



MAY 2013

# NEWSLINK

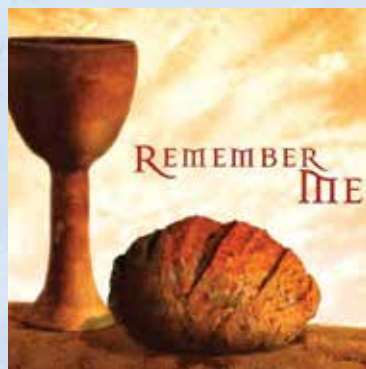
The Magazine of the Church of Ireland United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

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**the gathering**  
THE UNITED DIOCESES OF  
LIMERICK KILLALOE ARDFERT  
SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

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including Methodist  
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## Pentecost - Sunday 19th May



- the birthday of the Church, the day the disciples received the gift of the Spirit promised by Jesus





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# The Bishop Writes



Did you know that 'the gathering' is another word for 'Church'? The Greek (the language of the New Testament) word for Church is 'ekklesia' which means 'a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly'. When we gather together each Sunday in our Parishes we are being 'Church'.

Three years ago we held 'Celebrate Together' at St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick. It was a great success. More people came than we could ever have imagined. The general consensus was, we must do this again.

This is 2013, the year of 'The Gathering'. We have decided to gather again!

**Our Diocesan Gathering will be held from 10.30am – 5.00pm on Sunday 29th September at Villiers School, Limerick.**

The 29th of September is the fifth Sunday of the month when many parishes hold a united service. On the 29th September 2013, the weekly Sunday service will not be taking place in your Parish Church. This is a special Sunday and your parish will meet with the other parishes of the United Dioceses in Limerick for a United Diocesan Service.

It will be a chance to celebrate each of our Parishes and our belonging together as a Diocese. It will be inclusive of all ages, with something for everybody, young and older. It will involve our Diocesan Schools, Mothers Union, Youth and other organisations.

## WORSHIP

The day will start and end with worship. It will be a celebration of the familiar and the new. It will be interesting, challenging and engaging.

## ACTIVITIES

We are planning opportunities for you to try something different - circus skills, music, prayer, drumming, games, football league, 'Opening the Bible', Exploring Lay Ministry, etc, etc. We hope each person will have the chance to attend two activities of their choice.

## FELLOWSHIP

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the day is the chance to catch up with old friends and also to meet members of the Diocesan family that you never have had the chance to chat to before.

## THEME

# Letter to the Editor

## ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF SERVICE

Sir,

Bishop Trevor's letter and the Rev. Gary Paulsen's article in the April issue of Newslink discuss the need for change and how that could be implemented. There have been massive changes in people's views of religion, so we obviously need to adapt. But we need to do so by going back to basics, like Christ in the wilderness, to find our mission. There are wonderful examples out there of how we can be the Church in a meaningful way – for instance the Iona Community.

I would strongly suggest that instead of introducing change to the unwilling in a slow drip feed that will not make a real impact in the short term, we should create alternative forms of service now

I am suggesting the theme "GATHERING TO GO". The Holy Communion Service starts with 'Gathering' and ends with 'Go' (Go in peace to love and serve the Lord). 'Gathering to Go' sums up the life of the Church. We gather each Sunday for worship, to hear the Word of God, be strengthened by the sacraments, supported by our unity, confirmed in our faith, rooted in the love of God, so that we can 'Go' to be agents of God's loving work in His world. The Church of Ireland does not exist for itself. It is the body of Christ living and working in God's world for the extension of his Kingdom. That's what I mean by 'Gathering to Go'. I hope you find that helpful.

## YOU ARE INVITED

I am asking you to give this a try. Please! I believe you will enjoy it. I am an introvert. My first reaction to many invites of this nature is to say, 'that's not for me!' Joyce often has to put me right by saying, 'You know you will enjoy it once you get there!' And its true, I do.

If you are like me, don't be put off because this is new, or too busy or noisy! There will be something for everybody. Nobody will be forced into doing something they don't like. You can be as much part of the Gathering by chatting to a couple of friends during the afternoon whilst others many want to cram in as many activities as possible.

