



LUCAN

NEWSLETTER

Established 1967

www.lucannewsletter.ie

Sub. €1

Sunday 18th January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christians Unity: One Body, One Spirit!

As we begin to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this Sunday, it is an opportune time to consider the wonderful Christian diversity and connection that we have in Lucan/ Palmerstown thanks to the foresight and good relationships of local clergy some decades ago. The last twelve months have seen a big turnover of clergy in Lucan & Palmerstown. We have said goodbyes to some of the clergy in most of the denominations this year and now bid a big welcome to the new appointees.



The clergy of all the established Christian denominations in Lucan and Palmerstown: Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist & Indian Orthodox meet socially on a monthly basis to share items of shared interest and enjoy refreshments together. Core members of the parish team are part of this group also. Planning for prayer together for the Reading of the Nativity Account and for local ecumenical services occurs at the gatherings along with sharing of invitations to events of shared interest or celebration. All are welcome at the faith gatherings across all denominations with a local familiarity that is quite unusual in any area.

The theme for this year's week of prayer draws on Ephesians 4:4: ***There is one body and one Spirit.*** This theme is very apt in current times when we see disharmony, gross power struggles and dehumanisation of many in our international happenings. It is important that we gather in unity wherever we can as members of connected communities. As Christians we are held in the one body that is Christ where we find our meaning and purpose. We are held in community together to share with one another, to enjoy the gifts of our faith and community and to support one another. It's a space of collaborative friendship.

Each year a diocesan opening prayer service is celebrated in one particular location. This year the **Diocesan Service for the Opening of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be celebrated in the beautiful, new Indian Orthodox Church in Palmerstown on Sunday 18 January at 8.00p.m.** (opposite the Catholic Church of St Philomena and beside Aldi).

Our local Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in the Presbyterian Church on Monday 26th January at 8.00p.m. All are welcome to attend both services to pray and celebrate together.

*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**

Education

HEAR scheme

My child is from a disadvantaged background. Are there supports to help them access college?

Yes. Students from a disadvantaged background may qualify for the HEAR scheme, if they meet some other criteria.

With the HEAR scheme, students can get a place on their preferred college course, even if they don't have enough CAO points.

For example, if your child is eligible for HEAR and they get 350 points in their Leaving Certificate, they may be offered a place on a course that is 360 points.

This is called a 'reduced points' place.

However, they must still meet the minimum entry requirements and any specific course entry requirements (for example, a certain grade in maths or Irish).

What are the additional criteria?

To qualify for HEAR, your child must:

Be under 23 on 1 January 2026

Meet certain rules in relation to their financial and social circumstances.

How can my child apply for HEAR?

Students must apply online for HEAR through the CAO portal. **The deadline to apply is 5pm on 1 February 2026**. Then, the deadline to submit supporting documents is 10 March 2026.

Read the full eligibility criteria for the HEAR scheme, plus details of the supporting documents, at <https://bit.ly/HEARIreland>, or call CIPS on 0818 07 4000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

DARE scheme

My teenager has a disability and will soon finish secondary school. Are there supports to help them access college?

Yes. With the DARE scheme, students with a disability or a specific learning difficulty can get a place on their preferred college course, even if they don't have enough CAO points.

For example, if they're eligible for DARE and get 350 points in the Leaving Certificate, they may be offered a place on a course that is 360 points. This is called a 'reduced points' place.

However, they must still meet the minimum entry requirements and any specific course entry requirements (for example, a certain grade in maths or Irish).

What are the eligibility criteria?

To qualify for DARE, your child must:

Be under 23 on 1 January 2026

Provide evidence of their disability

Provide a statement about how their disability has affected their education

Disabilities considered under DARE include:

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)

Blind or vision impaired

Deaf or hearing impaired

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) – Dyspraxia

Dyscalculia or significant numeracy difficulties

Dyslexia or significant literacy difficulties

Mental health condition

Neurological condition (including brain injury and epilepsy)

Physical disability

Significant ongoing illness

Speech and language communication disorder

How can my child apply for DARE?

Your child must apply online for DARE

through the CAO by 5pm, 1 February 2026.

If they're accepted as eligible for DARE, they'll then compete with other eligible students for 'reduced point places', based on their Leaving Certificate results.

Students can also apply to DARE with A-Levels from the UK, or other EU qualifications.

Read more about the DARE scheme at <https://bit.ly/DAREIreland>, or call CIPS on 0818 07 4000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

Lucan Goal Mile

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make a success of our local Christmas Goal Mile event, especially those who donated their Christmas morning time to ensure an organised and safe event.

Special thanks to everyone who “walked, ran, jogged or talked” their way around the track! Thanks also to Lucan Harriers A.C. who support the event annually.

In total, €8419 was raised by donations and merchandise sales. These monies will be used to support those whose lives are constantly taunted by war, famine and oppressions.

*Go raibh míle maith agaibh!
Gerard Martin*

Lucan Senior Citizens

Wednesday 21st January: Social Morning in St. Mary's Parish Centre, 10.30 to 12.30. New members welcome!



Carers & Toddlers Group

**Thursdays,
in St. Mary's Parish
Centre, from 9.30 to
11.30am.
All Welcome!**



Hip, Hip, Hooray!

We wish a speedy recovery
to former Newsletter Volunteer,
Jack Christal
who no doubt will be running around
the place in no time at all!

Looking forward to your
visits once again, Jack!

Lucan Newsletter Team



Lucan Lions Club

Wishing the staff at Lucan Newsletter a happy new year for 2026. Many thanks for your ongoing support in publicising the events/activities for Lucan Lions Club. We are grateful for the ongoing support right across the Lucan community for our fundraising activities. We will keep Newsletter readers updated on our events planned for 2026.



