



Established 1967

www.lucannewsletter.ie

Sub. €1

Sunday 14th December 2025

What Happens When One Stands Apart from the Crowd?!

It was refreshing to see Ireland and RTE standing away from the Eurovision on foot of the watery, valueless revision of standards by the Eurovision committee. Did the sky fall down on Ireland! No, nor on the other countries concerned! It is notable that all with insight into the Eurovision workings see this not just as a stance for right and justice now, but as a fundamental shift in the whole system. It seems that everything about the Eurovision changes in this moment from a projection that it is apolitical and value free to a recognition that every declared value stance shakes not just the body taking the stance, but effects all in the system.



This is enormously refreshing in current times when the sheep mentality massaged into a vein of perceived necessity by the engines of social media like anaesthesia, needs a chain to break so that each person stands tall in their own space. The pace of cultural and societal change is more than most can take, but we need to catch up before the changes that we least desire for ourselves, our families and our communities leave us with a people that look like they have come off a production line!

We need to look at our own individual purpose of life, at where we get the energy to drive our most fundamental values and how our actions and choices need to reflect this. What are our core beliefs? What are our core values? What matters most? What is our life about? What is the purpose of everything we do? Do we recognise and acknowledge a higher power or some other enduring purpose? What do we fall back on if health/relationships/work....collapses? What do our practices and our priorities reflect in weekly action?

As the Irish Eurovision committee stepped off the line of treadmills without knowing what the impact might be, it is a good lead for us individually also. The rituals, practices and activities that make up the fabric of our societal treadmills might not be the right ones for us as individuals or families either. Open conversation and open minds lead to creating a tapestry of life to which we can honestly add our names! We don't all need to look the same!

Cathy Burke

Catechist in the Lucan Partnership of Parishes

Lucan Citizens Information Centre

Our telephone number is **0818 07 5090**

www.citizensinformation.ie

Email – lucan@citinfo.ie

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



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

Christmas Closing

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

What is Carer's Allowance?

Carer's Allowance is a weekly social welfare payment to people who care for someone because of their: Age, Disability, or Illness (including mental illness).

To qualify for the payment, your income must be below a certain amount.

If you care for 2 or more people, your rate of Carer's Allowance is increased by 50% (maximum) each week.

If you get another social welfare payment, you may get half-rate Carer's Allowance.



Budget 2026

From January 2026, the maximum weekly personal rate of Carer's Allowance will increase by €10 to €270 per week and €308 if carer is 66 or over.

From January 2026, the Child Support Payment will increase:

By €8, from €50 to €58, for children under 12 years of age

By €16, from €62 to €78, for children aged 12 years and over

From July 2026, the weekly income disregard for Carer's Allowance will increase by €375 to €1,000 for a single person, and by €750 to €2,000 for a couple.

Carer's Support Grant

If you get Carer's Allowance, you automatically get Carer's Support Grant in June each year.

Other supports for carers

If you get Carer's Allowance, you can also get:

GP visit card

Free Travel

Household Benefits Package (if you live with the person you care for)

Fuel Allowance (you need to meet the criteria for Fuel Allowance, including the Fuel Allowance means test)

Can I get Carer's Allowance?

You can get Carer's Allowance if you care full-time for someone who is:

Aged 16 or over, and who is so incapacitated that they need full-time care and attention for at least 12 months, or

Aged under 16, and for whom you get

Domiciliary Care Allowance.

You can read 'What counts as full-time care' on our website.

As well as providing full-time care, you must:

Be aged 18 or over

Be habitually resident in Ireland

Not be employed, self-employed, doing voluntary work, training, or any education courses for more than 18.5 hours a week

Not live in a hospital, convalescent home, or a similar institution

Pass a means test

Care-sharing

You can share your caring responsibilities with another carer, where you each care for the person on a part-time basis.

You both must provide care from Monday to Sunday, but on alternate weeks. By law, anyone providing full-time care on a part-time basis must do so for a complete week (Monday to Sunday). You must meet all the usual qualifying conditions for Carer's Allowance.

In this case, you and the second carer share:

A single Carer's Allowance payment, and

The annual Carer's Support Grant.

You each get Free Travel.

Full details are on our website.

Support for carers

Advice and information: Family Carers Ireland, Market Square. Tullamore. Offaly, Ireland

Tel: (057) 932 2920 and 1800 24 07 24

Homepage: <http://www.familycarers.ie>

Lucan I.C.A.

The ladies were in An Grianan for a one-day demonstration on Christmas wreaths, cards for Christmas and cookery with Christmas receipts demonstrated.

All members enjoyed a beautiful Christmas dinner with raffle prizes provided and to round off the afternoon we had tea and mince pies on leaving. It was a very enjoyable day and a big thank you to all the staff in An Grianan.



Photo of Maura showing us her Christmas plum pudding a "boil in the bag" pudding. A lot of the ladies wouldn't have known this old recipe but Maura explained the techniques.

Thank you, Maura for bringing it in and showing us.

Monday 15th December: As this is our last craft Group morning before Christmas, we will have our Christmas party for all the members. Please dress up in your finest Christmas jumpers, baubles and glitter & all. There will be a prize for the best one. Please bring a Kris Kindle gift so as everyone will have one going home.

