

Family fly in for double christening at St Patrick's, Sunday, 11 October 2009

Little Jenna Veronica Docherty jetted across the world from Hong Kong via Donegal to be christened with her cousin Ruth Frances Docherty at a service conducted by Canon Gerry Conroy in St Patrick's Church, Dumbarton, on Sunday (October 11, 2009).

Family and friends gathered in the Strathleven Place church for the baptismal ceremony. Ten months old Jenna's parents are Gerry and Fiona Docherty. The Docherty family, which includes Jenna's sister, Cara Margaret, have been based for some time in Korea and Hong Kong, where marine engineer Gerry works in the shipbuilding industry.

Jenna's godparents are Gerry's sister, Elaine Woods, and Fiona's brother, Stephen Reck, who travelled up from London for the service. Her grandparents are Veronica and Brendan Reck, from Donegal, and John and the late Margaret Docherty from Dumbarton.

Two months old Ruth Frances's parents are David and Gillian Docherty from Dumbarton. David is a teacher at Our Lady and St Patrick's High School and the couple have four other children, Sarah, Martha, John and Anna.

Ruth's godparents are David and Gerry's brother, Frank, and Elaine's daughter, Caitlin Woods. The baby's grandparents are Alexandria-based solicitor Andrew Murray and his wife, Kay, and John and the late Margaret Docherty.

The children's fathers, David and Gerry, did the readings during the service and Canon Conroy baptised and anointed the children who were cradled in their mothers' arms.

As St Patrick's church bells rang out in celebration after the service, a delighted Gerry Docherty said: "I have been based abroad for some time and Fiona and I thought it would be really nice if Jenna could be baptised at St Patrick's, the church where our family have had strong connections over many years.

"I e-mailed Canon Conroy from abroad to see if this would be possible and he kindly agreed that it would. It was even better when David and Gillian's daughter, Ruth, was born and we were able to make it a double christening – and so a double celebration.

"We enjoyed a lovely service and celebration at St Patrick's with our family all around us and Fiona and I and David and Gillian are very pleased this was able to come about the way it did."