Christmas Raffle at SuperValu Lucan

Many thanks to SuperValu Lucan for sponsoring our annual Christmas Raffle which was held in store over 12-14 December. It was a very successful raffle and the winners were notified immediately and collected their prizes. We are most grateful for the support of SuperValu customers and really appreciate all those who volunteered selling tickets over the three days.

Spa Hotel Christmas Shows

Thanks also to Frank Colgan and the staff at the Spa Hotel for facilitating the Lions Club to have an interval raffle at the highly successful Christmas shows on 5/6 and 12/13 December.

The proceeds from these fundraising activities were distributed to those less well off in the Community over the Christmas period.

Mattie McCabe, PRO

Set Dance/Ceili Class



in
**Palmerstown Parish
Centre
every Monday night
at 8:30pm.
Admission is €5 with
tea & biscuits incl.**

Esker Active Retirement Association

We got off to a good start to 2026 at club meeting this week, we were all happy to meet up again and exchange stories about Christmas and New Year.

Usual activities including card games, scrabble and bowls.



We meet every **Wednesday** at 1.30 in **St Andrew's Parish Hall**, Main Street, Lucan. All very welcome, existing and new members.

Parish Notes

St Mary's, Lucan
www.lucanparish.com

**SUNDAY
in Ordinary
TIME**

Mass Times: Vigil: 6.30pm

Sunday: 10.30am, 12 noon and 7pm

The 10.30am Family Mass is aimed at younger parishioners and their families.

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 10am.

Masses live-streamed on www.lucanarish.com

Ministers of the Eucharist

If there are parishioners who are interested in becoming a minister, please contact myself at the following email: phylliscleary@gmail.com.

This is a beautiful ministry that brings many blessings and you would be made very welcome.

Philomena Cleary

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.

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)

Deepest Sympathy to the wife, family and friends of **Lar Cribben**, Cooldrinagh and to the family and friends of **Billy Conway**, Leixlip and Conway's Garage, Ballydowd.

May they rest in peace.



St Mary's Chorale

St Mary's Chorale would like to thank those who supported our Carol Concert in December. It was a wonderful event and €3,000 was raised for the Hospice.

Eithne and the choir wish to thank Aideen and her Junior choir, Michael and Colette Grant, their participation helped to create a truly memorable experience for all.

We would also like to thank the faithful congregation of St Mary's for their support throughout the year, for the great support of Fr Bill and all priests and for Mary and the sacristy and parish teams.

As we face into our 20th anniversary year the choir wish to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible musical director Eithne Donnelly, who has inspired and shaped us with great patience and brought out the best in our music.

St Mary's Chorale has vacancies in all parts. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Bernie on 0872240606. We rehearse each Wednesday from 8-9.30pm.

Wishing you all a happy New Year.

Prayer for Ecumenical Week

The Opening Service for Christian Unity Week will take place in the new Indian Orthodox Church in Palmerstown beside ALDI.

It will take place on **Sunday 18th January at 8pm.**

All are invited to attend and pray together as followers of Jesus Christ.

Our local service for Christian Unity Week will take place in the **Presbyterian Church in Lucan** on **Monday 26th January at 8.00p.m.**

All are invited and welcome to prayer with refreshments afterwards.

Thank You



A very belated but huge thank you to everyone for the good wishes before and after my surgery at the end of October. Your prayers, Masses, messages, scones, tarts, phone calls and support in so many ways means more than I can say and I feel truly blessed to be a part of our parish community.

Mary Douglas

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

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.

Adoration and Holy Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon: 7.30pm: Divine Mercy Adoration.

Fri: 1.15pm: Adoration MMPH Cenacle.

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

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Fruits of Medjugorje: Every Thursday, resuming 22nd Jan:

7.00pm: Rosary and Confessions.

7.30pm: Holy Mass.

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

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

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.

St. Patrick's Esker/ Dodsboro/ Adamstown

www.stpatrickslucan.ie

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

The **10.30am Family Mass** is aimed at younger parishioners and their families.

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

Tea/Coffee: Coffee Morning every Wednesday after the 10am Mass. Do drop in. All welcome.



AONTAS would like to thank the parishioners from the partnership of St Mary's/St Patricks for their support at their Christmas concert.

There was a packed church with beautiful music from Lucan Community College, St. Joseph's Kilcock and Aontas themselves. They were joined on the night by Bishop Paul Dempsey, Fr. Bill, Fr. Ubaldo, Fr. Pius, Deacon John and Cathy.

A sum of €4500 was raised on the night which will go towards their fundraising for their volunteering trip in the Philippines.

Many thanks for your support.



Our next fundraising event will be the **7th March in Leixlip GAA club** when we take to the stage to dance in **Aontas Strictly Come Dancing**, God help us!!!

Anniversaries

Nancy Birnie (nee McGrath)
15th Anniversary, 16th January

We think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched.
For nothing loved is ever lost,
and she was loved so much.

*Always in our hearts from Billy, Mark, Diane,
Aisling, Declan, grandchildren, family and
friends.*



Michael Griffin
1st Anniversary, 20th January

Late of Roselawn
Beloved husband, dad and granddad who
passed away on 20th January 2025.
We thank God for the beautiful memories and the
legacy of faith, love and kindness that you left
behind.



