



Established 1967

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

Sub. 80c

**Sunday 6 December 2020**



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

Christmas is fast approaching. This year, Christmas will be like no other, with Covid-19 restrictions in place, but hopefully it will be a joyful, peaceful time nonetheless.

However, St. Vincent de Paul members are well aware that Christmas also brings stress to many families who are already struggling. As the season approaches, we receive many additional requests for help to make Christmas a happy time for families.

During 2020, we have helped families with food vouchers. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we have been unable to visit clients. Instead, we have had to post out vouchers, missing out on those extra encouraging words when visiting.

Without our monthly collections at Mass, our funds are very much down. We thank those of you who have continued to contribute by leaving donations in the Sacristy.

This year, our Christmas appeal takes place at all Masses next weekend, 12th/13th of December. The collection will be on the way out of Mass. Envelopes will be on your seats and they can be dropped in the buckets on the way out. We know that each of you has your own demands and your generosity is much appreciated.

Since not everyone will be at Mass as normal, donations can also be left at the Sacristy at any stage.

We wish you and your families God's blessings, peace and good health this Christmas and always.



***St. Vincent de Paul, Lucan***

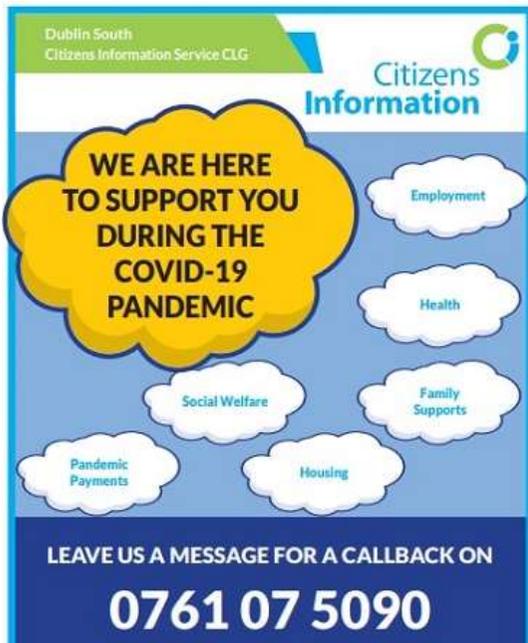
## Lucan Citizens Information Centre

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

COVID-19 has changed the service we offer to the public. Our drop-in service is not currently available, but we are taking phone calls, answering emails, and providing a call back service. Essential appointments are also available but currently we are carrying appointments out from our Ballyfermot CIC.

Call us on 0761 07 5090, leave a message with your name and number and we will get an Information Officer to return your call within 2 working days.

Or you can email your query to us at [dscis@citinfo.ie](mailto:dscis@citinfo.ie) and someone will reply.



### MABS

The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State's money advice service, guiding people through dealing with problem debt for over twenty years. MABS Clondalkin phone 0761 07 2270 or email [clondalkin@mabs.ie](mailto:clondalkin@mabs.ie)

### United Nations Human Rights Day is on Thursday 10th December

*2020 Theme: Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights*

This year's Human Rights Day theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures

exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.

10 December is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

More information is available on <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day#:~:text=2020%20Theme%3A%20Recover%20Better%20%2D%20Stand,are%20central%20to%20recovery%20efforts>

### Christmas Bonus

The Christmas Bonus is an extra payment for people getting a long-term social welfare payment.

The Christmas Bonus is 100% of your normal weekly long-term social welfare payment (the minimum payment is €20).

It will also be paid to people getting the COVID-Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) for at least 17 weeks. For more information see Christmas Bonus 2020 and PUP on our website.

The bonus will be paid during the week beginning 7 December 2020.

More information is available on [https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social\\_welfare/irish\\_social\\_welfare\\_system/christmas\\_bonus.html](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/irish_social_welfare_system/christmas_bonus.html)

### The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) was founded in 2011 and is an operational arm of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The NCSC is responsible for advising and informing Government IT and Critical National Infrastructure providers of current threats and vulnerabilities associated with network information security.

The main roles of the NCSC are to lead in the management of major cyber security incidents across government, provide guidance and advice to citizens and businesses on major cyber security incidents, and develop strong international relationships in the global cyber security community for the purposes of information sharing. In the period since 2011, the unit has focused its efforts on building capacity and establishing a stable base for its operational work. <https://www.ncsc.gov.ie/>

## A good neighbour is a welcome blessing!

One of my fondest and indeed earliest memories of our neighbours was popping around the corner to their Christmas Sale of Work. A visiting Santa, Wheel of Fortune, bric-a-brac and sweets galore – it was a treasure trove for all ages. The Presentation Sisters' spirit of generosity and kindness did not stop there. A walk around the block always included a visit to the church. Should you happen to meet the gentle Sr. Bernadette whilst there, you would rarely leave without a handful of fruit or pocketful of sweets.

Closer to home, our comings and goings were unobtrusively monitored by caring neighbours, in an age where we were oblivious to any dangers that could befall us. Of course time moved on and new neighbours joined our community. Once again we were blessed with people who looked out for each other and took an interest in those around them - albeit whilst raising young families and getting on with busy lives.

Fast forward to March 2020. No schools, no work, no socialising, no travel. Nothing but Covid. Yet, in the midst of all the doom and gloom, our youngest neighbours ignited the community with a newfound sense of hope and joy. During Lockdown their talents abounded – decorated notes were popped in letter boxes wishing the recipient a lovely day. We were educated on how to care for animals via hand drawn leaflets; lovingly made and dropped into porches. Dogs were walked and even groomed!