So put the date in your diary now. Put on your thinking cap and tell me your ideas for the day. All ideas are welcome at this stage. We will see what we can do. If you would like to join one of our planning groups (Worship, Activities, Logistics/Arrangements, Schools, Publicity, Finance) also please let me know.

Let's Celebrate!

Every blessing

Yours in Christ

Rt Revd Trevor Williams  
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PS If you would like a copy of the Presentation at the Bishop's Lenten Conversations, just send me an email or drop me a line.

that fully embrace doing things in a meaningful, inclusive, refreshing, engaging way.

I realise that there are practical questions that need to be thought out, but doing this would satisfy those of us who want to really engage with the fundamentals of Christianity in the short term. It would avoid stressing out folk who do not want change to their way of doing things. It would create a future in the Church now for kids who will otherwise wander from it after Sunday School age. And you might even start to win back some of the missing generations who feel Church is irrelevant.

Having an 'alternative service' strategy means also that we still keep intact the wonderful heritage of our traditional services which I also love and don't want to lose.

Yours, etc.,

Jonathan Pyle, Birr Group of Parishes

## DEADLINES

The next issue will be published for Sunday 2nd June 2013. **All material must reach the Editor by Friday 17th May 2013 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.** Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

# Editorial - Towards an Environmental Network

Congratulations to the Diocese of Cashel & Ossory on becoming the first Church of Ireland Diocese to receive an award from Eco-Congregation Ireland! The award was presented to Bishop Burrows and the Cashel & Ossory environmental committee in Kilkenny on 20th April, as reported in the C of I Gazette. It was made in recognition of their many environmental initiatives, including their 'Green Charter', which Rev Elaine Murray spoke about to our Diocesan Synod back in 2010.

Our love for God and our love for our neighbour should both be reflected in our care for the wonderful planet God has given us. The damage the human species is doing to the Earth both insults God and harms our neighbour.

So let us take a leaf out of Cashel & Ossory's book and act together as Christians both to protect and celebrate the environment. A wealth of resources are available free on the Eco-Congregation Ireland web site (<http://ecocongregationireland.com>) to help parishes start the journey. If you are already somewhere along the way, why not seek recognition for it by applying for an Eco-Congregation Ireland award?

This diocese needs some kind of network to support such environmental action, I feel, as they have in Cashel & Ossory. If you agree I would be glad to hear from you, with a view to establishing an informal network of interest.

God bless,  
Joc Sanders, Editor



Bishop Michael Burrows accepting award from Eco-Congregation Ireland Chair Catherine Brennan SSL, with Janet Crampton & Rev. Andrew Orr

## Diocesan Calendar

(for updates see Diocesan web site – [www.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.limerick.anglican.org))

<b>Thu 9th – Sat 11th May</b> General Synod, Armagh City Hotel	<b>Sun May 26th, 11am</b> Confirmations, Killorglin
<b>Fri 10th – Sun 12th May</b> Adare Methodist Church Flower Festival	<b>Fri 31st May – Mon 3rd June</b> Diocesan Confraternity Weekend, Killarney
<b>Sun May 19th, 12pm</b> Confirmations, Adare	<b>Sat Jun 1st 2-4pm</b> Bishop of Swaziland, Adare
<b>Sun May 19th, 3pm</b> Diocesan Mothers' Union service, Aghrim	<b>Sat Jun 15th</b> Diocesan Synod, Kenmare

## Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site:  
[www.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.limerick.anglican.org).

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved.

Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

### Editor's contact details:

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(Reduced by 5% from 2012)

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Half Page	596	534	77	71
Third Page	398	357	51	48
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18



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# What happens in a parochial vacancy?

by Canon Stephen Neill (Chair: Ministry & Resources Committee)

It is a rare thing in any diocese within the Church of Ireland for all parishes within it to be filled. Though clergy perhaps move less frequently than in previous generations, there is always some turnover due to retirement, incumbents moving to another diocese, preferment and sadly as happens sometimes death while in office. Vacancies then are a natural part of the life of the diocese.