**Memorial Mass on Saturday 17th January at
6.30pm in St Mary's Church, Lucan.**

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Denis (DJ) McNamara

14th January

Late of Esker Lawns
It has been 9 years since you left us
but your love and guidance
remain forever in our hearts,
*Always remembered by his loving
wife Phyllis and family.*



Vincent O'Brien

6th Anniversary

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts
Very, very sadly missed
By the family xxxx



**Please note there is NO charge for anniversaries,
acknowledgements etc.**

Spiritual Exercises: 5 Day Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men

Led by Benedictine monks from St. Joseph
Abbey, in France.
**Starts Thursday 30th April (3pm). Benburb
Priory, Co. Tyrone (1.5 hrs from Dublin). €450
(all meals & single room included).**
Daily Mass - Ordinary Form (Latin & ad
orientem). Discover the strength that only comes
when you stop running and let God speak.
**Book at: [https://soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-
benburb-priory](https://soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-benburb-priory)**

MEDJUGORJE 2026

Depart 13th May for 7 Nights
Dublin to Dubrovnik at 7.30am



Normal Fare: €875.00

Our Price: €785.00

SAVE €90.00



Book before 30th Jan. €50.00

€735.00

Insurance: €35.00

To Book Please Contact PAT on

087 223 8911

or call Marian Pilgrimages on

01 878 8159



(AND SAY YOU ARE TRAVELLING WITH PAT'S GROUP)

Spiritual Director: Fr. Ray Kelly

Anam Cara,
which supports
parents after
bereavement, is
hosting an
Online Bereavement Information Evening on
Thursday 22nd January at 7pm.

Dr. Róisín Finnegan will be our guest speaker this month. Dr. Finnegan is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist currently working in Cancer Care West with individuals affected by cancer and loss.

This talk will focus on understanding grief after the death of a child, the many ways it can show up over time, and how parents can be supported in living alongside their loss. It will also touch on the impact of loss within the family, including siblings, and offers gentle ways of coping when emotions feel overwhelming.

Parents are also invited to register via this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aiLP8NkkTLeSY-c1i9iJYg#/registration>

We also offer informational packets, providing information about our supports, grieving processes, and ways to support families through this immensely challenging time. If your parish or community would like a set of packets, or to find out more about the services we offer please email us at info@anamcara.ie or call 085 288 8888.

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 22nd January at 7:45pm at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip and guests are most welcome to join us. Come along on the night or contact vpmlucantostmasters@gmail.com to register your interest.



Thursday 22nd January 2026, 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 January 22nd, where a warm welcome awaits you.

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



More than half way through January!

How time flies...
Still pretty cold, but there is a little stretch in the days.....
We're getting there!

Last week's Church Photo query!

Lucan Newsletter was hardly on sale last week, when we had an answer to our photo query. Thanks to *Teresa*, we now know it was in fact a picture of the Presbyterian Orphanage in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The orphanage was built next to the church back in 1854, and closed in the early 1900s. Well documented in Ballina's local history, the building is still standing. Take a look if you're down there on holidays, this summer.

Swimming Pool Testing – We're hearing that the pool is being trialled with fills of water. Hopefully, there won't be any leaks!!!

Lucan I.C.A.

Monday 19th January: Welcome back to all our crafty members, hope you all had a nice Christmas break.



We have invited Breda Bohan to give us a class on Silhouette Embroidery on Monday 19th January, from 10am 'til 12.30pm. Tea Rota: Patricia and Mary.

We send our sincere sympathy to Josie Carey on the death of her brother in law, Michael Rossiter, and to Miriam Gavin on the death of her brother in law Declan Gavin. Sympathy also to Pauline Bligh on the death of her 1st cousin, the writer, John Quinn. May they rest in peace.

Drivers v Pedestrians!

In most cases, I welcome the Council's efforts to slow down traffic, and make roads safer for pedestrians, around Lucan.

However, I'm wondering when they had a policy change?

Some years ago, the same Council painted three roundabouts on the roads of Hillcrest Estate. This facilitated the flow of traffic greatly, but at the roundabout on Hillcrest Walk, near Tesco, pedestrians have been taking their lives in their hands trying to negotiate this junction!

It was formerly a T-junction, where traffic stopped before going on the main roadway. Now all traffic coming from the right has the right-of-way.

On top of that, many vehicles do not use indicators, leading to confusion, and several near misses with pedestrians. The speed at which this roundabout is taken at times, is very frightening.

Another issue is at the junction of Millstream Road and Old Corn Mill Road. It is simply too wide – even with an island in the middle. Many a walker has been taken by surprise, with a car speeding up from the Old Celbridge road, to this junction.

I do commend those decent drivers who give pedestrians a chance, particularly older people and those with buggies and small children, who might need a few seconds more to cross.

Again, I wonder how the Council Road Safety Department tally their two different approaches to road safety for all?

(Name and address with Newsletter team)

The Snow of 1982



Many will remember the Big Snow of 1982! It began on 8th January, and lasted well into the middle of the month.

People were stranded and cars abandoned all over the place – unable to drive on the roads, due to the volume of snow.

Shop deliveries were also hindered, and some will recall walking to local farms for fresh milk.

After a few days, those who could improvise, managed to place chains on the wheels of their cars, giving them a grip on the icy surfaces. Those chains were held onto for a few years, but thankfully, there was no further call for them.

Below: People queuing for milk in St. Eds farm yard.



Apart from the snow, Lucan sure looked a lot different back then!

We won't mention the elephant in the room, but notice the orange-coloured bus at the terminus, and the bus shelter with public toilets. Also, no sign of the thatched roof on Courtneys back then!

It's nice to have the pictures to remind us of days gone by, but hopefully, we won't see any of the white stuff in 2026!



CHOOL NEWS



St. Joseph's College

TY Ice skating: Last Thursday TYs and their tutors spent a fantastic day of fun and bonding as a year group at Dundrum on ice. It was a fantastic day out. After time spent on the ice students got to enjoy some time shopping and unwinding before returning to the school.