Our young neighbours are always ready to stop for a little chat – delighted to be off school, now happy to be back with their school friends. Amy and Sophia, Juliann and Rachel, Amy and Ava, Anna and all their friends are in good form and full of life and happiness – even when manning a cake stall on a freezing November Saturday in order to raise money to save The Zoo. They are the embodiment of good neighbours – both past and present. There are many like them in estates across the country. They give us hope for the future.

*A Lucan Resident*



## Public Worship

I must write to express my anger and frustration at the arrangements determined by our Government to allow the reopening of our churches for public worship.

The Government website describes the arrangements in a condescending tone as a **“Special concession..... in light of the upcoming Christmas period, to be reviewed in January”** and then goes on to stipulate that **services should not exceed one hour (this includes entrance and exit times) with at least one hour between services to allow for cleaning and ventilation and to avoid crowding/overlap.”**

I cannot find on any Government website dealing with restrictions imposed on other sectors to combat COVID 19 similar draconian rules. For example, nowhere can I find that restaurants are obliged to leave an hour between sittings or that the means of public transport are to be taken out of service for an hour between every journey. (Six people can sit at the one table for a lengthy period in a restaurant and 35 or 40 people can be in a bus for whatever length of time the journey takes). Maybe this information is buried somewhere on some website.

I can only conclude that the Government and its advisors do not see the public practice of religion as in any way important in these difficult times and that the **“concession”** has been granted grudgingly with a view to creating the maximum difficulty for the churches to comply but as a token gesture to Article 44 (2) of our constitution that provides that **“freedom of conscience and the free profession and practice of religion are, subject to public order and morality, guaranteed to every citizen”**.

*Yours sincerely  
Michael Grant*

## Thank You!

**Just a word of thanks to the gentleman who found the ladies glasses on Meadow View Grove. Much appreciated.**

*M.D.*

**Thank you to the very honest person who handed in my bag to Tesco.**

**Donation given to Temple Street.  
M.**



# Parish Notes

## St Mary's, Lucan

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



### Change to Sunday Mass Times

The restrictions limit the attendance to 69 people at each Mass and will be on a first come, first served basis. **New government guidelines** require a **1 hour time** interval between the end of one Mass and the beginning of the next, this is to allow for sanitising and ventilation.

For that reason, Mass times have been changed as outlined below.

**Saturday Vigil:** 6.30pm

**Sunday Masses:** **7.30am, 9am, 11am, 1pm** and 7pm

### Christmas Arrangements

#### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5pm, 7pm and 9pm (ticket only)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

7.30am, 9am, 11am (ticket only)



After the 11am Mass on Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be distributed in the Church for all comers.

#### ST. STEPHEN'S DAY MASSES

10am, 12pm. (Ticket only)

**Important Notice:** Masses for Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day and St Stephen's Day will be by **ticket admission only** and those wishing to be included in a **lottery for these tickets** should complete the form available in Church porch or sign up online.

Masses will continue to be available on the webcam at [www.lucanparish.com](http://www.lucanparish.com)

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

**Praying With Scripture:** Praying with scripture is now on zoom.

If interested contact Cheryl Murphy at 086 834 3754 to register.

**Private Prayer:** The church will be open daily from **10.30am to 6pm – Monday to Saturday** (funerals permitting) and **noon to 6pm on Sundays** for private prayer. Please ensure social distancing when visiting the church and use hand sanitizers provided when entering and leaving.

**Deepest Sympathy** to the family and friends of **Marie O'Connor**, The Old Rectory, to the husband, family and friends of **Mary Hyde**, Weston, to the family and friends of **Kitty Byrne**, Sarsfield Park and Lucan Lodge and to the wife, family and friends of **Michael Gilmartin**, Esker Lawns.

*May they rest in peace.*

**Church Art Calendar:** Available in the Parish Centre. **Parish Office is open:** Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri. From 9.30am to 1pm. Cost €2.

**Please ring door bell.**

## Divine Mercy, Lucan South

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

### Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm,

Sunday 10:30am and 12.15pm

### Weekday Mass:

Monday to Friday 9:15am. Saturday 10am.

**Weekday Mass:** Monday to Friday 9:15am, Saturday 10am.

**All Masses** will be on a **first come, first served** basis to a maximum capacity of 50.

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

**Private Prayer:** The Faustina Chapel is open for private prayer from **10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday**. Please remember to sanitise your hands when you enter and wear a face covering if you would like to visit the Church so it can remain a safe space for everyone.

## Medjugorje Mass

St Mary's Church, Lucan

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**

Rosary at 6.00pm

Note limited seating due to Covid-19

Call or text Pat & Phil 087 223 8911

Mass will be livestreamed on [lucanparish.com](http://lucanparish.com) or Marian Pilgrimages facebook page

7.30pm: Marian Pilgrimages Prayer Meeting



**Pat and Phil would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Covid-19 free 2021**

## St. Patrick's Esler/Doddsboro/Adamstown

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

**Sunday Masses:** Vigil Saturday 7pm,  
9am 10.30am Family Mass and 12 noon.

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

All Masses are now streamed live on the Parish Utube channel and **50 people** can attend (on a first come, first served basis) during level 3 measures. The **10.30am Sunday Family Mass** will continue to be **only live streamed**.

