



Christ Church Taney

Parish of Taney



Saint Nahi's

THE PARISH PROFILE

~ Taney is an inclusive place where everyone is encouraged to play a role ~

The Parish

Taney Church of Ireland parish in Dublin is numerically one of the largest parishes in the country. Centered in suburban Dundrum, the parish extends from Milltown Road to Ticknock (N/S) and from Mount Anville to Churchtown (E/W). Comprising the suburbs of Churchtown, Windy Arbour, Dundrum, Taney, Ballinteer, Sandyford, Goatstown, Clonskeagh, Kilmacud, its transition from village to major town continues.

The parish offers an exciting and challenging ministry amongst people within the Church of Ireland community and beyond it. Ecumenical links and inter-faith contacts give ample scope for a comprehensive experience of Christian ministry with opportunity, initiative and work. With its normal staff of Rector and two Curates, Taney has been and continues to be one of the leading training parishes in the Church of Ireland.

Taney is a lively, vibrant place with a broad mix of parishioners, many of whom have young families. Its worship, life, practice and witness anticipates and responds to the changing needs of a mobile, pluralist and increasingly secular society. In ministry it offers opportunities for working as part of a team with initiative and imagination, while there is also scope for encouraging individual gifts. Taney as a parish provides wide and varied experience in practically every area of life and ministry.

A table of statistics is provided below:

Family Units	c. 900	Baptisms	30/40 per year
People in Parish	c. 2200	Confirmations	30/40 per year
		Weddings	10/15 per year

Churches

Christ Church is situated on Taney Road, Dundrum. Built 1818, it was completed with additions etc. c.1880; it was totally renovated and re-roofed in 2006/2008, seating 600. *St. Nahi's* is situated on Lower Churchtown Road, clearly visible from LUAS Bridge, and is the mother church of the parish, on a site tracing a tradition of worship back to the 7th century. *St. Nahi's* was renovated in 2009/2010, seating 80. Its adjoining parish burial ground and Garden of Remembrance are open to all in the community, irrespective of religious denomination.

Worship and Life

Worship is at the centre of the life and witness of the parish and is expressed in many ways, notably in both our churches with the music ministry of two senior choirs and an excellent junior choir and in twice weekly school assemblies. The parish has always had a strong musical tradition: the parish choirs based in Christ Church and St. Nahi's are led by the parish's Director of Music and there is also a very vibrant Junior Choir. The diocesan Archbishop's Certificate of Music examinations are held in Christ Church.

Services

Christ Church

8.30am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)] Attendance 10/20
10.15am Parish Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)]
Family Service (2nd Sunday)] Average attendance 320/400
Morning Prayer (4th Sunday)]

7.00pm Evening Service (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) Attendance 15/20

Wednesday 10.00am Mid-week Holy Communion (Saints' Days transferred) – Average attendance c.20

St. Nahi's

8.30am Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) – Attendance 10/20
11.45am Morning Prayer (1st, 3rd) - Parish Communion 2nd & 4th – Average attendance 40/60

Lent, Advent, Holy Week are observed.

BCP (2004) and *Church Hymnal* (2000) are used, with flexibility for new ideas and creativity in worship that aims to be inclusive and accessible to all.

Sunday School & Crèche

Around 100 young people attend every Sunday except Family Service Sunday. All young people come to worship first and leave during the service, however Sunday sport affects attendance. Confirmation preparation is on selected Sundays and mid-week. A crèche for young children is provided every Sunday morning during worship.

Life and witness are further expanded through activities in the parish centre, mission and charity projects and visiting the sick, the elderly and our parishioners in their homes. One of our major goals is to ensure that Taney parish is always inclusive and welcoming to all people. The parish places particular importance in helping new families settle into the community and find a sense of identity and belonging in an ambiance of warmth and friendship in new surroundings. Major assets in this area are Taney Pre-School and the Mums and Toddlers Group offering young families pre-school nurture and social interaction for under-fours.

The Taney Parish Care Group provides a social and spiritual outlet for older members of the community - particularly housebound members of the parish. The Bible Study/Prayer Group meets in the parish centre each Wednesday morning often linking up with Taney One World Group (including members of the nearby Roman Catholic and Methodist churches) in various initiatives such as Lenten Lunches, Refugee Children of Bethlehem Christmas Appeal evening, and the Christmas Missionary Bazaar which involves the school and many of our parish organizations. Taney Helping Hands is a group of volunteers who help with the running of the parish and the centre, organizing rosters for counters, readers, communion distribution and assisting with Sunday warden duties. The annual Parish Fête is our major fund-raiser - widely supported and enjoyed by the general community. The annual Community Candlelight Carol Service fills Taney Church to overflowing and is a focal point for many families in the wider community of all denominations at Christmas time.