President Pauline wishes all our members and Newsletter staff a very happy Christmas and New Year, enjoy all the festivities.

We will be returning to our Craft Mornings on 12th January 2026.

*Happy Christmas,
Pauline*



Lucan Newsletter Christmas and New Year Arrangements

Next **Sunday 21st December**, will be our Christmas issue of Lucan Newsletter.

Following a two-week break, we will be back in print for **Sunday 11th January 2026**.



Parish Notes

St Mary's, Lucan

www.lucanparish.com

Mass Times: Vigil: 6.30pm
Sunday: 10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 10am.
Masses live-streamed on www.lucanparish.com

Adoration: Adoration is held every Saturday morning after the 10am Mass from 10.30am to 11.30am unless there's a funeral.

Confessions: Saturday Evening 6.30pm Mass.

Christian Meditation: We meet every Tuesday night at 8pm in the Parish Bungalow.
All welcome, Sr Geraldine

Baptisms in St Mary's: Procedure for baptisms in the parish. Parents who register their children for baptism are invited and must attend a preparatory meeting in the month before the ceremony. The ceremony of baptism will take place in two parts. The children will be welcomed at a short ceremony during 10.30am Mass, the Family Mass, on the Sunday prior to their actual baptism date. Dates bookable on line.

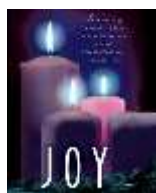
Visits to the housebound: If you are housebound you can call Deirdre at the parish office (01 621 7041) we will be happy to call on a monthly basis.

Legion of Mary: Meeting every Thursday 5.30pm in the **Parish Bungalow** for Rosary and Prayers. *All Welcome.*

Bethany Bereavement Support Group: We meet on the 2nd Monday (at 10.45am) and the 4th Thursday (at 8pm) each month, in the Parish Centre. We are available to listen or just be there for anyone who is feeling lonely or lost following the death of a loved one. If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact the Parish Office. (Phone 01 6217041)

Divine Mercy Devotion: Wednesdays, in the church after the 10am Mass and until 11am (unless there is a funeral), the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy is prayed to atone for our sins and the sins of the whole world. With the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar we pray God to defeat evil in the world and bring peace in these troubled times.

Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina meet every Monday evening (except Bank Holidays) at 7.30pm in the Bungalow to reflect for an hour on the following Sunday's gospel. *All are welcome.*



St. Patrick's Esker/ Dodsboro/ Adamstown

www.stpatrickslucan.ie

Sunday Mass Times: 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon.

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 10am,

Masses livestreamed at www.stpatrickslucan.ie

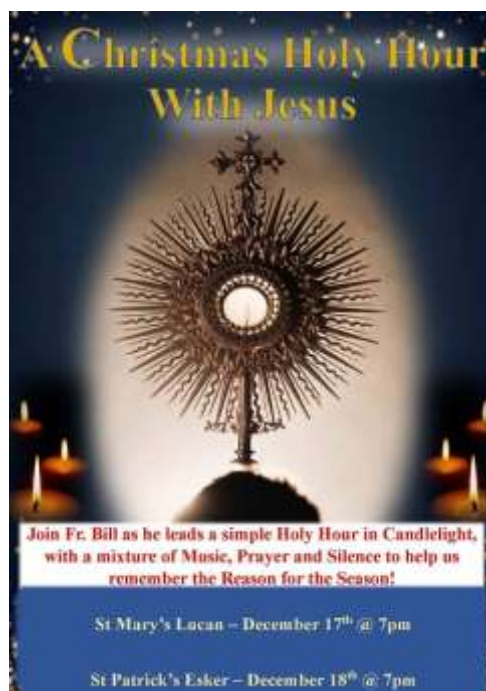
Adoration: Adoration is held every Saturday morning after the 10am Mass from 10.30am to 11.30am unless there's a funeral.

Baptisms in St Patrick's: Procedure for baptisms in the parish. Parents who register their children for baptism are invited and must attend a preparatory meeting in the month before the ceremony. The ceremony of baptism will take place in two parts. The children will be welcomed at a short ceremony during 10.30am Mass, the Family Mass, on the Sunday prior to their actual baptism date. Dates bookable on line.

Confessions: Confessions after Saturday 10am Mass and after Thursday 10am Mass.

St Patrick's Prayer Meeting: Every Monday night in the Pastoral Centre, (Side of St. Patrick's Church) from 7.00pm to 7.45pm.

Communion for the Homebound: If any member of your family is sick and housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion, do please let us know. You can ring the Parish Office on 01 628 1018 and leave your name and address, or email us at: secretary@stpatrickslucan.ie



Divine Mercy, Lucan South

www.lucansouthparish.net

Sunday Mass Times: Vigil: 6pm.
Sunday Masses: 10.30am and 12 noon.

Weekday Masses: Mon.-Fri. 9:15am. Sat. 10am

Masses livestreamed www.lucansouthparish.net



Emmanuel Nights*
(9 Nights Christmas Novena)
[Divine Mercy Parish K78NH05](http://www.lucansouthparish.net)

Dec 16 @ 7:30PM
Dec 17 @ 7:00PM
Dec 18 @ 7:30PM
Dec 19 @ 6:30PM Christmas Carol @ 7:30PM
Dec 20 @ 6:00PM
Dec 21 @ 7:30PM
Dec 22 @ 7:30PM
Dec 23 @ 7:30PM
Dec 24 @ 8:00PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions every Saturday 5.15pm and after the evening Mass.