Stripe Young Scientist: A massive well done to TY student Jodie Byrne who competed in the Stripe Young Scientist last week. Jodie's project called Dyslexic Lens explores how pupils with severe dyslexia visually experience text during reading. Through a series of animations Jodie hopes to have a better understanding of dyslexia, how it affects pupils, and how to help them by understanding what they are experiencing. She also hopes to support teachers, families, and support staff to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and to provide more meaningful help to pupils with Dyslexia. Jodie met An Taoiseach and he showed a great interest in her project and spoke to her about Muhammad Ali who himself was also dyslexic. Jodie did absolutely fantastic for the entirety of the exhibition and represented the school with excellently as she spoke with the public, special invited guests and of course the judges themselves.



Under 16 Basketball: The team of 14 players made the long journey to Waterford on Friday last to compete in the national playoff finals for u16 basketball, after winning their regional final. First

up was Mercy Waterford who we beat 43-36. Next the girls faced off against Glanmire Community College. The girls knew this was going to be a tougher game having seen them previously beat Mercy. This was a tough team who went ahead from the beginning. The girls fought back brilliantly with determination, skill and flair. The girls ended up winning three of the four quarters but unfortunately were a point behind at the final whistle. The girls were so disappointed but upon reflection the girls knew they had a great season, had some great games and made friends along the way. We are super proud of their achievements, well done to all of them.

Junior Camogie: On Tuesday morning, our junior camogie team made the long trip up to Antrim to take on St Killians, College at Ruairí Óg, Cushendall Gaa grounds. Despite a great start to the game and trading scores with their opponents for the first half unfortunately St. Killians pulled away in the second half to win and progress to the all Ireland semi final. Despite the disappointment of the result our girls were encouraged to be proud of their achievements this year as having won the Dublin championship is no small feat. A lot of the girls on the panel are underage again next year so hopefully the run to the all Ireland quarter final can be out down to experience that can be used going forward.



Follow Us on Twitter: [@StJosephsLucan](https://twitter.com/StJosephsLucan)
Follow Us on Instagram: [@stjosephscollege_luca](https://www.instagram.com/stjosephscollege_luca)
Find us on our Website: www.stjosephslucan.com



Coláiste Phádraig CBS

Science: This year's Stripe Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition 2026 was a remarkable showcase of curiosity, creativity, and commitment, and our school is immensely proud of the outstanding group of 17 students who represented us over four inspiring days at the RDS.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin with our 3rd yr students at the YSE 2026

A special word of congratulations goes to 2nd yr Blake Carey, who achieved 2nd place in the Biological and Ecological Sciences Junior Individual category for his project "Do Microplastics in Freshwater Sediments Alter the Nitrogen Cycle?" Judges described the project as "interesting with interesting results" and were particularly impressed by Blake's identification of an inverse relationship between ammonia and nitrate.

Well done also to Modasir Ahadmanish, Mohammad Zamir and Nabil Wan Mohd Rozir, who received a Highly Commended Award in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences Intermediate Group category for their project "Biomechanics of Hand Grip Strength vs Hand Size." This team delivered an engaging and well-structured investigation into whether hand size can predict grip strength in teenagers.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to local TDs Paul Gogarty and Shane Moynihan for

taking the time to engage so positively with our students. During the exhibition, both TDs stopped at the students' stalls, showing genuine interest in their work. They asked thoughtful questions about the projects on display and took time to listen carefully as students explained their ideas, research, and findings. Several students were also delighted to meet An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, who took time to engage with the exhibition and speak with them about their projects and future ambitions.



The success of our students would not have been possible without the dedication and support of Ms. Farrell and Mr. Carey.

They supported the students throughout the entire process, offering expertise, motivation and practical assistance at every stage of their projects. The guidance and encouragement from both teachers ensured that students felt confident, prepared and proud of their work.

Many of the students are now keen to participate in upcoming SciFest competitions, inspired by their positive experiences at the RDS.

Basketball: Our 1st and 2nd yr basketball teams had their opening East Boys "A" League games in the sports hall on Tuesday. They both played Coláiste Pobail, Setanta with the 1st yr match up first. Lucan played extremely well in the opening 1-4 as they opened up a 13-9 lead, with Alfie Donohue (3), Daniel Breen (2), Billy Gogarty (4), Aedan Forster (2) and Jack Collins (2) getting the scores. In the 2nd 1-4 Setanta proved stronger as they took a 23-15 lead into half-time, with Darragh Nolan getting Lucan's only score.

Continued over.....

Coláiste Phádraig CBS *continued....*

Our 1st yrs won the 3rd 1-4 to reduce the deficit to 6 points (25-31), thanks to great scores from Billy (4), Aedan (2) and Alfie (4). The final quarter was a tight affair, which Setanta edged by a point, as they claimed a hard-fought 40-33 victory. Jack Collins was electric in this period as he scored 3 brilliant baskets while Alfie brought his individual score to 10 points with a late basket. They have three more group matches to play, with the top two teams advancing to the Cup 1-4 finals, while the other two teams will compete in the Plate 1-4 finals.

Our 2nd yrs then took to the court, but Setanta ultimately proved to be too strong as they eased to a fairly comfortable 43-23 victory. Daniel McDevitt (6), Max O' Neill (8), Matthew Mackey (7) and Cillian O' Neill (2) got the team's scores.

Hurling: Our senior hurling team defeated St. McDara's Templeogue 1-14 to 1-9 last Friday in their Dublin League 1-4 final. Killian Costello (0-8), Páidí Murphy (0-2), Henry Greene (0-2), Darragh Garrigan (0-1), Derry Ware (0-1) and Conor McHugh (0-1) got the team's scores.