However, and this is not peculiar to our diocese, vacancies tend to be seen in a very negative light and something to be got over as quickly as is possible. It is almost as if there is a stigma attached to a parochial vacancy. This certainly is not and should not be considered the case. Vacancies can be a time of opportunity for a parish. This is especially so after a long incumbency. Rectors due to the broad remit of their role in our parochial structure inevitably put their own stamp on the ministry of a parish. They will have their own priorities and own agenda. Being human they cannot fully develop and facilitate the gifts and talents of all of the people in their care. Some people will come to the fore due to their relationship with a particular rector and some may pull back. Rectors cannot be all things to all people, though that does not always stop them trying.

The vacancy period can then be an opportunity for all of the people of the parish to reassess their ministry and service within the wider parochial family. It can be a very creative time where new or previously hidden gifts emerge to fill some of the gaps left by the departure of the previous incumbent. These newly identified gifts can be a blessing to both the parish and the ministry of the future incumbent who will almost certainly not be a carbon copy of his or her predecessor. If this vacancy period is unduly short there is a danger that the new shoots or gifts which can emerge during this period will never fully develop and grow. The implications of this are damaging both to the individual whose God given gifts will be wasted and to the parish and wider Church who will be deprived of those same gifts.

This is where the Ministry and Resources Committee (aka Diocesan Ministry Committee) comes in. It is a committee of laity and clergy from throughout the diocese whose remit is to look at the various forms of ministry throughout our diocese (lay and ordained), to resource them, to look at ways in which they might develop and on the occasion of a clerical vacancy to undertake a parish visitation.

It operates under the direction and mandate of Diocesan Council and the Bishop and has no authority of itself to make any decisions regarding the future ministry in a particular parish. In the context of a parish visitation, its role is to report back to Diocesan Council with observations and sometimes recommendations. It is however the Bishop and Council who ultimately make any decisions.

The visiting party from the DMC normally comprises 5 or 6 laity and clergy (where possible from another part of the diocese). The parish is normally represented by at least 4 or 5 (often more) parishioners from each of the congregations within the group or union, usually numbering in total between 20 or 30 people.

In advance of a visitation a questionnaire is sent out to the parish to be visited and the parish is encouraged to meet in advance of the visitation to prepare its response to this questionnaire.

The typical form of this questionnaire is as follows:

- 1 Please list the resources you feel you have to offer as a parish in terms of people, skills, buildings, and facilities which are available to the Church in the locality?
- 2 What are the immediate needs in the parish and what would you like to change?

- 3 What gets in the way of change & progress?
- 4 What are your longer term hopes and dreams for the parish in terms of its Mission & Ministry?
- 5 What opportunities are there for the parish to grow and fulfill these hopes and dreams?
- 6 List any ways in which your parish cooperates/works together with neighbouring parishes in terms of shared ministry and activities. Could this be further developed?
- 7 How do you see the role of the laity in Ministry? How are their gifts being used in your parish? Could their role be further developed?
- 8 What can the Diocese do for you? What can you do for the Diocese? Prepare a brief Mission Statement for your parish.

On the day of the visitation we begin with a celebration of the Eucharist, which frames the whole process in Word and Sacrament – This is a relatively new addition to our procedure but it makes a huge difference to the atmosphere where inevitably some people are feeling apprehensive about the future of their parish.

We then work through the questionnaire together which opens up a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the parish, the opportunities it has and the threats to be overcome in order to move forward (SWOT analysis).

Sometimes parishes will make a formal presentation to us and other times our work is done through informal discussion. There is flexibility in the process which allows everyone to feel comfortable.

In addition to working through the questionnaire the parishes are asked to provide attendance records from the Preacher's book. This is not about closing churches but rather about shaping the ministry to meet the needs of the local congregations and to help them develop their ministry.

We normally share a meal together towards the end of the process and this provides opportunity for informal discussion with those who may not feel comfortable speaking in a group situation. After our meal together we meet briefly again to share some initial reflection on our discussions with the parishioners and we undertake to circulate our draft report and any recommendations arising from it to the parish before it is sent to Diocesan Council. This is to ensure that we have faithfully represented the sentiment expressed at the meeting.