**8<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception** - Mass: Monday Vigil 7pm and Tuesday 10am.

### Advent:

Airports are going to be quite different this Christmas. I am sure, like me, your heart is always warmed watching the TV news of people disembarking at airports in the days before Christmas, waiting for loved ones to arrive from a flight. They are excited, eager for the first appearance of a familiar face, ready with the broad smile of greeting to embrace the returning traveller. This year there will not be too many expectant faces or warm embraces.

Advent is waiting for the birth of Jesus, but we are waiting each year for someone who is already here. However, we are not static people, we are dynamic by nature, always changing, forever new. Into the various stages of our lives we need God our saviour. Our world needs the child of peace to be born in our wars, in our confrontations and in our aggression.

We too wait for the Lord's coming with eagerness because we long for his presence. A central theme of Advent is hope; not hope "that" but hope "in". It is not a hope that our desires will be fulfilled but a hope in Jesus who is the foundation of all hope. His birth on Christmas morn' is not only the fulfilment of all our dreams but the fulfilment of salvation history. Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.

**We would like to invite you** to deepen your own prayer life during this wonderful season of Advent by participating, if you can, on our website on **Wednesdays at 10.30am**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Advent Service of Reconciliation

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Advent Prayer Service

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec:** Advent Prayer Service  
Services will remain online to be viewed at your convenience



**Private Prayer:** Church is open for private prayer, weekdays 10 am to 12 noon. Access through pastoral door at far side of the Church.

**View the following on** [www.stpatrickslucan.ie](http://www.stpatrickslucan.ie)

Mass Readings for the week

Morning Prayer – Lauds

Evening Prayer – Vespers

Take five at 10 - Reflections–Weekdays: 10am

Taizé – Watch and Pray

### Lucan Senior Citizens

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of our friend and club member **Maureen Dillon**. We all valued Maureen's friendship and kindness. We will miss her wonderful smile and sense of fun. Sincere sympathy to Tom, Mary, Anne, family and friends.

*May her gentle soul rest in peace.*



**CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE FOR  
OLDER PEOPLE**

**0818 222 024**

### COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

**The support line is open seven days a week,  
8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.**



**Wishing Mary a speedy  
recovery**

**You won't know yourself!**

**Please note that the obligation to attend  
Sunday Mass is temporarily lifted by Pope  
Francis for the duration of the crisis.**

# Anniversaries

2020

## CONDON (JEMMERS)

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary - 5<sup>th</sup> December

Esker Cottages.

First year away from home.

We miss your smile

Your joking ways

We miss the things

You used to say

And when old times

We do recall

It's when we miss you

Most of all.

*From your loving wife Philomena (Philo) and sons Paul and Jay and extended family*



## CURTIS (PATTIE)

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 1<sup>st</sup> December

Late of 52 Dodsboro.

*Loved and missed by all the family*

## FALLON (BERNARD)

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary - 7<sup>th</sup> December

May the winds of Heaven blow softly

And whisper in your ear

How much we love and miss you

And wish that you were here.

*Sadly missed and loved by your wife Betty, daughters Catherine, Liz and Mary, son Gabriel, grandchildren and great grandchildren*



Life has never been so uncertain, my anxiety grows and grows

When will this pandemic end, no one really knows

We have to stay two metres, from everyone we see

When we can give a hug again, how happy I will be

To put a mask upon my face, is so unreal to me  
For how I'm feeling on that day, no one can really see

For our faces tell our story, and show how we feel each day

To hide our smile and wrinkles, seem so wrong in every way

My emotions are just everywhere, from worry, fear and dread.

And my heart is truly broken, for the lonely, sick and dead

I worry for our elderly, and those living on their own

And the effects this will have on children, and on those who may lose their home

I cannot see my family, and I miss them oh so much

But with mobile phones and internet, we can stay in touch

So I count my blessings, and stay positive each day

And I'm sure in the near future, a Covid vaccine will be on its way

We have learned so many lessons, to slow down and take a rest

And be kind and thankful to ourselves, for we all try to do our best

I appreciate the simple things, like going for a walk

And meeting someone on the Prom, for a social distant talk

I hope that in our future, we will remember these crazy days

in how strong we were together, and united in so many different ways

And when this pandemic is over, and we all can reunite

We'll get together and celebrate, and thank God that we're alright!

*Laura O'Donnell*

## Christmas Cards

Available from

**St Mary's Parish Centre:**

**Open:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from

**9.30am - 12.30pm.**

**Please ring door bell.**

**Christmas Novena**

**Mass Cards**

**Christmas Mass Bouquet**

**Nagarhope**

**Christmas Cards**

**(€5 - Pack of 12)**

**Six beautiful designs**

**Also available from 191 Beech Park**

**or contact 087-0666891**

## N4 turn westbound on Woodies Bridge

There are serious concerns about the traffic implications of reduction into one lane on this bridge of ongoing traffic to Ballyowen junction and right turning onto slip road going on to N4. Parents, students and all those that use this junction on the Outer Ring road know the gridlock here on a daily basis.

This traffic delay will be compounded by traffic queues wanting in the same lane as those going westbound onto N4. It will also delay traffic coming off the N4 eastbound going towards Ballyowen.

There is a risk that SDCC, who looked at closure of this right turn in 2017, or BusConnects would at a later time seek closure of this junction to address congestion.