We are delighted to extend our warmest congratulations to past pupil Chris Mooney, who graduated in 2006, on his appointment as referee for the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Final between Ballygunner and Loughrea, to be played at Croke Park on Sunday, January 18.

Soccer: Our senior soccer team defeated Le Chéile, Tyrellstown 4-2 last Wednesday to advance to the Dublin West Regional semi-finals. Emmet Kelleher, John Donoghue, Jamie Cassells and Matthew McEvoy scored the goals. They will now face Holy Family CS, Rathcoole for a place in the Final.

School Lotto: The principal has received formal approval from the Board of Management to establish a school lotto. This initiative will provide funding to support school activities and development. Further information regarding this lotto, including details on how to participate, will be communicated to the school community soon. Watch this space!

St. Mary's B.N.S.

Our school recently raised money for GOAL for their 'Jersey Day'.

Our Student Council recently presented a cheque of €833 to Brenda Gately from GOAL.

Eblana Beekeeping Course - Spring 2026

St Marys Parish Centre, Lucan K78 E138

(7pm doors open... tea/coffee) Lecture 7:30-9:00pm

Tue 24/02/2026	Open Evening - introductory discussions	
Tue 03/03/2026	1 i) Hive parts and Beekeeping Equipment	1 ii) Advanced topic [to be added]
Tue 10/03/2026	2 i) Inhabitants of the hive	2 ii) Advanced topic [to be added]
Tue 24/03/2026	3. Siting the apiary / The Beekeeping Year	
Tue 31/03/2026	4. i) Forage throughout the year.	4 ii) Advanced topic [to be added]
Tue 07/04/2026	5. Swarming and Swarm Control	
Tue 14/04/2026	6. i) Hygiene at the apiary incl. bee diseases ii) Honey Harvesting iii) Preparing for Winter	
<i>Saturday mornings April-to-Sept</i>		
	Visits to the association apiary TUD Blanchardstown and other <i>ad hoc</i> events	

Garrett Dempsey, Education Officer

Contact secretary@eblanabeekeeping.ie for further details and membership enquiries.

Conversational Irish

in

St Mary's Parish Centre

10.30-11.30a.m.

every Wednesday.

All are welcome



REGULAR EVENTS

No booking is required for the below events - all are welcome to attend!

Knitting Group - meets every Monday from 10am to 12pm.



Lucan Library Creative Writing Group -

Thursday 22nd January, 10am – 12pm.

New members most welcome

Classic Film Club - Tuesday 27th

January. Tea/coffee from 5.30pm, film starting at 6pm.

All Welcome!



ADDITIONAL ADULT EVENTS

Art with Olla! – Recreate iconic Dublin Doors, all materials will be provided. 28th January 10am-12noon. Book your place on Eventbrite from 21/01/26.



Irish Sign Language ISL Course –

Course for beginners with the Irish Deaf Society. Participants must commit to attending all 8 weeks.

starting Thursday 29th January at 6.30pm ending 19th March. Book your place on Eventbrite from 22/01/26.

Introduction to Python – Learn how to create an interactive quiz using python with Coding Ireland. Friday 30th January at 10-11am. Book your place on Eventbrite from 23/01/26.

BOOK CLUBS

Enquire at the desk about joining one of our book clubs - new members welcome!



Monday Lunchtime Book Club –

Monday 26th January - 12noon

Wednesday Book Club - Wednesday

28th January at 7.00pm

Read and Eat Cook Book Club (new!) –

Thursday January 29th at 10.30am

CLOSED FEBUARY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Please book events on Lucan Library/
Eventbrite

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

YOUNGER CHILDREN

Musical Tots - Saturday 24th of January at 10.30am. Book your place on Eventbrite from 17/01/26.

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

Cuidíú Breastfeeding Group - Meets twice monthly. Next meeting: 16th January at 10am. No booking required.

OLDER CHILDREN

– Please book events on Lucan Library/
Eventbrite

Crafts with Elena for ages 9-12 - Thursday 22nd January at 3.30pm. Book your place on Eventbrite from 15/01/2026

EXHIBITIONS

Kishoge Community College - Exhibition of Poetry: Starting 07th January
1960's Dublin Photo Exhibition: Starting 12th January.



Other Resources:

My Open Library

My Open Library is a new service that offers extended library opening hours by allowing access to registered My Open Library members outside of staffed hours.

How does it work?

You must go through an induction with staff before you can register for MOL. Once registered, you can scan your library card at the door to enter the library during My Open Library Hours and not allow access to others. My Open Library will let you enter the library between 8am and 10pm every day - even bank holidays!

Ask staff at the desk about registering for My Open Library extended hours access!

Sat 31st - Mon 02nd inclusive

Please enquire with staff about My Open Library/ Extended Hours membership

Féile Bríde Events

Pilgrimage on St. Brigid Eve

31st January. Time: 6.00 pm – 7.00pm

Venue: Japanese Garden's Carpark.

Assemble at the Japanese Gardens car park at 5.45pm. beginning at the Japanese Gardens car park the pilgrimage will wind its way past St. Brigid's wayside well and conclude at St. Brigid's Garden well.

St Brigid's Cross Weaving



Saturday 31st January – 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Venue: Solas Bhride Centre, Kildare.

Participants will learn the art of cross weaving using rushes.

When you have successfully woven your

cross enjoy a chat and a cup of tea with fellow participants.

Lá Fhéile Bride – Kildare Calls for a Global Pause for Peace.

