



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

Abbeystrewry Union of Parishes

January 2023



'Shadow nativity' performed by Abbeystrewry NS at their carol service.

www.abbeystrewry.com

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The Rector writes.... You may have heard that both the rector and Rev. Pound (OLM) were out of action for Christmas Eve and Day. Admittedly, this was not great timing!! I am so grateful to Lay Reader Andrew Coleman of Bandon who filled in with a few hours notice for the Christmas Eve Crib service in Abbeystrewry Church. I am also so grateful to the Rev. Edward Ardis (my Dad!) who travelled from Cork on Christmas Day to take services in Castletownshend, Caheragh and Abbeystrewry, and also to Stuart Musgrave who as Churchwarden of St. Matthew's introduced a corporate liturgy of Spiritual Communion in St. Matthew's.

Apart from the disruption of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies due to Covid, it was wonderful to be back to some sort of normality with singing of Carols in Abbeystrewry, St. Matthew's and St. Mary's. It was particularly nice to welcome back Saint Fachtna's silver band to the Abbeystrewry Carol service. We also had a full Abbeystrewry Church for Abbeystrewry National School carol service which was a wonderful service which the Children and Teachers worked so hard to prepare for (picture front cover, see Abbeystrewry YouTube channel for the video or click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsmvJdOm9zE>).



We had two concerts in our Churches over the Christmas period. The West Cork Choral singers performed in Abbeystrewry Church on Saturday 17th December, and there was a fundraising concert in aid of the repairs to St. Matthew's Tower in Baltimore on Friday 9th December which raised €2,000.

Many thanks to all who decorated the Churches so beautifully for the

Christmas festivities, and both clergy will try and do our best to not get Covid next Christmas!!

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 or Rev. Pound. Similarly if you would like 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.



Covid Restrictions: Pretty much all of the pandemic restrictions to worship have now been lifted! The only restrictions that remain in place for our services are that we will not be exchanging the sign of the peace at our services. Holy Communion in both kinds will be available for those who wish it, but there is no pressure to receive in both kinds! People are no longer required to wear a Face mask or covering, but of course are free to do so if they wish.



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!** If you would like to sign up to the envelope scheme, please contact Alan Coombes on 087 8584483. There is also a direct debit option if you prefer.

Financial Assistance – The country is going through a cost of living crisis, and if you are finding it financially very difficult this year, please do contact the Rector as there may be funds available that may be of some assistance. Complete confidence is guaranteed.



Family Film Night ~ There will be a Film night on Saturday 21st January at 5pm in Abbeystrewry Hall Entrance of 50c to cover the cost of popcorn! All of the family welcome.



Diocesan Magazine ~ Please could all who subscribe to the Diocesan magazine return their annual subscription to Rosemary Bradfield as payment is now due.



The next meeting of the select vestry will be on Tuesday 10th of January at 8 pm in Abbeystrewry Hall.



Many thanks to all who supported, donated and worked so hard for the Christmas Sale in Abbeystrewry Hall on Saturday 3rd December. € 4,156.51 was raised for parish funds.

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents will be holding a Parent evening on Tuesday 17th January at 7:20pm in **Mill Court, Mill Place, Bandon P72 E938.** Please note this is a new venue.



Services in January

Sunday 8th January ~ The Baptism of our Lord

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



Sunday 15th January ~ The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church
- 10.00 Eucharist in St. Matthew's, Baltimore
- 10.15 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church

Sunday 22nd January ~ The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Sunday 29th January ~ The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church (group service)

Sunday 5th February ~ The Third Sunday before Lent

- 9.00 Eucharist in St. Barrahan's, 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 in January at 10.30 in the Creagh Chapel (Abbeystrewry Church): Wed 4th, Wed 11th, Wed 18th, Wed 25th and Wed 1st of February (Saint Brigid's Day).



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

