



Church of Ireland
**United Dioceses of
Cork, Cloyne & Ross**
Abbeystrewry Union

Abbeystrewry Union of Parishes

April 2022



Saint Matthew's Church, Tullagh (Baltimore)

Rector: Rev. John Ardis
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Cover picture ~ Displays St. Matthew's Church in Baltimore lit up in green for St. Patrick's day. Many thanks to Stuart Musgrave for the photo and for organising the floodlight! We begin with the good news that St. Matthew's will have it's first service in two years on Easter Sunday at 9 am! More news about St. Matthew's opening throughout the year will be divulged at our Easter General vestry meeting (please see below).

The Easter General Vestry meeting will be on Thursday 28th April in Abbeystrewry Hall at 8pm. The Easter Vestry is like an AGM for the parish. We hear about the financial situation about the parish, and it is also your opportunity to elect the select vestry you would like to represent you in the running of the parish. We thank the vestry for their service throughout the year. Please do support the vestry, and we would love to hear any questions or comments about the parish you would like to make!



Baptisms ~

Congratulations to those recently baptised in the parish! On Sunday 20th March Rev. Pound conducted her first baptism as welcomed Max Egan in St. Barrahan's Church Castletownshend (left). And on Saturday 26th March the Rector baptised Eddie Shannon in Abbeystrewry Church (right). We wish God's blessing on them as they begin their pilgrimage of Christian life.



Current worship guidelines.

Most of the pandemic restrictions to worship have now been lifted! This is fantastic news as we settle back into near 'normality'!

The only restrictions that remain in place for our services are:

- For the moment we will not be using a common chalice for the Eucharist, Communion will be in one kind only. The regulations have been relaxed on this, but the rector has reservations about this. It will be discussed at our Easter Vestry meeting.
- We will not be exchanging the sign of the peace at our services.

People are no longer required to wear a Face mask or covering, but of course are free to do so if they wish. One of the things our churches have is plenty of space. If you feel safer, please feel free to spread out (there is usually plenty of room at the

front!) This relaxation in restrictions will hopefully lead to a return of many of our other parish activities, on a careful and phased basis.

Parish visiting and House Communion. Over the last two years visiting from the Rector has mostly been in case of pastoral emergency. As the situation continues to improve, and if you feel you would like a visit from the Rector please do not hesitate to contact me. Similarly if you would Holy Communion but feel unable or are nervous of going to Church, please contact the rector and we can see what might be arranged. We can make sure we come up with a way to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please note that at the moment visiting will be by appointment only, as not everyone would probably feel comfortable with unannounced visitors!



Reading in Church ~ Now that most of the restrictions have been lifted, we will be reintroducing parishioners reading scripture in our Church services. If you would like to read in Abbeystrewry Church please contact the rector or Susan Deane (who has agreed to coordinate the rota once again.



Diocesan newsletters ~ Please note that subscriptions for the Diocesan Magazine are now due. Please contact Rosemary Bradfield if your subscription is due. If you would like to receive the Diocesan Newsletter, please contact the rector.

Stewardship: Many thanks to all of you for your very generous support of the parish over the last year. If you do not already do so, please consider the envelope system, as it allows the Church to claim tax back from the Revenue (if you pay tax) which means your contributions go further AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

You can also choose to donate to the parish on a monthly basis by direct debit, which has proven very helpful to the parish this year when we could not have Church collections! Forms are available from our treasurers Ronnie Tanner (028 22193) and Freda Salter-Townshend (028 36383) for Castletownshend parish. If you would like to sign up to the envelope scheme, please contact Alan Coombes on 087 8584483.

According to your ability, please do consider giving on an ongoing basis and please do support our fundraisers in the future. We are all the Church, and we depend on our mutual support!

Services in April

Sunday 3rd April ~ The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9.00 Eucharist in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend
- 10.15 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church

Sunday 10th April ~ The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church
- 10.15 Morning Prayer in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Morning Prayer Abbeystrewry Church

Thursday 14th April ~ Maundy Thursday

- 20.00 Eucharist in St. Mary's Caheragh

Friday 15th April ~ Good Friday

- 12.00 Proclamation of the Cross in Abbeystrewry Church

Saturday 16th April ~ Easter Eve

- 20.30 Easter Vigil in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend

Sunday 17th April ~ Easter Day

- 9.00 Eucharist in St. Matthew's, Baltimore
- 10.15 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church (followed by Easter Egg Hunt!)

Sunday 25th April ~ The Second Sunday of Easter

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church
- 10.15 Morning Prayer in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Morning Prayer Abbeystrewry Church

Sunday 1st May ~ The Third Sunday of Easter

- 9.00 Eucharist in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend
- 10.15 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church

The Eucharist will also be celebrated on the following Wednesdays at 10.30 am in Abbeystrewry Church in April: Wed 6th, Wed 13th (Wednesday in Holy Week), Wed 20th and Wed 27th. Morning Prayer will also be said in Abbeystrewry Church each day of Holy Week (with the exception of Wednesday).

 When the rector's phone is present, the 11.30 Sunday service in Abbeystrewry Church will be uploaded onto the parish YouTube account (search Abbeystrewry on YouTube and please do subscribe!). Services can also be viewed through the parish Facebook page (search Abbeystrewry on Facebook)

If you would like to receive the parish newsletter in the future by email please email the Rector at abbeystrewryunion@gmail.com