When the report has been circulated to the parish and any necessary corrections made it is then sent to the Bishop and presented at the next meeting of Diocesan Council. At that point the work of the Ministry Committee is done.

It would be fair to say that our reports have not always been well received but that reflects on us as much as it does on the parishes concerned. We are increasingly conscious that this is a very sensitive area in which we work as a committee and through experience we have improved the procedures to the point where in recent times the feedback has been largely very positive. Parishes have often been quite surprised to find it a most worthwhile and helpful exercise as they seek to discern the way forward for their parish. It is also of help to the Bishop and Diocesan Council who have the heavy burden of responsibility of making decisions regarding the future shape of ministry in the diocese.

For those of you who wonder what we are about and why we do what we do, I hope this has been of some help. Speaking as chair of this committee I consider it a great privilege and a great encouragement to witness the vibrancy and diversity of parishes throughout these United Dioceses.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

The annual ordinary meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on 15th June 2013. Motions to be brought forward to Synod must be lodged, in writing, with the Diocesan Secretariat no later than 17th May 2013.

Yvonne Blennerhassett, Diocesan Secretary



# Bethany Home Memorial Fund

*Archbishop Michael Jackson writes:*

Many members of the Church of Ireland will be aware of the recent interest in, and concern for, former residents of the Bethany Home in Dublin.

I have met with a number of former residents and during that conversation the hopes of a group of former residents to erect a Memorial in Mount Jerome Cemetery to 219 Bethany Home children who died between 1922 and 1949 were expressed.

A fund has been established and I wish to draw it to your attention. I wish also to encourage those of you who feel it appropriate to contribute to the fund.

Donations can be made in any bank to:

BETHANY SURVIVORS

The Bank of Ireland

A/C number: 91669681

Sort code: 90 67 34

The organizer of this is Mr Derek Leinster. He asks that you keep a bank receipt as a record of your donation and to please make contact with him afterwards:

Mr Derek Leinster

Chairperson, Bethany Survivors Group

42 Southey Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 6HF, England

Tel: +44 1788817311, E-mail: derek.leinster@talktalk.net

*Editor's note : The Bethany Home was not run by the Church of Ireland, but by a committee of individuals, though this did include members of the Church.*

## Historic Institutional Abuse Inquiry (Northern Ireland)

This is an independent Inquiry set up to investigate abuse of children (sexual, physical, emotional or neglect) in residential institutions (but not schools) in Northern Ireland between 1922 and 1995. The Inquiry would like to talk to those who were abused in an institution in Northern Ireland, or saw others being abused. If you wish to contact them you can get more information on their website [www.hia inquiry.org](http://www.hia inquiry.org), or you can write to them at HIA Inquiry, PO Box 2080, Belfast, BT1 9QA, Northern Ireland.



### 1ST TRALEE COMPANY

We joined in the Tralee St Patrick's Day Parade. This year their theme was "Market Gardening" and the Girls and Boys had decorated their wheelbarrows with fruit and vegetables which they pushed through the parade.



*At Tralee St Patrick's Day Parade (photo: Paul Tearle)*

### 1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We are very lucky to have the support of the Mayor of Nenagh, Lalor McGee, who visited us a couple of months ago (see Elliot Wallace wearing his chain of office!). He has taken an enthusiastic interest and donated €50! The money was originally needed to buy the boys

some lights for their bikes, as some were riding at night with no lights which we were concerned about, but we had another stroke of luck when Michael Murray from the RSA donated a set of front and back lights for every boy! Support like this, added to that from the Nenagh Union of Parishes Select Vestry, the St. Mary's No. 2 School House Trust and the North Tipperary V.E.C. is very much appreciated and makes a lot of things possible.

The Mayor is very keen for the Boys' Brigade to get involved with Nenagh Tidy Towns Campaign which is an excellent and very exciting idea and work will start shortly with an April Spring Clean and planting in May. We are sure the boys will get behind this with enthusiasm and energy!



*Elliott Wallace proudly wearing the chain of office*

# Mothers' Union

## SUNDAY 19TH MAY

An Area Service of Holy Communion will be held in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim on Sunday, 19th May 2013 at 3 p.m. The service will be conducted by the Rector, the Revd George Flynn, who will also give the sermon. Members are kindly invited to the rectory for refreshments afterwards. On the same day, a service is being held in Kenmare at 12 noon.