Prayers of the Church: Mon. to Fri.: 8.40am.
The Church is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm for private prayers.

CHRISTMAS Carol Service
A FESTIVE CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS-CHRIST.
FEATURING MUSIC FROM THE DIVINE MERCY CHOIRS

FREE ENTRY

19 DECEMBER @ 7:15 PM
(AFTER 6:30 MASS)

Church of Divine Mercy, K78-NH05

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT AND DONATIONS TO THE PARISH WELCOME

FOR MORE INFO GO TO:
www.lucansouthparish.net

Adoration and Holy Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon: 7.30pm: Divine Mercy Adoration.

Fri: 1.15pm: Adoration MPMH Cenacle.

Fri: 2-3pm: Divine Mercy Devotion/Adoration.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Fruits of Medjugorje: Every Thursday.

7.00pm: Rosary and Confessions.

7.30pm: Holy Mass.

After Mass: Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction. **8.15pm** Adoration and Confessions **8.50pm** Benediction.

Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Confessional Room in the church.

Home Visits Holy Communion: If anyone who Communion at home from Fr. Aidan or a Minister of Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office 01-4572900.

Divine Mercy Food Bank: Donations of non-perishable food items can be left in the green containers inside the doors of the church.

Wednesday tea/coffee morning: There is a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake after 9.15am Mass in the St. John Paul II Room.

Bingo: Bingo takes place every Wednesday in the St. John Paul II Room. Doors open at 7 for 7.30pm. All welcome.

CHURCH ART CALENDARS 2026

For Sale in St Mary's Parish Office and Sacristy. €2

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Available in St Mary's Parish Office and Sacristy €6

NAGARHOPE CHRISTMAS CARDS -

Pack of 10 for €5

All proceeds to educating children in Nepal.

Available from the St Mary's Parish Office.

Also from 191 Beech Park or Phone Niamh at 087-0666891





Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



Lotto

We had no winner of last week's lotto jackpot of €2,600. The Numbers were **5, 14, 18 & 21.**

Lucky dip's go to Eilish McNally, Tomás Forde, Aisling Morris, Matt O'Donovan and Stiofán O'Conghaile as well as our turkey voucher winners: Owen Ennis, Shane Moynihan, Mary Flannery, Judy Crowley and Shane Biggs. This week's Lotto will be for a jackpot of €3,000. This draw is sponsored by DJ Engineering and will be led by Edel Mooney.

Camogie

Both of our Under 21 Camogie teams were in finals action the weekend where our Under 21B side had a great win, overcoming Cuala in the Shield Final. Unfortunately, our Under 21A side were narrowly beaten by Ballyboden in tough conditions in Abbotstown. Both teams did themselves and the club extremely proud and it bodes well for the future!



Card Drive

- **Date:** Fridays until 8th May 2026
- **Time:** 8.00pm Sharp
- **Prize:** 1st €50 (if 12 or more players),
- **Entry:** €5 per player
- **Venue:** Lucan Sarsfields Clubhouse (Bar)

Everyone is welcome- from beginner to those who played years ago and would like to resume playing. You don't have to be a Club member to play. Contact Bill Ryan 086-8500376 or Mary Flannery 087-7469143 for further information.



Academy

There's a special guest visiting the club's academy this weekend — the big man himself, **Santa**, is coming to town!

This will be our last academy session before the Christmas break. We hope to see everyone, including parents, in **their** Christmas jumpers on Saturday morning.

Thank You for supporting Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club.



Many thanks to Colm Gallagher, for this interesting piece!

The red-berried bush photographed by Joe in last Sunday's newsletter is an upright variety of Cotoneaster.

If anyone has this growing in their garden they should keep an eye on it in January, as it is often visited by Cedar Waxwings, a really striking migrant bird which often arrives here in flocks from Scandinavia and Siberia. The red berries of plants such as Hawthorn and Mountain Ash are particular favourites of the Waxwing.

Bird watchers and wildlife photographers will travel long distances if they hear reports of the presence of Waxwings. The attached photo was taken by one such photographer in Lucan a number of years ago.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025

In October, a group from the Lucan parishes and elsewhere travelled to Medjugorje in Bosnia Herzegovina on pilgrimage with Marian Pilgrimages led by Pat Colgan.

Medjugorje is now one of the worlds most visited Marian shrines. While the Church has not officially pronounced on the authenticity of the reported apparitions of Our Lady there, Medjugorje is now recognised by the Church as a holy pilgrimage site where pilgrims can visit and gain great benefit spiritually. Indeed, I witnessed the great fruits of Medjugorje in the packed-out masses, adoration, confessions and the spirit of joy and encounter among the pilgrims. Our pilgrimage group was blessed to have Fr Ubaldo as spiritual guide.

While on pilgrimage we visited the Divine Mercy Hospice near the shrine of Medjugorje. Pat and Phil Colgan generously funded the building of this hospice. It is a wonderful legacy of Pat and Phil, and a beautiful state of the art facility that gives physical, spiritual and emotional support to many people at the last stages of life. The staff of the hospice had a wonderful warm welcome for our group. This was an emotional visit for Pat as he saw the impact of the generosity of Pat and his late wife Phil.