In that case traffic may start using the likes of Hermitage estate or those either side of Ballyowen junction to u-turn to access the N4. Previous alternative suggestions had been to go through congested Lucan village or drive to Liffey Valley and return eastbound.

We ask people of Lucan who would be impacted by any of these points to send in an objection by Dec 16th to [cbc@busconnects.ie](mailto:cbc@busconnects.ie)  
Or post to  
National Transport Authority  
Dun Sceine, Harcourt Lane,  
Dublin 2, D02WT20

Contact: [Woodvilledowns@hotmail.com](mailto:Woodvilledowns@hotmail.com)



## Would you like to develop your online speaking; presenting; interview skills?

Don't let Covid restrictions delay your self-improvement plans.

Come join Lucan Toastmasters for Our club meeting on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 7:45pm on Zoom**

Learn how to communicate effectively online in a supportive and fun environment.

Email [ypmlucantostmasters@gmail.com](mailto:ypmlucantostmasters@gmail.com) for your exclusive zoom invitation



We held our annual AGM online on Thursday the 26th of November. The event was recorded and will be available on our

website next week.

*Stay safe & well, the Liffey Sound team.*

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

## Lucan Lions Club

Lucan Lions Club has commenced their 32nd annual Christmas Appeal. This year we have again partnered with SuperValu to raise funds for food vouchers.



We need your support to purchase food vouchers and the Lions Club will distributed the vouchers to local needy families at Christmas time. Every Euro donated will be used to purchase vouchers.

When you are next at the checkout in SuperValu please select or request to donate €2. Alternatively the Lions Club food trolley and The Lions collection box are positioned outside Kay's Kitchen.



[www.lucanlionsclub.com](http://www.lucanlionsclub.com) also has a Donate button.



**PLEASE NOTE:**  
We are **NOT** operating from the Newsletter

**Office at the moment**, but leave your ads, queries or notices in the **letter box at St. Mary's Parish Centre, before 10pm on Wednesday night**, and we'll collect and look after them.

Alternately email any of the following:  
[marylucannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:marylucannewsletter@gmail.com)  
[annalucannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:annalucannewsletter@gmail.com)  
[roselucannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:roselucannewsletter@gmail.com)  
[catherinelucannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:catherinelucannewsletter@gmail.com)



**Star of the Week has to be Eva Norton** who put in a stunning performance on the Late Late Toy Show, last weekend.

Eva was joined virtually by young stars from all over the world - Adelaide, Times Square, New York City, Bahrain, Perth, and South Korea of all places,

for a magical rendition of Gary Barlow's *Rule the World*. The great man himself even joined in.



We look forward to hearing more from Eva in the future! (Photo courtesy RTE).

Congratulations to the members of **Lucan's Zara Curtis Dance Academy** who also appeared in the show.

It was a tremendous production, that opened our eyes, and raised over €6 million for different child organisations. Well done to all who contributed - We can work wonders when we join together!

**We won't save Christmas by ignoring the Wise Men** – was the heading in last Sunday's Independent, and how true!

It's great that we can come out of Level 5, but much attention is needed to keep things going the right way. We must be guided by the experts! Stay safe!

**Dubs in December!** Looking forward to the Dubs v Cavan semi-final this coming Saturday. Delighted Cavan got this far, but we have to cheer for the Boys in Blue once again.



**Magical misty morning in Lucan Demesne.**

Even though the weather is very cold, a bright sunny morning can work wonders for the soul.

**Sarsfield's Return!** Did you hear that the people involved in **Limerick's Wild Geese Festival** for 2021, are seeking to bring General Patrick Sarsfield's body back to Limerick, where the famous treaty was signed, and then over 10,000, including Sarsfield, fled with the Wild Geese.

Maybe Lucan Festival should join the race! (only joking, Joe!)

**Christmas won't be the same!** So what!

Maybe we'll realise the true meaning of the feast. Some of our readers will remember a man who was born at the Old Spa in Lucan, in 1901.

Christopher Ledwidge was his name. We enjoyed many letters from him recalling his childhood in Lucan, and then he visited us.

When asked about Christmas, he replied: "It was no different than any other day", just that they went to Mass and had a small crib at home.



*How times have changed!*

**Due to pressure of space**, we have held some items over for next week's issue, when we can give them the space they deserve!



# SCHOOL NEWS



## St. Thomas' JNS Esker

### Admissions 2021



The enrolment process for **Junior Infants** for the school year **September 2021/2022** is now open.

**The closing date is 29/1/2021.**

The application form can be downloaded on our website at [www.stthomasjns.com](http://www.stthomasjns.com)

For further information please contact 01-6282691 or email [info@stthomasjns.com](mailto:info@stthomasjns.com)

## Adamstown Community College

Our College Awareness week is just over it was a busy week with lots of activities designed to create awareness amongst students of their possible college/career pathways. Thanks to all for their cooperation in running the event, particular thanks to Ms. Lanham for all her hard work.

Events included Art and Lit competitions, webinars with Maynooth University and TU Dublin. Karl Addison (BSc. Engineering TUD) visited us to speak to senior students on his college experience.

Also during the week TY students enjoyed their first Community mentoring session with Trinity's access programme. Trinity's access student officers Kemi, Mark, Victoria, Blessing and Joy joined our TYs to facilitate this first meeting.



5th year students (*pictured above*) completed their course with AWARE on the topic of CBT and Growth Mind set, facilitated very ably by Austin Dunne.