## LADY DAY SERVICE

Limerick, Adare and Rathkeale branches got together for the Lady Day Service on Monday 8th April, led by Rev. Jane Galbraith. We were invited to write something we were sorry about on a paper apple and these were then exchanged for a flower as a sign of the new life that comes from the grace of God's forgiveness. It was a beautiful service that made us all realise how blessed we are. We had a lovely cup of tea and a chat after the service and our collection of Euro 160 went to our overseas fund.



*Mothers with Rev Jane Galbraith at Lady Day service*

## SOUTHERN SPIN

Below are a few samples from an excellent Mothers' Union publication, The Southern SPIN. This is compiled by Jacqui Armstrong, all-Ireland Social Co-Ordinator, who takes a lot of trouble in getting information together which is of interest and assistance in so many areas

### **EU Presidency Postcard Campaign – Lets End Hunger Once and For All**

Legal tax avoidance schemes by large companies deprive the world's poorest people of billions every year. They trap countries in poverty and prolong their reliance on aid. As president of the EU, Ireland has a golden opportunity to show leadership on this vital issue and to prioritise action on tackling corporate tax avoidance. If you haven't had an opportunity to sign a postcard do so as soon as possible to let our voices be heard. For more see: [www.christianaid.ie/ActNow](http://www.christianaid.ie/ActNow)

### **[www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)**

This site provides information on public services and entitlements eg. social welfare, housing, education, training, health, taxes etc. You can also get Citizens Information by phoning the Citizens Information Phone Service on 0761 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, or by visiting your local Citizens Information Centre. If you know someone who is in mortgage arrears or is worried about mortgage arrears, there is a dedicated Mortgage Arrears Information Helpline on 0761 07 4050, Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm.

### **Family Day – Sunday May 19th**

Family Day is a day to do things together and celebrate family life, celebrate with your family or take part in a group activity. The largest party in Ireland takes place from 11am to 5pm in the Iveagh Gardens, Dublin 2. For more see [www.familyday.ie](http://www.familyday.ie)

### **National Women's Council of Ireland**

In a recent press release the National Women's Council of Ireland has called on the government to make a clear statement that childcare costs will remain outside of the proposed Insolvency Arrangements. Statements made by Minister for Transport in relation to the proposed guideline on childcare have been regarded as extremely anti-women and anti-children and as going against all government policies to promote employment and gender equality. For more information, please contact Silke Paasche, Communications Officer, NWCI, Tel. 085 858 9104



# Girls Friendly Society

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZE GIVING

... was held on Saturday, 23rd March in St. Brendan's Church, Birr, and reported in the April issue. Photographs were kindly taken by Gwyn Wallace, Roscrea Branch, for which we are very grateful – see page 20 for a selection.

### ROSCREA BRANCH

Congratulations to all the girls for their lovely crafts and Bible Study projects. This term the girls will finish their Badge work and prepare for their service which will be held on Sunday 12th May at 10.45am in St Cronan's Church, Roscrea. The girls and Leaders congratulate June and Robin Wallace on the birth of a lovely little baby girl. Isobel, Jessica and Lucy are trying to decide on her name – a huge job! We hope to end the season with an outing or a party. The older girls are looking forward to the annual Diocesan Camp.

### DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

This took place on the 18th April, in St. Brendan's Hall, Birr at 8pm. Thank you to the leaders in Birr for the lovely refreshments.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Leaders Camp Meeting – Thursday, 2nd May in the Back Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Nenagh at 8pm. This meeting is for all leaders who are travelling to the Diocesan Camp in June.
- Central Council Meeting – Saturday, 11th May in Armagh. Winners of All Ireland competitions will be announced at this

meeting.

- Roscrea Branch Enrolment Service will take place in St. Cronin's Church, Roscrea on Sunday, 12th May at 10.45am.
- Diocesan Camp 2013 (21st – 23rd June). The Faith Mission, Durrow, Co. Laois. Camp is for girls aged 9 years and over. Events for the weekend and costs will be finalised at the Camp Meeting on 2nd May. Following the meeting Branch Leaders will be in touch with parents regarding costs and requirements for weekend.