Outreach and Mission

There is a lively tradition of the parish supporting mission and charity organizations, sending voluntary work teams to places such as Uganda (Bishop Tucker Theological College, schools and orphanage in Mukono), Romania (God's mountain orphanage, Cluj), Sri Lanka (the post-Tsunami Galle Tsunami Project), Palestine (Deheishe Refugee Camp, Bethlehem). We support many mission partners including Deirdre Lloyd, a parishioner, working with United Mission to Nepal. Summer outreach programmes support our young people

and parish teams to volunteer in Uganda (over two years) at Bishop Tucker College, and most recently in Romania (three years), in Sri Lanka (two years) and Dheishe Refugee Camp, Bethlehem (several years).

The Christmas Bazaar (held annually since the 1890s each December) involves our own parishioners in direct fundraising for the outreach of the Church of Ireland. The Parish gives on average €50/60,000 each year to mission and charities. In addition, last year our application to Bishops' Appeal to assist Middle East Council of Churches work amongst refugees in Gaza raised a further €15,000.

Community, Ecumenical and Inter-faith Links

Parishioners are involved in a wide range of community activities. The Parish has good ecumenical relationships with local Roman Catholic, Methodist, Quaker and other communities expressed through The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services, Peace Walks, shared Christmas greetings, clergy and faith leaders' meetings and other organized services and events.

We have developed good inter-faith relationships with the Imams, the Islamic community and Mosques, Cultural Centres at Clonskeagh (Sunni) and Milltown (Shiite) and with the Rabbi and Jewish community.

The Abrahamic Three Faiths Forum composed of leaders and members of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths is coordinated from Taney Parish Centre and meets quarterly.

Lent/Advent Ecumenical Services/Study Groups are led by laity in St. Nahi's or in local churches.

The Armenian Orthodox Community meets every Sunday for service, Sunday School and coffee.

Schools and Colleges

Taney Parish Primary School is an integral part of parish life with 450 pupils and 20 teaching staff. It is vital that a close link is maintained between parish, clergy and Taney School. Assemblies are held two days each week. Young families often make their first contact with and become involved in church and parish life when the children come to school. See <www.taneyschool.ie>.

Wesley College The parish has close connections with Wesley College, a Methodist foundation with its own Chaplain. The majority of pupils who attend the school are Church of Ireland. Parish clergy take assembly on invitation and prepare Church of Ireland boarders for Confirmation.

Chaplaincies

The Parish Clergy are Chaplains to:-

- Dundrum Central Mental Institution (high security hospital).
- Simpson's Hospital, Dundrum (geriatric residential care centre for men).
- U.P.C. Beacon Hospital (private hospital)

Taney Parish Centre

The modern parish centre completed and in use since September 1991, adjoins Taney church, providing a focal point for the entire local community in Dundrum, and continues the strong links that have long existed between Taney and the wider community. The Centre includes two halls, meeting rooms, the parish office and a clergy room, as well as various rooms and open spaces for its activities, organizations and community involvement. The foyer coffee shop open 9.00am-2.00pm on Monday to Friday for teas, coffee, snacks and lunches is also open every Sunday morning after service.

Many people from both the parish and wider community use the Parish Centre across a wide spectrum of activities and age groups. These include parish and community-based groups, scouting and guiding, youth club,

the Taney Rangers, Taney Helping Hands, the Drama Group, League of Health, a gardening course, mothers and toddlers, bowls, bridge, badminton and snooker, and a host of smaller faith-based groups.

The Centre is staffed part-time by an Administrator (30 hours), a parish secretary (20 hours) and two caretaking/maintenance personnel. The Parish Administrator has responsibility (with the help of a management committee) for the running of the centre. Due to the successful letting of rooms and halls and contributions from parish organizations the centre has always been self-financing. For the past 15 years, the Parish Centre has provided a diocesan focal point as the location of the annual diocesan synod, while the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Employment Bureau is also based in the Parish Centre.

Taney Parish Lawn Tennis Club, adjoining Old Rectory Park, Taney Road, offers four grass courts and a modest club house during Spring and Summer seasons.