A hunger to get free

By Zita O Kearney Gregorio age 14

Most of us didn't know what we were getting into

No one could ever imagine the fear we'd feel,
when we heard death knocking on our door
He'd come by every day and sometimes
someone would answer to him
and be taken away

We aren't humans anymore, we're driven by
fatigue

and before now I never knew that there
were two types of hunger, starvation and a
hunger to get free - a hunger to escape

We were puppets, the most of us, against our
will

told to do something we'd never imagined

The shrieks of the soldiers still present
as if someone was playing it on a radio in our
minds

The life of a soldier never ends on the
battlefield

We are still hungry to break free.



Deacon John Gormley

Lucan Active Retirement Association in Westport

New Members always welcome. Why not come and join us, we would love to see you here. Lots of activities to enjoy. Bowls, Scrabble, Cards, and the chat. Most importantly we have Coffee & Cake at 1pm. We meet in St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Main Street, Lucan, on Thursdays at 11.30am.



Lots of festive celebrations in the various local groups these days! Great to see people enjoying themselves!

Wonderful night of Carols with Aontas Choir and friends, in St. Patrick's on Wednesday night last. We hope they made lots of money for their trip to the Philippines, next Summer, when they will have a working holiday, giving help where it is needed.

And so, to the Man of the Moment!

Birthday Boy **Jack Cristal** celebrated his 95th Birthday with friends in St. Mary's Parish Centre on Friday last.



A Roscommon native, who settled in Lucan, Jack is a regular visitor to Lucan Newsletter, where he helped out for many years.



Three Wise Men of Lucan



Sean, Jack and Billy, are all **nonagenarians**! We wonder if there's something in the water in this end of Lucan – people seem to live longer!

Wishing very **Happy Birthdays** to brothers **Conor** and **Eoghan** who celebrate their December birthdays this week.

From Nanny and Grandad Cummins.





SCHOOL NEWS



Lucan Community College

Annual SVP Concert: Join us for an evening of festive music at Lucan CC on Wednesday the 17th Dec all in aid of St. Vincent De Paul.



Ty Ice-Skating: Our TY students headed to the Dundrum ice rink last week, where they had the chance to try something new, spend time together, and enjoy a break from the usual routine. Well done to everyone for the great participation and for giving it a go.



6th year Irish trip to UCD: Sixth-year students visited University College Dublin last Friday, December 5th, for An Seimineár Lae in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies & Folklore. They attended Irish-language talks on Leaving Cert literature, film, and other course material. The annual seminar gives students a taste of university-level Irish studies and

helps them explore whether UCD's Irish programme might suit them.

Christmas Relay: Well done to all our students who took part in the first Christmas Relay in Lucan Harriers, organised by Active South Dublin with other local schools. It was a fantastic day, and it was great to see every year group in the school represented. A special thank you to Niamh Fitzgerald for all her hard work in organising the event.



Bus Escort Wanted - Lucan Community Special School

This role is part time, with a minimum of 10 -15 hours per week, although hours may vary.

Candidates should have experience in working with children, have an understanding of special needs and be able to deal with parents and school staff in a professional way.

- School Bus Escorts will be expected to travel to and from an agreed pick-up and drop-off point to meet the bus.
- Applicants must supply suitable character references and Garda Vetting is mandatory.
- Hourly rate of pay is €15.66. Bus Escorts will not be paid during school holidays.

If interested please send a Curriculum Vitae to admissions@lucanccss.ie

Mount Sackville, 160 years of Cluny

Education, written by teacher and historian Mary Delaney, is a specially commissioned hardback book selling for €25. Published in 2025, it is an ideal Christmas gift. The book is available to purchase from the school directly in person or by phoning 01-8214061 or via click and collect at the following link:

<https://www.uniqueschoolapp.ie/go/pay?c=VkoDC>If you require postage, please contact accounts@mountsackville.ie to arrange (please note, postage will incur an additional charge).



St. Joseph's College

Junior Camogie: A massive well done to our junior camogie team who won their semi-final last Wednesday against Loreto Swords. In a very tight and competitive game our girls pulled away in the last few minutes to win on a scoreline of 2-5 to 0-7. The girls now progress to play either Castleknock CC or Loreto Balbriggan in the final which is scheduled to take place in Leixlip Amenities All weather next week.

Aquaponics in St Joseph's: New fish and plants arrived this week into Mr Quinn's biology lab to continue student work with the aquaponics program. Aquaponics is a symbiotic process whereby plants and fish live side by side and both benefit each other. The fish providing nutrients for the plants and the plants absorbing these nutrients, which in turn cleans the water for the fish. A special thanks to Fina O' Connor, Isabelle Van Aesch and Aimee Sheriff, three students who have excelled on the program

College Awareness Week: Last week was College Awareness Week. On Monday, students got the opportunity to find out about their teachers and the paths they have taken in their education that now has them in their chosen profession as teachers. On Tuesday, sixth years had a talk from Maynooth University's new Nursing Department where students got a great introduction to their new Nursing degree programme. Day 3 on Wednesday and we had Conan Megan from Ulster University talking to all the 5th year students about the option of studying in Northern Ireland. On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome Ruth McGann - past pupil working in RTE who spoke to 4th and 5th years about her job as a digital content creator in RTE. Thanks for coming Ruth.