1st February. Time: 12.00pm – 12.01pm

Venue: Solas Bhride Centre, Kildare.

Inspired by Brigid, a woman of peace, we invite you to join with us and people all over the world for 1 minute's silence/reflection and build a spirit of global solidarity for peace.

Planting a Symbol of Peace Together Join us for the unveiling of a Peace Pole.

Sunday 1st February. Venue: Solas Bhride Centre
Time: 12.15 pm. Admission: Free.

Under Brigid's Mantle

2nd February. Time: 11.00 am – 12.00 noon.

Cost: €5.

Celebrate St. Brigid and the arrival of spring with a relaxed morning of storytelling music and poetry.

Welcome to our morning celebration shaped by stories, readings, poetry and music as we honour St. Brigid. We will reflect on her legacy of creativity, compassion and renewal as we embrace the possibilities of Spring.

Guest Speaker. Nancy Fitzgerald.

Kildare Through the Ages. A Journey across the Curragh.

2nd February.

Step back in time and explore Kildare's history on the legendary Curragh.

Facilitators: Kevin O'Reilly, Mary Lenihan.

Registration: 2.00 pm at Solas Bhride Spirituality Centre, Tully Road, Kildare, 2.15pm Bus

departing. Cost: €10 (incl cost of bus and tea/coffee).

Please dress weather appropriate and wear suitable footwear for soft/wet ground underfoot.

Booking essential: Enquiries to

www.solasbride.ie or info@solasbride.ie

Situated between the town of Kildare and Newbridge the Curragh is an extensive tract of flat unenclosed grassland, where Brigid is reputed to have shepherded her flocks of sheep. Hence it became known as Brigid's Pastures. As you walk you will be introduced to some of its unique archaeological, historical and cultural heritage.

Stepping Into Spring

3rd February. Time: 10.00 am – 10.30 am

Venue: Solas Bhride Centre. Admission: Free

Emerging Into Light. Morning Meditation.

4th February. Time: 10.00 am – 10.30am

Admission: Free. Venue: Solas Bhride Centre.

Annual Celtic Lecture.

4th February. Time: 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Admission: Free

Sponsored by Kildare Education Support Centre.

Booking: Kildare Education Support Centre.

Phone:045 530200.

Springtime Stillness: Morning Meditation

Venue: Solas Bhride Spirituality Centre.

Time: 10.00 am – 10.30 am

Admission: Free.

Evening dedicated to St. Brigid and her Legacy.

5th February. Venue: Kildare Town Library.

Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

Admission: Free

Enquiries and Booking:
045 520255.

To celebrate the Festival of St. Brigid, Kildare Town Library presents an 'Evening of St Brigid and her Legacy' – the newly formed Kildare Town Writers Group will read from their own original works around our Abbess and what she means to them. Refreshment will be served.

Mass at St. Brigid's Well

8th February. Time: 10.30 am.

For further information contact Solas Bhride Team. Phone: 045 522890.

Email: info@solasbride.ie

Griffeen Junior Parkrun is Back

I was so happy to see the return of Griffeen Junior Parkrun before Christmas.



This is a FREE flat 2km route for all 4–14-year-olds to participate in on a Sunday morning and the whole family can join – NO DOGS though.

A mix of walking, jogging or running means it is suitable for all abilities. And with a tail walker your little one will never be last. I am astounded by the support and cheering every Sunday all the volunteers give to the children (and parents) on the way around the course. High Fives of super energy has definitely given my little one the burst of energy they've needed. Over the last few weeks, we have had lots of children volunteer and help us get warm with exercises before the run and we have even got to run past the North Pole to help us navigate the route. The volunteers have all been so helpful and I love that my little one is working towards their first Milestone Bracelet. I didn't believe they would even complete the course, never mind jog for most of it – it is so encouraging seeing so many children out with their families and friends.

All you have to do is sign your child up at www.parkrun.ie and register them. I have printed the barcode out so my kid can scan in themselves when they finish and get their time. You'll get an email with their result. The focus is on participation and fun rather than competition. I have even spotted some parents donning the high viz jackets and volunteer too. It really does tick all the boxes for us – I get a bit of fresh air, exercise and am getting to know people in my community. When it is no longer 'cool' for me to join my kids, I will be donning the yellow jacket! I have even enjoyed a post parkrun cuppa where my little one enjoyed a special free hot chocolate to congratulate the restart of Junior Griffeen Parkrun from SOHO Coffee in Aura Leisure Centre, and everyone was in such a good mood.

We have all had fun, moved, escaped from the to-do lists at home and spent time in the company of likeminded positive people for the last few Sundays.

I hope to see this grow more and more over the coming weeks and wish all the volunteers the best of luck while they are in their new phase developing it again. Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering and encouraging us to be a part of it.



Cumann na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin



Lotto

We had no winner of last week's lotto jackpot of €4,600. The Numbers were

3, 15, 19 & 27.

Lucky dips go to Deirdre

Stapleton, Donal Downes, Lorna Hurl, Bridie Burke, Karen

McAndrew. This week's Lotto

will be for a jackpot of €5,000. This draw is sponsored by John Ryan, Accountant and will be led by Frank Fleming.



25 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

Our academy returns on **Saturday 17th January 2026** and is open to all boys and girls aged between 4-7. The academy runs every Saturday – no need to sign up in advance, just turn up and give it a try.

Age group times are as follows; 2021/2022 - 9am, 2020 – 10am and 2019 – 11am.