To end the week our school hosted for all students a very special webinar with past pupils Tarran Ward (BSc, Engineering UCD), Caoimhe Naughton (BA. MU), Hannah Walsh (Biomedical Science MU) and Hannah Swords Whelan (BA Design, NCAD). It was great to catch up with our past pupils and get some advice from them about Career pathways.

## Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you  
The warmth of a home and hearth to you  
The cheer and good will of friends to you  
The hope of a childlike heart to you  
The joy of a thousand angels  
to you  
The love of the Son and  
God's peace to you



## Coláiste Phádraig CBS

**Transition Year:** Our Transition Year students are remaining extremely active this term despite the disappointment at the lack of outdoor excursions and trips due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place throughout November. They are currently involved in organising a number fundraising initiatives for the residents of Marymount Care Centre, which is located just off the Strawberry Beds in Westmanstown, Lucan. Spearheaded by the Trojan work of the fundraising committee which consists of Conor Henson, Cian Dardis, Jamie Byrne and Ryan Bayly, the students have set up a donation stream through the school app which has already raised over 220euro.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December the TY students will be partaking in a sponsored Silence Day in the school. Their teachers will be only too willing to make a donation! If any of the students is heard talking at any stage in the day, they must pay a fine that will be added to the amount raised on the day. There is a seanfhocal in Irish, “Is binn béal ina thost” (Silence is golden) so this can be their motto and inspiration for the day!

The 1<sup>st</sup> yr classes will have a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and a video afternoon in their classrooms, for which they will pay 2euro each, which should raise 250euro.

The students are also putting together a Christmas Carolling Video with recordings of different groups singing some festive favourites. They also recorded socially distanced Christmas goodwill messages and carol singing from the 1<sup>st</sup> yrs which they plan to edit and send on to Marymount. They hope to raise enough money to buy all 124 residents a Christmas present so the students are to be commended on being involved in such an uplifting initiative that certainly upholds the spirit and values of Edmund Rice.

The TY groups were treated to delicious hot chocolate, donuts, cookies, croissants, tea and coffee last week by Beanery, a mobile caterer from Clane, as a thank you for their fantastic work on The Virtual Talent Show which was held in October. The food was served from a converted vintage 1973 French Citron barista van that used to be an ambulance!

The students are currently in their 3<sup>rd</sup> week of their FAI Coaching course which takes place in the Sports Hall every Wednesday from 11:10-1:10pm. They are being taught number games, fun penalty shoot-outs and co-ordinated colour cones drills (such as red cone=shoot, blue cone=pass etc) with the ultimate aim being that

the students can then coach and train young players from 5-12 all around Dublin, allowing them to build confidence and begin their football journey in an enjoyable, supportive, no-pressure environment. They are all looking forward to putting their newly developed coaching skills into practice in the near future.

A basic First Aid course was delivered to the students by E-FAST Ireland in the school last week. The day covered a range of first aid techniques using a combination of theory and practical skills to enable the students to recognise and provide treatment for common injuries and illnesses they may encounter, while awaiting the arrival of Emergency Medical Services. They learned basic CPR and other important First Aid skills such as treating sprains, cuts, burns etc.

In Engineering the students are learning how to build bridges out of lollipops. The bridge has to cover a 50cm gap and must hold 8kg without collapsing. They less sticks used from the 150 provided the more points they win so this is bringing out everyone’s competitive side!

In Physics, they have to build a contraption that will hold an egg that will be dropped from a height without breaking it. For example, some are designing parachutes that should hopefully prevent the egg from smashing on impact!

The TY students would usually be heading off on work experience this time of the year but the current restrictions do not allow for this at the moment. They are hopeful that their two-week work-experience before Easter will go ahead, so long as it is safe to do so.

**Exams:** Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> yr students completed their Christmas exams last week. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time exams have been run in the school since the COVID-19 restrictions. Thankfully everything went extremely smoothly and every student got to sit in their own assigned seat, in well ventilated, socially distanced centres, for the duration. Ms. Garbutt did a fantastic job organising and planning the entire exam schedule and daily timetable for all and she ensured that every precaution necessary was taken to provide the students with the safest, most comfortable exam experience possible in these challenging times. After the disrupted learning experience experienced by the students during the last school year, it was comforting to get back to some sort of normality in school. We would like to commend the students on their co-operation and patience throughout the whole process and wish them well as they receive their results in the coming days. Exams for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> yrs from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.



## St Joseph's College

We celebrated **College Awareness Week** this week. Teachers were invited to upload a selfie of themselves, along with details of where they went to college and what course they studied. The pictures were displayed on the school corridors and digi-screens. The idea was that it would generate conversations between teachers and students, junior and senior, about college options and opportunities they have available to them after they finish secondary school. Simon Harris TD, minister for Further and Higher Education, made a short video for our students encouraging them to consider all of the Higher Education options available to them (the video can be viewed on our Twitter/Website/App). On Friday, Ciara Kearney, a recent graduate from BESS in Trinity will talk to interested 6th Year students, about studying Business, Economics & Social Studies in Trinity College. The pictures and vide generated a lot of interest from students. Well done to our Guidance Department for arranging the event!



Ms Kenny is continuing the lunchtime **Maths Support** for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students, in room 41 every Monday at senior lunchtime. This is a very useful resource and all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students are welcome to attend.

