay safe and have a peaceful Christmas!*