Thank You for supporting Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club

Political Notes

Minister Emer Higgins TD – Fine Gael

01 618 3013. Insta: @emerhigginstd
Emer.Higgins@oireachtas.ie

National Hot School Meals Survey Launched:

As part of the government's efforts to improve hot school meals, a national survey on the Hot School Meals Programme has been launched. I am encouraging parents, guardians, caregivers and teachers to take part in and have their say. Listening to the voices of families and educators is vital as the programme continues to expand and improve. The survey can be completed online at finegael.ie/hotschoolmeals. The closing date for submissions is 21 January 2026.

Adamstown Youth & Community Centre:

I was also delighted to hear of the funding of €20,000 announced for Adamstown Youth and Community Centre. This funding is being provided by the Community Centre Management Support Fund 2025 and is a great boost and a real acknowledgment of the incredible work carried out by the centre to support people locally.

Helen Farrell, Independent

Working with Paul Gogarty, TD, Independent
Email: hfarrell@clrs.sdblincoco.ie
Tel: 087-2794936.

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/4jHwjR>

Dogs on Leads in Parks:

My motion for clearer signage on the byelaw requiring dogs to be leashed in SDCC parks (except designated dog parks) was passed at this week's Council meeting. This follows complaints about off-lead dogs. New signage should help ensure compliance and improve safety for all.

Lucan Transport:

Dublin Bus & NTA Meetings:
Dublin Bus cancelled its planned meeting with Councillors. Many of you contacted me with concerns; I've compiled these to raise directly with Dublin Bus where appropriate. I'm hopeful the promised NTA meeting (expected end-February) will proceed. This is a vital opportunity to represent your views on routes, timetables, and service improvements, as NTA controls these decisions.

Tradfest 2026:

21-26 January.
Fantastic to see TradFest has come to South Dublin in 2026!
Scan QR code for the programme:



Derren Ó Brádaigh – Sinn Féin Rep

Mobile: 087-2136345
Email: dobradaighsf@gmail.com

Twitter: @DerrenBrady1

Keep Your Bike Locked Up!

Big shout out to Lucan Garda Station for providing a free bicycle engraving service last Sunday. This was hugely successful and another important measure toward combatting bike theft. Unfortunately, 4% of bikes are never returned to their rightful owners, so Always keep your bike locked, note the serial number and have an identifying feature etched on it if possible.

Lucan-Newlands Road - Poor Road Surface:

I have raised the need for road and path repairs at multiple locations with the council recently. This includes attention to potholes and line marking on the Lucan Newlands Road outside the Lucan Leisure Centre and Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada. Adamstown Schools /Traffic Warden Arrangement. Ongoing concerns continue to be brought to my attention regarding road safety at drop off and collection times. Having raised these concerns several times, I have asked my Sinn Féin colleague to submit a motion calling for a review of the situation.

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

(085)2551602 CBrady@Clrs.SDublinCoCo.ie

Bike Security at Lucan Leisure Campus:

I raised concerns about bike theft, and progress is underway. Extra bike stands for 10 bikes will be installed in the entrance courtyard, visible from reception. CCTV remains in place available to Gardaí, and the operator is working with Gardaí on further theft prevention.

Trees:

Following representations dead trees were removed from Ballydowd and Airlie Heights. 381 trees were planted as part of the 2025 Winter Tree Planting Programme in the following locations Airlie Heights, Beech Park, Canonbrook Park, Dodsboro Cottages, Dodsboro Shops, Elm Drive & Way, Esker Park Lane, Finnsgreen, Finnstown Abbey, Foxdene Avenue, Drive, Green, & Park, Griffeen Road/Way, Hillcrest Heights, Roselawn Green, St Finnians, Westbrook Park, Westbury, and Woodview Heights.

Please contact me if you wish to raise issues at County Council, Lucan Area or South Dublin Community Safety Partnership meetings.

Political Notes continued over.....

Political Notes *Cont'd.*

Paul Gogarty TD – Independent

Working with Cllr Helen Farrell

“Not just at election time”

Dáil office: 01 6184078. WhatsApp: 0892364871.

Website: www.paulgogarty.com

Swimming Pool Test Fills:

This week saw the first test fills of the Lucan Pool. Handover will hopefully be late February with a view to opening in March. Usual caveats about delays apply. Helen and I continue to monitor closely (search “Pool” on my website).

Village and Demesne Works:

Progress is being made here also but I’ve asked for an update on the timescale for the long-promised planting. There’s a rolling update from myself and Helen, which includes links to all the original consultation drawings and submissions (search “Lucan Village” on website).

Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition:

Great to meet so many local students and see their wonderful work first-hand. Search “ytse” on my website to see their projects.

Some **Dáil contributions** for this week are now also online.

Cllr. Fiona O’Toole – Independent

0872795274.

lootoole@clrs.sdblincoco.ie lionaotoole.com

Bus Shelters:

At the January Council meeting my motion was passed requesting that publicly funded bus shelters be designated as exempted development removing the requirement for planning permission. All regulations and standards would still apply but the barrier of a full planning application would be removed. This follows ongoing delays locally where shelters removed during works have taken years to be reinstated often in the same locations. Bus shelters are a basic public service and this change could significantly speed up delivery.

Bus Survey:

To assist me in compiling local evidence and lived experiences I would appreciate your input. Following my successful motion I have secured meetings with the National Transport Authority to discuss the bus network serving our area. Please take a moment to complete the survey below. Every response strengthens the case for improvements to routes, frequency and reliability.

<https://forms.gle/rTapAL9jfwrEosGRA>

Lucan Adamstown Station

The rail station at Adamstown Lucan is in ideal location for bus connections now and rail later. This station can have direct links to almost half of Dublin by bus, reducing travel times up to an hour, creating almost 30% extra capacity for locals non-stop by rail to city centre.