Our Guidance Department administered the **Differential Aptitude Tests** (DATs) with 4th Year students on Wednesday. The DATs are a series of aptitude tests similar to the assessment tests students sat before coming into first year. The benefits to students taking the tests include helping them become familiar with aptitude tests which are not normally part of school or state examinations. Information from the tests is also used to assist students with their subject choice and career choice in the future. The tests are computer scored and made available to students as soon as possible following their delivery back to the school. This year the DATs were delivered via Zoom to the students in their classrooms under test conditions.

A reminder that our Parents' Association is holding a **Monster Raffle** draw on the 17th of December. There are wonderful prizes and all of the funds raised will be spent on student projects. Ticket books were distributed to students on Wednesday. Our Parents' Association have worked very hard to make this a great success and all support would be very much appreciated. Details of the Raffle and prizes can be found on our Website.

Last week our TY students had an action packed '**Activity Week**', experiencing a range of great activities including:

Treasure hunt and cycling in the Phoenix Park, Team Building, Hair styling, Bodhran with Bodhran Buzz, Juggling, Zumba, Crafting, Irish Dancing, Sport, Body percussion and music, Forensic Science, Drama, Classics and more! Well done to Ms Butler our new Transition Year Co-ordinator and everybody who contributed to making this a super week for our TY students! They really enjoyed it!



*Always time to learn a new skill! Enjoying the Bodhrán workshop.*



*Getting creative at the Craft Workshop*

School website <https://stjosephslucan.com>  
Follow us on Twitter: @STJosephs3

# Political Notes

## Shane Moynihan – Fianna Fáil

Email: [smoynihan@cllr.sdblincoco.ie](mailto:smoynihan@cllr.sdblincoco.ie)

Ph: 087 7840898. Facebook.com/cllrshanemoynihan

Twitter: @shanemoynihan Instagram:

cllrshanemoynihan

**Council Budget:** I was pleased to vote to adopt the South Dublin County Council budget for 2021 – the largest budget in the history of the Council. Funding for key initiatives in Lucan is protected. It also included increased investment in the tree maintenance programme, the largest housing budget in over a decade, footpath repair and cycle infrastructure maintenance, all of which represent important priorities for me and my Fianna Fáil colleagues.

**Public lighting repair:** There have been delays in repairing public lights over the past few weeks. If you have reported a light for repair or see one which requires repair, please let me know and I will contact the Council on your behalf.

**Christmas lights:** Well done to all the residents across Lucan who are lighting their estates up with Christmas lights. Tá an Nollaig ag teacht!

## Cllr. Emer Higgins – Fine Gael

Ph. 01 4013416. [emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie](mailto:emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie)

78 The Orchard, Lucan, Co. Dublin

### Covid Cases Are Reducing In Our

**Community:** During the second two weeks in November 41 Covid cases were reported in the Lucan area, compared to 127 cases at the end of October and the rate per 100,000 has decreased from 380 to 123, which is a great improvement but still slightly above the national average. Well done to everyone, let's keep it going!

**Sports Capital Grants:** €40m has been made available for the Sports Capital Grants. The application system will open on December 11th. If your club needs any further information please contact my office.

**Know Where You Stand:** Following Budget 2021 I have produced a comprehensive 5 page guide to your entitlements in 2021. This has been sent to most homes in Lucan. If you would like a copy sent to you please call my office.



## Cllr. Paul Gogarty

Tel: 087-2752489. Email: [info@paulgogarty.com](mailto:info@paulgogarty.com)

**Stray horses:** Following the most recent reports about the mistreatment of horses in South Dublin, I raised this with SDCC and in liaison with An Garda Síochána a number of animals were seized. Prosecutions are pending. If you see horses that appear to be neglected, please get in touch.

**Wall impasse continues:** There seems to be no end to the ongoing dispute between the Council and the Italian representatives regarding responsibility for the repair of the collapsed wall opposite the Maxol. I will continue to highlight this matter as it's now 18 months on and getting ridiculous.

**Esker Cemetery:** Good to see plans being progressed for the extra cemetery spaces and a columbarium following ongoing representations by myself and other Councillors. The process is taking a long time but hopefully things will be in situ before the new cemetery starts to open ground.



Debi's mum Joan is a resident of one of our local nursing homes. Joan has lost many of her dear friends to covid and hasn't been able to spend time with friends and family. Now like many more Joan may not be able to spend Christmas at home. So let's spread a little joy.

We are calling on our local schoolchildren to write cards or letters to brighten up their Christmas.

We are also asking for gift donations, to give everyone in our three local nursing homes a little present to let them know we are thinking of them and how special they are to us.

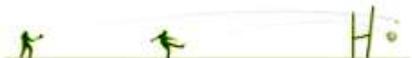
Gifts and cards can be dropped to **Lucan Garda Station** or anyone who wishes to donate can also email [noreen.c.barrett@garda.ie](mailto:noreen.c.barrett@garda.ie) and items can be collected.

Santa will make a special delivery the week before Christmas, so we would ask that **donations be dropped by the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.**

We would ask that all gifts be unwrapped and in a gift bag. All items will be sanitised and quarantined for the required time.



Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



### Come On You Girls In Blue!!

Many congratulations to the Dublin Ladies Senior Football team on their win over Armagh to reach the All Ireland Final against either Cork or Galway who play on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The Dubs are going for 4-in-a-row in their seventh consecutive All Ireland final appearance. Lucan Sarsfields are represented on the playing panel by Abby Shiels and by Ken Robinson and Paul Casey on Mick Bohan's backroom team.