### WORLD COUNCIL 2014

We are already making plans to visit World Council in Swansea, Wales (25 July – 4 August 2014). Please let your Branch Leader or Florence Reid, Diocesan Secretary, know if you are thinking of attending World Council in Wales as the organising committee need to have an idea of numbers as soon as possible. As it is only a short trip across the English Channel, I hope as many as possible from this Diocese will consider attending. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with our GFS colleagues from around the world.

### CONFIRMATION & EXAMS

All our branches are very busy working on their badges. There are still lots of events to come in the next few months so keep up the good work. Some of our junior leaders are preparing for state exams and other girls are preparing for Confirmation. We wish everyone all the very best of luck and we will keep you all in our prayers

## United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe

### TAKING A LEADING ROLE PART 2

The second weekend for our youth leadership weekend took place from Friday 5th – Sunday 7th April 2013 at Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare. The sessions led by Edward Hardy covered the following topics: leadership styles, mission, vision, values, programme ideas, programme planning, committee and roles of officers. Malcolm Galbraith presented an excellent workshop on Saturday evening which provided an excellent overview on Christian youth leadership. The participants on the weekend prepared and led a time of worship on Sunday. On Saturday afternoon the group took part in a surfing session at Lahinch Surf School. Our thanks to Bev Callender and George Walker for looking after the catering arrangements for the weekend. It was brilliant to have Wendy Walker, Alec Perrott and Nikki Downs as leaders for the weekend.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for Diocesan Youth Council took place on Saturday 13th April 2013 at St. Nicholas National School Hall, Adare, Co. Limerick. The annual report was presented which included a programme report, chairman's report and treasurer's report including financial statement. Once again a committee was elected and the following were elected to serve:

President: The Venerable Wayne Carney (Birr)  
 Chairperson: Rev. Lesley Robinson (Roscrea)  
 Secretary: Ellen Langley (Nenagh)  
 Treasurer: Edward Hardy (Banagher)  
 Social Secretary: Kenneth Baker (Rathkeale)

Other Committee Members: George Walker (Adare), Wendy Walker (Adare), Sandra Wakefield (Shinrone), Damian Shorten (Rathkeale), Kieran Von Sperling (Limerick), Alec Perrott (Adare), Bev Callender (Adare), Henry Cooke (Adare), Oscar Egbulum (Limerick),

Rev. Jane Galbraith (Limerick), Eleanor Walker (Adare)

We wish Malcolm Galbraith, Karen Gillespie and Gillian Johnson the very best and thank them all for their work on the UDYC committee for the last number of years. This year we welcome Henry Cooke, Oscar Egbulum & Ellen Langley to the committee. We hope to fill some of the vacant representative positions in the coming months and have agreed a number of names to approach for these positions.

### DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will take place at Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Friday 31st May – Monday 3rd June 2013 (June Bank Holiday Weekend).

#### Who can come?

Anyone who was confirmed during 2012 or 2013 as well as anyone awaiting Confirmation this year. This will be an ideal opportunity to meet other Confirmation Candidates from throughout United Diocese.

#### Why?

Confirmation is a time to stand up and be counted; a time to make a clear statement about who you are and whose you are; a time to make a serious commitment about your place in the Family of God. To help you make your commitment, an exciting, dynamic and enjoyable workshop and worship programme will be on going throughout the weekend.

#### What else is on offer?

As with all events organised by UDYC this weekend also includes a splendid line up of activities including: Icebreaker Games... Watersport Activities at Waterworld in Castlegregory to include Canoeing, Paddle boating, Surf-biking, Trampoline, Banana riding, Bouncy Castle, Boogie Boarding...Bowling at Bowling Buddies in Tralee... Climbing



Wall and High Ropes at Play at Heights in Dingle... Aquadome in Tralee... Disco... Charades... Bingo... and lot's more besides.

#### **Cost & Information Packs**

The weekend will cost €100 per person and this will include all food, activities and accommodation throughout the weekend. It also includes return transport from all locations.