Parish Organizations and Activities

A wide spectrum of parish organisations and activities under various interest headings have successfully operated over many years. In addition, we offer various community-based activities in which many of our parishioners participate. We endeavour to create an inclusive atmosphere where all feel welcome. This reflects the broad mix of parishioners of whom many young families are inter-church or come from a background where religious 'tags' are irrelevant. Parish activities include the Sunday School, Crèche, two adult Choirs, Junior Choir, Bellringers Association responsible for ringing in the tower every Sunday, all Guiding and Scouting organizations, Badminton, Snooker, Bowling, Whist, Drama Society, Mothers' Union, Care Group which keeps regular contact with the housebound, Bible Study/Prayer Group, Signposts (Faith Discussion), Youth Club, the Taney Rangers which organizes regular social outings for married couples and single people, Play School, Mums & Toddlers, One World Group, including members of local Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches, and the Taney Market. Brochures detailing all parish- and community-based activities are available and updated regularly.

New Initiatives

Taney parish has adopted a number of progressive initiatives in recent times. One of the most notable of these is the Friends of Taney website <www.fot.ie> which is linked to the main parish website. Fot.ie, which was awarded a first prize by General Synod 2011, is a joint initiative between Taney Parish and School. The site, which was launched earlier this year, aims to provide a platform for parishioners to find and/or offer their services and skills, and aid those who may be struggling or unemployed as a result of the current economic climate.

Another pilot scheme in the parish is the introduction of a flexible new rota system for churchwardens. In order to allow people with young families to become more engaged in church life, the elected church wardens share churchwarden-duties between a number of families who would be unable to commit on a weekly basis but still wish to be involved. Parallel to this is an initiative involving young people in a 'welcome at the door' ministry as junior churchwardens.

Work in progress

Taney Village

Taney Village is an ambitious parish project which aspires to provide 'a continuum of care' for the older person comprising independent and supported living, and a nursing home with high dependency unit and day centre. The need for such a facility was established as a result of parish forums and surveys over a number of years, and planning approvals were granted September 2007. The project is currently on hold due to the current recession, but the Select Vestry is in consultation with the Diocese and Representative Church Body, with a view to a successful resolution.

St. Nahi's Church & Churchyard

The Select Vestry is in the process of reaching agreement with Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown County Council on the provision of utilities at the Church and the acquisition of a derelict site as an addition to the churchyard.

Properties

In addition to the churches and parish centre, the following properties are in good repair:

Rectory - 6 Stoney Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14 (2 minutes walk from Christ Church and parish centre).

Curates Houses - Church Cottages, 19 & 21 Taney Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14 (within the grounds of Christ Church).

Staff

- *Clergy*: In addition to the rector, the Taney Parish ministry team normally includes two curates. In future, one of these could be a youth worker.
- *A Lay Reader* is available to assist; *Theological student* placements occur regularly.
- *Christ Church & St. Nahi's*: Organist and Director of Music. School & Junior Choir participation.
- *The Parish Office*: Parish Secretary and Parish Administrator.
- (Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9.30am–5.00pm. Tel./Fax 01-298 5491, Email parishoftaney@eircom.net)
- The Parish is facilitated by two part-time workers in the Parish Centre, churches and church grounds including a Supervisor.

Communication

The prize-winning Parish magazine, *Taney News*, is distributed without charge to all 900 households by parish post persons.

Parish obligations and expenses are met by giving through church envelopes, standing order, and fund raising, coordinated by the Hon. Treasurer and Select Vestry.

Some fundraising is done through social occasions such as the Parish Fête (held in June) and the Christmas Bazaar (held every December).

A summary of the main parish features is provided below. Further details about the parish available on the website: www.taneyparish.ie

**Profile prepared by Canon W. Desmond Sinnamon, rector of Taney parish 1983-2011, and the parochial nominators: Roger Brooks, Susan Hood, Jim O'Neill, Beryl Tilson.
September 2011**

Taney Parish Summary of Main Features

Largest parish in the Republic of Ireland. 900 families.
Vibrant, friendly place, where successive rectors have stayed long-term.
Strong musical tradition encouraged. Two church choirs and junior choir.
Two contrasting churches: 1. Historic/intimate and 2. Larger/physical link to parish centre.
Range of churchmanship - traditional and modern style of services provided.
Two curates (could include one youth worker) + curate accommodation; / diocesan reader.
Parish office and two staff (50 hours per week support for parish/parish centre administration).
Parish centre with lots of activities/interaction.
Top of the range parish primary school with 20 teachers, 450 pupils, close bonds with both parish churches.
Strong community outreach including ecumenical engagement with local Roman Catholic, Methodist and other Churches, and positive inter-faith contact with personnel in two local mosques and Jewish community.