Christmas Carols in Marymount: A great Christmas tradition continued on Thursday evening last as staff and students visited Marymount Care Centre for the 28th year in a row to sing Christmas carols for the residence. It was a great occasion and one that staff and students thoroughly enjoy and look forward to each and every year.

Sophie Ward – Dublin Winter Lights: We are delighted to announce that 5th Year Art student Sophie Ward has been selected as a winner in the Dublin City Council "Dublin Winter Lights" Lord Mayor's Christmas Card Competition 2025.



Responding to the theme "Dublin City Centre Twinkles at Christmas," Sophie created a beautiful design featuring

festive baubles and illustrations of the James Joyce Bridge and the GPO. Her work was chosen from more than 1,000 entries for its creativity and celebration of Dublin at Christmas.



Sophie's artwork will be projected throughout December at Barnardo Square on Dame Street as part of the Dublin Winter Lights display and it will be featured on the Winter Lights website. Sophie's artwork will be used as one of the Lord Mayor of Dublin's official Christmas cards for 2025, to be sent to notable public figures, including the Taoiseach. Sophie will be visiting the Mansion House after Christmas to celebrate her achievement. We are extremely proud of Sophie's talent, her initiative and her achievement.

Under 16 Basketball: Congratulations to the u16 basketball team who were victorious over Luttrellstown CC in their league semi-final on Friday. This qualifies them for the league final this Thursday in the Oblate Hall. Thank you to Luttrellstown CC for the very competitive match and best of luck to our girls in the final.

Sister Act – THANK YOU! A huge thank you to the many individuals and local businesses who supported our TY Musical "Sister Act" by sponsoring an advertisement in our programme and/or donating a prize for our raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated by the students and staff in St Joseph's College.

Christmas Hamper `Appeal: We are currently collecting for our annual Christmas appeal for food hampers. This year the donations will go to the local St Vincent de Paul and Lucan Homeless donations, both organisations work closely with families in need in the general Lucan area. All charities are reporting this year that they are extremely low on supplies and that more and more families are reaching out for help. Any family in a position to help out are asked to donate, even just one non perishable item from , but obviously more than one item would be great. We are hoping to have all donations in by Friday December 12th to ensure the hampers can be made up in time for Christmas. All help is much appreciated, thank you.

2026 Calendar Fundraiser: We are delighted to announce the sale of our St. Joseph's College Fundraising Calendar 2026 in aid of St. Vincent De Paul.



Our calendars make fantastic planners, wall hangings for kitchens and offices and especially as Christmas presents to send all over the world!

This year's calendar features many beautiful images of Lucan and the surrounding areas. We are very grateful to our sponsors Eamon Costello (Kerry) Ltd., MyVet and Lucan District Credit Union for sponsoring our calendar once again. Calendars can be bought directly from the school (01-6281160) and will be on sale in Centra, Lucan for €10.00 from Wed. 26th November.

**All proceeds go to St. Vincent de Paul.
Please support this very worthy cause!**

Follow Us on Twitter: @StJosephsLucan

Follow Us on Instagram: @stjosephscollegelucan

Find us on our Website: www.stjosephslucan.com



Coláiste Phádraig CBS

Awards: Well done to 2nd yr **Cillian O' Neill** who won the *Mark O' Neill Student of the Month Award* for November in recognition of his excellent behaviour, good manners and pleasant demeanour in class and around the school.

Congratulations to 1st yr **Eoghan Ware** who won the *Sports Star of the Month Award* in recognition of his hugely influential displays for the school's 1st yr soccer and Gaelic Football teams.

Comhghairdeas freisin le **Páraic Redmond** ón rang 1Talbot a bhuaigh an gradam *Gaeilgeoir na Míosa* do mhí na Samhna mar gheall ar an sár-iarracht a dhéanann sé an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus an sár-obair atá déanta aige sa rang Gaeilge.

The three winners each received a 20euro voucher as well as a framed certificate to recognise their achievements.

Well done also to the class tutor student of the month winners, who each received a 5euro voucher for the school canteen.

Christmas Service: St. Mary's Church, Lucan hosted a heart-warming Christmas service for our 2nd and 3rd yr students last Friday morning. The ceremony marked the beginning of the Advent Season as well as the Christmas festive period.

The occasion brought together students of diverse faiths and beliefs and, under the guidance of Fr. Ubaldo, the multi-faith service not only celebrated the spirit of Christmas but also helped foster a sense of community and belonging. There was an uplifting festive atmosphere at the service that resonated with joy and excitement thanks to the collective efforts that made the occasion memorable for everyone involved.

We are very grateful to Fr. Ubaldo and the parish for their unwavering support and for creating a welcoming space for all to share in this festive season. It was a lovely occasion filled with reflection, celebration and joy and we commend the students on being so attentive, respectful and co-operative. Well done to all of the students who volunteered to do readings and assist throughout the ceremony. They all did a great job and Fr. Ubaldo was very appreciative and grateful for their contributions.