### New Senior Camogie Manager

We are delighted to announce that Dermot English will take over as Lucan Sarsfields Senior Camogie manager. Dermot has been involved at all levels with the club over the last number of years. We would also like to express our gratitude to outgoing manager Dave Keenan for the last four years and wish him every success for the future. We have no doubt Dave will continue to contribute to the clubs player and coach development into the future.

### New Club Executive

The Online AGM took place last Thursday evening, the Executive for 2020 - Chairperson Colm Farrell, Vice Chairperson Michael Bowler, Secretary Josephine Mahon, Asst. Secretary Mary Flannery, PRO Paddy Lyons, Treasurer Jim Mulqueen, Asst. Treasurer Ronan Foley, Registrar John Cosgrove, Children's Officer Niamh O'Brien, Oifigeach Gaeilge Michele Ui Bhuachalla, Players Rep. Lorna Sexton. Floor Members Deirdre McCormick, Fergal Gavin and Michaela Caseley. Our grateful thanks to outgoing executive members, Diarmuid Kennedy Michael Wisdom and Paul Kyne.



### Pitch Closed

A reminder to all members and visitors to our club, that Pitch no. 1 (Senior Pitch) is closed to ALL activities, except pitch maintenance. We do not want all the hard work that was carried out during the lockdowns to be undone.



### Lucan Sarsfields Healthy Club

The healthy club are once again collecting donations for the Inner City Helping Homeless Charity. There is an online webinar scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>, discussing the impact of Covid-19 on sporting communities. Please see the [www.lucansarsfields.ie](http://www.lucansarsfields.ie) for more information.



### Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club Christmas Draw

The Christmas Draw tickets will shortly be distributed. We are asking ALL MEMBERS HOUSEHOLDS to sell just one book (5 tickets) for this to be a HUGE success. It is a vital fundraiser for the club to ensure we can keep supporting our 140+ teams' activities. The first 2500 tickets sold will be automatically entered into the GAA National Club Draw, so get your tickets returned early. Full details on the website.

### Bereavement Notice

Our sympathies to the McClelland family on the recent death of Margaret Pauline, mother-in-law of Georgina and grandmother of Jessie (Senior Camogie).

**The Lucan District Credit Union Academy** for girls and boys born in 2013, 2014 and 2015 only, continues on Saturday. To register your child for a place, contact David Moran, Club GPO, on 0879267607. Pre-registration with David is essential as due to Covid guidelines, as only pre-registered children can attend training.



### The 12th Lock Café

opening hours 6-9pm Monday to Friday and 9:30am to 1:30pm Saturday. These times

may change in line with Covid-19 guidelines. Visit the Café's

FaceBook page, <https://fb.me/12thLockCafe>, to see our special offers and Christmas ideas.

**Club Shop December opening hours:** O'Neill's club shop will open at the following times:

Thursdays – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Saturdays – 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 5.00pm

### Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club Lotto Jackpot

€3800. There was no winner of the €3400 jackpot of the draw held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November sponsored by Dual Printing. The numbers drawn were **3, 9, 12, 24.** The



**Lucky Dip winners of €30 each are:** Anna Nolan, Eamon Cuggy, Caroline Treanor, Cormac Gordon and Aaron McCormack.

The Jackpot for the next draw at 9pm on December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be €3800, sponsored by Henley Forklift Group and managed by Mary Flannery. The draw will be held behind closed doors and live streamed on our Facebook page. Make sure your entry is submitted before 6pm to be included in the draw, tickets can be purchased online at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/LucanSarsfieldsClubLotto>.

Thank You for supporting Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club.

## Looking at December Weather

**Early December:** Alexander Buchan was a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Meteorologist. He identified mild and cold spells throughout the year, which he claimed occurred with regularity. One such mild spell is during the period December 3 to 14. This spell often occurs with daytime temperatures in excess of 10C. It is a pleasant antidote to the increasing darkness. Taking the whole month into account the average maximum temperature at Casement Aerodrome is 8C. If you consider the nighttime temperature as well, then December is warmer than the other two winter months of January and February.

**Winter Warmth at Peamount:** Peamount Sanatorium was founded in 1912 as a tuberculosis hospital. As the incidence of TB declined in later years, it became possible to offer a wide range of healthcare services. In bygone days, hospitals, colleges and other institutions sometimes maintained their own weather station, measuring temperature and rainfall. Weather information wasn't widely available then. Sometimes TB patients slept outdoors at night and it was a good idea to be aware of the outdoor temperature! Sleeping outside was considered part of the treatment. The idea was that the fresh air was beneficial in reducing the infection.

**December 1948:** On December 2 1948 Dublin Airport and Phoenix Park recorded a temperature of 17C. However, Peamount Hospital reached an amazing 18C. This is a national temperature record for December. 18C is what you would normally expect on an average June afternoon. Southerly winds and a "fohn effect" from the Dublin and Wicklow mountains can occasionally bring high winter temperatures to Dublin. The "fohn effect" occurs when moist winds dry out and become warm as they descend a mountain. In Switzerland these warm mountain winds are well known and fire warnings are sometimes issued when they are about to occur.

**Severe December Weather:** The winter of 1962-63 was very severe. Between December 25 and 31 snow fell over most of the country. An amazing depth of 45cm of snow was measured at Casement Aerodrome on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup>. The very harsh weather was experienced in Britain also. The effect on wildlife was catastrophic. In



Leicestershire a woman carrying bread rolls in an open basket was attacked and knocked down by pigeons!