All country trains would stop at Adamstown; country trains would start 3 minutes earlier to make up for this delay. Most of the bus network already in place, two routes W4 and W6 need a short diversion to link with station. C25 replacing lost routes and replace L53 with a long route 53 to UCD via Ballyfermot, Kylemore Luas along R112 to Dundrum. Restore Airport Hopper bus from Maynooth via Adamstown rail station to achieve the necessary demand for viability. This avoids many users going into city to get a bus backout again.

Other Mainline rail routes out of Dublin have a country stop outside city centre at Maynooth on the Sligo rail line and Bray on the Wexford rail line. This would also be a great advantage for many users going to the countryside by rail, avoiding them having to go into the city to get their train, even better on way back. This is part of the NEW integrated transport plan for Dublin benefiting all Ireland. Adamstown is also vital for rail link up in the future.

Tom Newton 086 3127364 ACRA.

Don’t

Don’t wait for time. Make it.

Don’t wait for love. Feel it.

Don’t wait for money. Earn it.

Don’t wait for a path to appear. Look for it.

Don’t wait for opportunity. Find it.

Don’t settle for less. Go for the best.

Don’t compare. Be unique.

Don’t fight your misfortune. Transform it.

Don’t avoid failure. Learn from it.

Don’t dwell on a mistake. Get over it.

Don’t go back. Go around.

Don’t close your eyes. Open your heart.

Don’t run from life. Embrace it.

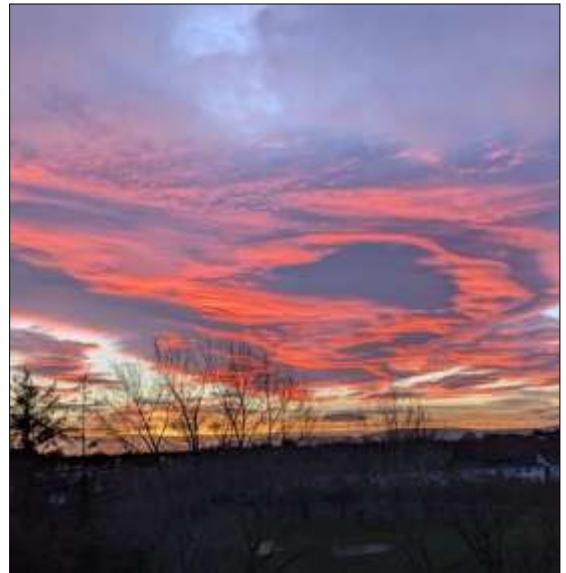
St. Mary's Camera Soirée

For the month of January, the Camera Soiree is undertaking some revision of the functions of the various options available in the menus of our digital cameras so as to improve our photographic skills. It is too easy to set the camera to automatic!

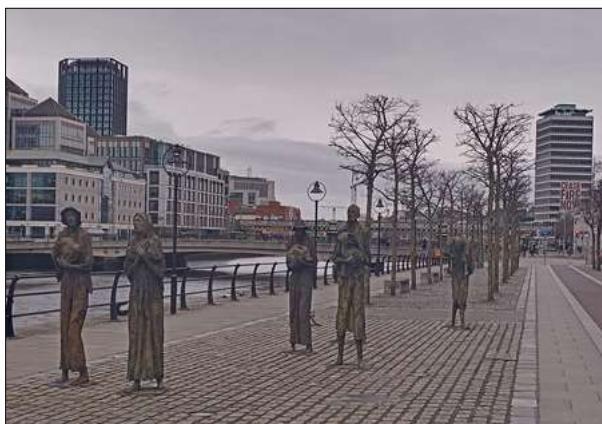
Photographs were a little bit thin on the ground this week but the highlight has to be Anna's photo of the Dawn over Lucan on Wednesday morning.



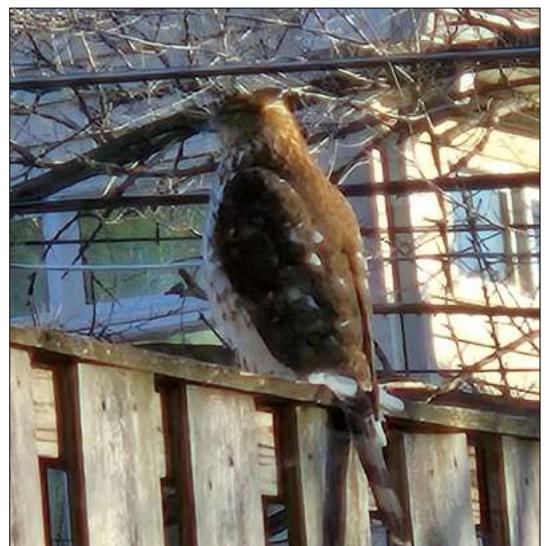
Donal submitted photos of Dun Laoghaire Harbour and of the 40 foot!



Joe was down on the Custom House quay and got a photo of the Famine Memorial. The memorial was created by the internationally acclaimed sculptor Rowan Gillespie and presented to the city of Dublin in 1997. The sculpture features six life-size figures dressed in rags, clutching their children and belongings. In 2007, similar figures were unveiled at Ireland Park on the shores of Lake Ontario in Toronto, Canada. The work in Toronto commemorates the arrival of the tens of thousands of refugees in Toronto fleeing the Great Famine.



Because our own photos were a bit scarce. I have taken the liberty of including a photo I received from my friend in Arlington, Virginia recently of a red-tailed hawk that landed on the fence in her back garden. The red plumage can be seen on the underside of the bird's tail when it is in flight. As there was a black squirrel in my friend's garden at the time this may have been the reason for the Hawk's visit.



Stay safe until next week!