Football: Our senior football team had a convincing 4-15 to 1-02 win against St. McDara's Templeogue last Thursday in their opening group game of their Dublin League campaign. Killian Costello, Michael O' Brien, Ciarán Deegan and Rory Clarke scored the Lucan goals. Brian Whelan was outstanding at centre back, commanding the defence with composure, authority and strength. He read the game superbly, broke up attacks with well-timed interventions, and launched several productive counter-attacks with accurate and precise passing.

Having also won their opening game against St. David's College, Artane by a big margin, the team easily topped the three-team group and secured a home draw in the semi-finals, where they will play St. Paul's College, Raheny for a place in the Dublin Final.



Religion: As the Christmas season approaches, our ERST Student Council has been working tirelessly to bring warmth, reflection, and festive spirit to the school. Their dedication and leadership over the past number of weeks have helped transform our school environment, creating a welcoming and joyful atmosphere for students and staff alike.

One of the Council's first major tasks was preparing the Reception Area for the Christmas period. Working closely with Ms. Peel, they set up the school's Christmas tree, carefully arranging ornaments and lights to create a display that immediately lifts the spirits of all who pass through the entrance each morning. Their teamwork and attention to detail were evident, and the finished tree stands as a lovely centrepiece for the season.



In addition to the tree, the Student Council also prepared the advent candle wreaths and arranged the cribs in the Reception Area. These additions play an important role in marking the spiritual significance of the Advent season within our school. The advent wreaths, with their carefully placed candles, remind us of the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love—values that resonate deeply within our ERST ethos. The cribs, set out with care, serve as a gentle visual reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and offer all who see them a moment of quiet reflection amid the busyness of school life.

A particularly meaningful initiative this year has been Advent FM, run every morning by Dara Reilly from the Student Council. Over the school intercom, Dara shares short reflections that encourage the school community to pause, listen, and consider the deeper themes of Advent.

We extend our sincere thanks to the ERST Student Council for their hard work, creativity, and thoughtful contributions to school life this Christmas season.



Kishoge Community College

College Musical: The preparations for Kishoge Community College's performance of "Grease" are well underway. Tickets for the performances, taking place 25th, 26th & 27th March are now available from Eventbrite. Tickets cost €10. Doors will open at 7.30pm, with the show starting at 8pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kishoge-cc-presents-grease-tickets-1976552813673>

Disability Awareness Week: Staff and students celebrated Disability Awareness Week in Kishoge. Along with posters throughout the school, students made daily announcements about a range of disabilities and their personal experiences. A very successful (and delicious) bake sale raised €347, and the week culminated with inclusive games in the PE hall at lunchtime, which had an excellent turn out from the students.

Transition Year: On Thursday 4th December, Transition Year students got to make their very own Bodhráns from scratch. Students got to personalise their bodhrán with their own unique design printed on the front. When the bodhráns were complete, Michael gave the students a lesson on how to play their own bodhrán.



They also had a great time ice-skating in Dun Laoghaire!



LUCAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025

Classic Film Club

Tuesday 23rd December.

Tea & coffee from 5.30pm,
film starting at 6pm.

BOOK CLUBS

Wednesday Book Club – 17th December at 7pm

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Storytime - Every Tuesday at 3pm - no booking required, all welcome!

OLDER CHILDREN

Cool Food School for ages 9-12 - Friday 19th December at 2.30pm

Please book on Lucan Library/ Eventbrite

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition by **Society of Old Lucan** - Soldier's Commemoration exhibition – all month

Exhibition of artworks by **Local Lucan Art Class** – all month Christmas Exhibition

Lucan Goal Mile



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

Run, Walk, Jog or Talk

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

No pre-registration required.

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

Info: 087 2132244 – G. Martin

Esler Active Retirement Association

We have had some great events in the run up to Christmas. Over 70 members attended our annual Christmas dinner and dance at Lucan Golf Club, which was a brilliant night.



On Tuesday we joined up with clubs from various areas at The Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone for a mulled wine reception, lunch, a comedian, and dancing till 6 p.m. to the music of. Brendan Shine. Thanks to Charlie of McGinley Travel for getting us there and back in the midst of Bram storm.



We look forward to seeing our members at our end of year in house party on Wednesday 17th December, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Main Street, Lucan.



Lucan Toastmasters

Lucan Toastmasters is a friendly, vibrant club which offers a safe environment to develop public speaking and communication skills.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 18th December 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 to register your interest.

Thursday 18th December 2025, 7:45pm
Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, W23 W280

- Do you want to **finally** conquer your fear of public speaking?
- Do you have a speech or presentation coming up that you need help with?
- Do you want to make new friends?

If so, then Lucan Toastmasters is the place for you.

We meet two Thursdays of each month in the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip at 7.45 p.m. Admission is free for new guests – don't worry, you won't be asked to speak! Come along next Thursday December 18th, where a warm welcome awaits you.

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

ACRE
project

A COMMUNITY RETHINKING
ITS ENVIRONMENT

Maynooth Road, Celbridge (beside Salesian College)

Our Christmas Tree Sale Starts this week!