On December 31 seven miles of foreshore at Southend was frozen, with ice stretching 200 yards out to sea. A more recent example of severe December weather occurred in 2010. At Casement Aerodrome on Christmas morning an unforgettable minus 16C was recorded. The economic recession was well under way with the Troika in town to see what could be done. State-supported Allied Irish Bank was forced by the Minister for Finance to cancel planned €40 million staff bonuses following public outrage at the prospect.

**London Smog:** In December 1952 the infamous London smog occurred. It began on December 5 and lasted for four days. The temperature never rose above freezing in the Thames Valley. Some 4,000 people were believed to have died from bronchial troubles. This situation led to the introduction of The Clean Air Act which greatly improved living conditions in busy cities.

**Christmas Day Weather:** In the last 50 years the coldest Christmas Day was December 25 2010. I have already referred to the minus 16C at Casement Aerodrome on Christmas morning. In complete contrast a very mild day occurred on December 25 1974. At Dublin Airport 14C was recorded. Christmas Day 2011 came very close to this and the temperature only a fraction of a degree lower than in than in 1974.

### News from December 1974

10<sup>th</sup>: Seán McBride won The Nobel Peace Prize  
19<sup>th</sup>: Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh was sworn in in as 5<sup>th</sup> President of Ireland.

**During the month:** The first Michelin Stars for fine dining in Ireland were awarded to The Airbutus Lodge in Cork and The Russell Hotel, St. Stephen's Green.

**A White Christmas:** The chances of it occurring depend on your definition. At Dublin Airport if you mean just any snow falling at all then the chances are approximately once in six years. If you want snow lying during Christmas Day then it is a lot less frequent than that.

### Weather Saying

*"For a warm Christmas Day,  
The parson doth pray".*

A mild Christmas was considered unhealthy, leading to more deaths than usual. Parsons supplemented their income with burial fees!  
D.T.



## *The Knitted Children*

The doorbell rang “Parcel for Maria Murphy, sign here” says Richie our Postman handing me a stylus to sign the electronic pad. I stood holding a large brown box trying to guess what was inside, to say I was excited was an understatement. The box, though large was light and easy to carry, I immediately discounted perfumes, candles, shoes or any commodity encased in glass, wine to be precise.

I reverently placed the box on the kitchen table and located a scissors, carefully slitting the cardboard on the front and sides before lifting the lid. Neatly arranged inside was an array of colours in 100grs Balls. There were super chunky balls of a variation of fawn, gold and tan mixture intertwined, then some double knitting sage green tweed and lastly five balls of royal blue chunky with one each of mustard and rose pink in the same ply. I should mention that the inside of the cardboard box was red, a delight to me, for I am known as a salvager of string, paper and other items termed will come in handy one day. The box also contained three patterns and some buttons and at the arrival of the parcel of wool and patterns was a signal that my knitting had finally become an accepted part of the Murphy family folklore, note to say I thought you might like to knit these, no hurry.

*Love Marian.*

Thus began my Covid knitting crusade, a journey that brought me to memories and places spanning almost seventy years. My earliest memory of knitting is standing in front of my Mum and holding my hands out wide while a hank of wool was placed around each hand and my Mum wound it into a ball, making it easier to knit with. Next I can remember walking round the school yard at lunchtime with Theresa Ryan both of us knitting scarves for our dolls, the scarves were stripped lengths of varying widths (a dropped stitch here and an added stitch there) made from an assortment of odds and ends of wool. Knitting, sewing and cooking were part of the primary school curriculum back in the 1950's and 60's. We

learned to turn a heel using 4 needles, to darn socks and make brown bread, all skills needed for when we became good housewives.

One year, I received a birthday card from my children and on its cover was a picture of a child kitted out in a knitted ensemble from head to toe with the caption Knitted by my Mother underneath. The card was signed by each of the children and inherent in their birthday messages was a common sympathy for the poor child, they understood. Another annoying trait of the knitter (me) was the clacking of the needles as I diligently trotted through garter stitch, moss stitch, double moss stitch, stocking stitch, blackberry stitch etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.....while the family were engrossed in a TV programme.

*mgm Christmas 2020*



## *Christmas Gifts*



The gifts I'd leave  
beneath your tree,  
Aren't those that you  
can touch or see,  
not wrapped in  
Christmas tissue gay  
but gifts to bless you

every day.

The gift of friendship warm and true,  
Is one that I would leave for you  
Good health and happiness and cheer  
to keep you smiling through the year.  
The gift of peace that comes from God,  
with prayer to guide each path you tread  
and when your heart has lost its song  
the gift of hope to cheer you on.

*Author Unknown*

## St. Mary's Camera Soirée

Last week I reported that member of the group were selecting photographs from their recent virtual exhibition, which was another victory over COVID and a great success, with a view to producing a calendar for 2021. I am happy to report that due to the commitment of Conor printing of the calendar is in hand and copies are expected to be available before next weekend.

Given the economics of printing the calendar it is likely that there will be a small number of copies of the calendar available for sale after the demands of the group have been satisfied.



The price will be €10 each and proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Further details on availability next week.

It is evident from the photos exchanged on WhatsApp in the past week that since the relaxation in the rule on travel some members have been taking advantage of the new dispensation. As you can

see from this week's selection of published photos the members of the group are still capturing the last of the Autumn colours.



*Until the next time stay safe!*