Spruce up your Christmas season and support your local community -all in one! We're delighted to announce that our annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser Sale runs until **Sunday the 14th of December.**

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday to Sunday 10am -5pm

Christmas Cards, featuring a charming watercolour of Santa at the ACRE Project, painted by our very own Dave Hussey. All funds raised go back into supporting the work of the ACRE Project.



Anniversaries



Joe Dawson

42nd Anniversary, 13th December

Nancy Dawson

16th Anniversary, 16th December

And their daughter,

Janet Dawson-McEvaddy

3rd Anniversary, 15th January

The Dawson family, together again.

Held always in love, remembered for the warmth they brought to our lives, and never far from our thoughts.

We're grateful for the time we had and miss them more with each passing year.

Elizabeth (Betty) McCabe

28th Anniversary, 2nd December

Late of Sarsfield Park.

*Sadly missed and loved always by
Catherine, Robert, Anne, Eileen and
their families.*



Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

Late of AGP

Of my dear wife Mary

Memories of a lifetime

All wrapped in my heart

Many things of long ago

I treasure with all my heart

Although I sadly miss you

I know I'm not alone

For you are watching over me

From a place you now call home

So always stay beside me dear Mary

From your loving husband Martin xxx

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

Of my dear mother, Mary

Though her smile is gone forever

And her hand I cannot touch

I still have so many memories

Of the one I loved so much.

Her memory is my keepsake

With which I'll never part.

God has her in his keeping

I have her in my heart.

Sadly missed but never forgotten.

Darren, Olive, Elliot, Isabelle

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

Dear Mam,

8 years have passed like the snap of fingers

But we can see and hear you

With the closing of our eyes

The memories you gave live on strong

None of us are ever really gone

Love Roy and Elaine.

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

The world is a duller place without you

But your memory continues to shine

And I am so grateful for the wonderful memories

I have with you

Thank you for being the best Mam I could ask for

Loved and missed every day

Tracey and Ian xxx

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

In memory to my mother Mary,

She is gone, yet ever near,

Her love still whispers, soft and clear.

In morning light and evening's glow,

Her presence stays, we feel and know.

Her kindness shaped the lives she touched,

A mother's heart that gave so much.

Though time moves on, we're not apart,

For Mam still lives within our hearts

Love Mark, Regina, and family X

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

Memories grow

And memories fade

But memories of Nanny

Never go away

Her smile rests in mine

Her hands help me sew

Her love fills my heart

Her spirit runs through my soul

In memory of Nanny

The trunk of my tree

I live my life as her legacy

I love and miss you more than ever Nanny

*Amie, Sonny, Luca and your newest edition and
first great granddaughter, Heidi xxx*



Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

We're thinking of you always Nanny
Especially today
We miss and love you so so much
We know you're watching over us
From Heaven and keeping us safe
Not a day goes by, where we don't miss you
We'll be looking out for the robins
Love you always
Love Sam, Mya, Layla, Noah and Isaac xx



Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

Not a day goes by that we don't think of you
Happy anniversary in Heaven Nanny.
We miss you so much and cherish
every memory we shared.
Loved and missed every day
Lauren and Ben xxx

Mary O'Brien

8th Anniversary, 14th December

I think about the good times
The days we spent together
And the happiness we shared
I have beautiful memories to treasure
Lots of love Mary
Sleep tight Kiddo
Love Phyllis xx



Birthday Remembrances

Jennie Morris

103rd Birthday, 13th December

Nanny Bus

We know you're wearing sparkles
And fluffing up the hair
To celebrate your birthday
Like you used to do each year.
And while we cannot join you
We know our mam is there
To celebrate your special day with
Our nanny, her mother dear.
Keeping you all in our hearts x
Happy Heavenly Birthday Nanny
From your grandchildren
Karen, Lisa, Kevin, Breda, Andy and Rachel.



Happy 103rd Birthday Granny Bus

*From your great grandchildren, Laurajane,
Nikki, Daniel, Kelsie and Craig x*

Jennie Morris

103rd Birthday, 13th December

8th away from home.
December is your birthday month
Turquoise is your stone
Holly is your flower
And family is your home.
Happy Birthday to our dear Mother.
*Love and miss you every day your beloved late
daughter Jean, sons Billy, Harry, Joseph and sons
in law Dessie and Jerri.*

Veronica O'Leary

13th December

This day was always special
as we gathered round you here.
We'd dance and laugh and celebrate
Your day with so much cheer.

We're celebrating you down here
As they must be above.
I truly hope your special day
is filled with peace and love.
P.M.



survive&thrive

Information and support for those who have completed treatment for cancer

Survive and Thrive Programmes 2026

The Marie Keating Foundation's [Survive and Thrive programmes](https://www.mariekeating.ie) have been created to help men and women who have finished cancer treatment to adapt to their 'new normal' after a cancer diagnosis.

The programmes include information and support guided by facilitators, lots of discussions on issues such as coping with emotions, feelings, stress and anxiety; becoming a self-manager - managing fatigue and other symptoms; changing nutritional and physical activity needs.

There is lots of engagement which creates a space to learn and grow and empowers you going forward in life.

This is an eight-week programme, we would love to help you to transform yourself and meet people who have gone through a similar experience who gets you and you get them.

Next programme - Tuesday 6th January - 17th February

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

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

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

 **Marie Keating**
FOUNDATION

Paul Gogarty TD – Independent

Dáil office: 01 6184078. WhatsApp: 0892364871.

Website: www.paulgogarty.com



Dáil Report: Raised multiple local and national issues, including public transport and planning inadequacies in Lucan, radiographer and radiation supply shortages for PET scans, assessment of needs delays, spiking of drinks, social media protection measures and EU co-operation on sharing information regarding criminal activities.

Local Issues: Submitted PQs in relation to Lucan Community College and Lucan Educate Together. Recently queried the 'triangle' green at Greenpark/Westbrook/Hillcrest Close being dug up by Council grass cutting. Raised the inaccessible ramp at the Earlsfort Bus Stop on Castle Road and overgrown hedging at Castle Riada Drive.

Café Clinic: This Friday 9:30-11am I'll be at Starbucks, SuperValu if anyone has general queries or needs documents signed by a Peace Commissioner. For detailed queries contact office to arrange. See rotating locations on website.

Minister Emer Higgins TD – Fine Gael

01 618 3013. Insta: @emerhigginstd

Emer.Higgins@oireachtas.ie

St Joseph's College New Special Classrooms:

This week, I was privileged to attend the opening of two new Special Classes in St Joseph's College, Lucan, which have welcomed eleven students. These new spaces are thoughtfully designed and include dedicated sensory rooms that will make a real difference to students. A huge well done to the wonderful students, their families, and the staff who have worked so hard to make this happen.

Lucan House Christmas Fair: I was also delighted to visit the Lucan House Christmas Market on Sunday, 7th December. There was a great atmosphere and there was a wide range of local vendors and festive gifts on offer. Well done to everyone involved, and to SDCC for delivering a fantastic community event that highlights the huge value of Lucan House for local residents.

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

(085)2551602 CBrady@Cllrs.SDublinCoCo.ie

Public Consultation Proposed Traffic Calming

Meadowview Grove: The core issues residents raise with me are the volume and speed of traffic, the exit onto Dodsboro Road, and the T junction onto Hillcrest Walk. Since I was elected last year, I've consistently raised these issues. The council's proposal is tightening three junctions at 1) Hillcrest Close, 2) Westbrook Park, and 3) Hillcrest Walk. As of 10/12/2025 4

observations were made online. I encourage

residents to share your views and raise your concerns online at Consult.SDublinCoCo.ie or in writing to the Council. **Consultation Closes 23/12/2025 at 18:00**

Quiet Streets: Residents asked me for additional tools to manage traffic hence I proposed a Quiet Streets scheme, funding was secured for a pilot, and following the November area meeting the Active Travel Team confirmed they will engage with residents in the new year.

Helen Farrell, Independent

Working with Paul Gogarty, TD, Independent

Email: hfarrell@cllrs.sdbulincoco.ie

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

Changes to County Development Plan: South Dublin County Council (SDCC) will publish proposed changes to the County Development Plan early in 2026, on direction of Government, to respond to the housing crisis. These proposals cover proposed rezoning.

What this means for you: When the proposed variation is published, the public will have a 4-week window to review the plans and make a submission. This is a crucial opportunity for you as residents & community groups to have your views formally included.

What happens next: 4 weeks for display & public submissions / prepare SDCC CE's Report 6 weeks for Councillors to consider CE Report Special Council meeting to decide on making, refusing or modifying the variations. Your submission will be an important part of this decision-making process. I will keep constituents informed.

Metro Dart

RTE prime time on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 on M50 traffic congestion exposed the main flaw in Metro link. There is no solution to the M50 congestion when the promoters admitted they had done all they could. The wonderful Metro Link underground would not be possible to solve it either at such a high cost. The users on this Metro Link are city centre bound, while almost all users on the M50 are not city bound, they are moving in another direction, so it is not a solution. Metro Dart overground mirrors M50 usage for the main purpose of reducing traffic congestion on M50, to take commuters direct to work on the outskirts and to the city centre and provide a direct link to the Airport for all areas of Ireland that has access to rail. Congestion on the M50 is urgent and a solution is needed now; Metro Dart is that solution and can be done relatively quickly.

Tom Newton 086 3127364 @acratu.com

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St. Mary's Camera Soirée

The members of the Soiree met for the last time before Christmas last Friday. We will resume in the parish centre on Friday 9th January 2026. Our next big event will be what has become our annual exhibition in Lucan Library in February 2026.

This week there continues to be a Christmas flavour about many of the photos submitted. Josie submitted a lovely photo of Christmas tree. Modern Christmas trees originated in Central Europe and the Baltic States, particularly Estonia, Germany and Latvia in the 16th century. Apparently, they did not make an appearance in this part of the world until the 19th century.



Joe submitted some photos of the attractions at the Smithfield Christmas Market which this year has been renamed “Twinkletown” and runs until 4th January 2026.



Don was in Kerry and sent us a photograph which he called “Winter Sea”, presumably taken before the arrival of storm Bram which is the second storm name on the list of storm names prepared by the Irish, UK and Dutch meteorological offices for 2025/2026 storm season. It is no consolation to know that there are 21 names on the list! According to the Irish Meteorological Office website “Bram” was chosen for the Irish author and creator of Dracula whose world is of the night with the howl of the wolves mirroring the sounds of a storm.

Stay safe till next week!