An information pack will be forwarded to all participants on receipt of booking. Please note that booking forms and information

on the weekend has been circulated to all Diocesan clergy and is also available from Edward Hardy.

As always further information about any UDYC events and activities can be got from Edward on (087) 2907553. Also, information and the programme of events can be found on the UDYC website ([udyc.ie](http://udyc.ie)) as well as the Diocesan website ([limerick.anglican.org](http://limerick.anglican.org)), and our regularly updated UDYC group page on Facebook.

Until next month, Damian, Email: [05shortend@gmail.com](mailto:05shortend@gmail.com)

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **St Nicholas' National School Adare**

School resumed after the Easter break on Monday 8th April and the milder weather allowed us to do some planting. Thanks to the pupils in Junior and Senior Infants, we have planted the potatoes and onions. Next month we will add some lettuce and strawberries to our garden. Later this month we will have our annual Spring clean when staff and pupils roll up their sleeves and give the school and church grounds a big tidy up.

Just before Easter break the senior pupils produced their latest edition of St. Nick's Buzz, our school magazine. As usual it was packed with interviews, school news, activity pages and photographs. Thanks to leteke Oggel who helps to organise this project.

Pupils in 4th 5th and 6th classes are involved in a local art project organised by Adare Heritage Centre. The theme is "The Gathering" and local artists are working in all of the primary schools in Adare. Each pupil will produce a painting or drawing on this theme which will be displayed at the end of the term.

The school is participating in the Active School Flag initiative and we look forward to a busy term with lots of activities planned.



*Spring planting in St. Nicholas' NS*



*Planting potatoes in Adare*

### **St Mary's No2 National School Nenagh**

St. Mary's welcomes all of our students back after a well deserved break for Easter.

The Lenten Project this year was USPG's Colour Us Happy charity. Our school sale raised €224 for the project. In addition, through the generosity of our students and friends, one hundred pencil cases were collected.

We send thanks to Anne Fitzpatrick, our tennis coach who completed this year's lessons on Monday. On Tuesday, all pupils began their weekly swimming lessons.

Traditionally, the third academic term is a very busy one. This year we are keeping to that tradition with a number of events;

This week, Ms Holmes took her class on a field trip to our local community churches as part of the Religious Studies curriculum. We would like to thank Canon Marie and Father Des for their kindness and warm welcomes for the children.

Next week we will be delighted to welcome the Fire Brigade to our school for their informative Fire Safety Talk.

The Staff and students of St. Mary's send all of our congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Esther Quin and her family, who welcomed a new baby boy, Davin, last week. Gach dea ghuí agus go n-eirí an t-ádh libh.

### **Cloughjordan No1 National School**

Congratulations to Maria Grace and to her husband Barry on the birth of baby Jamie on 7th April, a brother for Lauren. We send our best wishes to all the family as they welcome their new arrival.

Welcome back to our bus driver Michael Gleeson, after almost two years absence. We are delighted to have Michael fit and well again, and back driving children to school. We thank Pat for the great care he took of the children while he was driving the school bus in Michael's absence.

Third and Fourth Class have begun what promises to be a very exciting School-Farm Project which will run over six weeks this term, with hands-on visits to the Community Farm in Cloughjordan., culminating with a harvest lunch (hopefully!) in Django's Hostel at the end of the programme. The school is very grateful to members of Cloughjordan Community Farm who have offered this programme to the school and who will help with its implementation, and in particular to Áine Nic Charthaigh who has put a significant amount of time into co-ordinating this project.

We look forward to swimming lessons in Birr Swimming Pool this term. This will be our first time to attend Birr Swimming Pool. Lessons will run over seven weeks this term.

Thank you very much to Mr. Dooley from St. Michael's N.S. who has commenced hurling training with the senior classes for those pupils who are interested. It is wonderful to have these opportunities for both schools in Cloughjordan to work together.

Thank you very much to George and Pearl Whiteford and to the Social Dancing Committee in Cloughjordan, who very generously organised a dance in St. Kieran's Hall last month, with all proceeds going to the school. Thank you to the many parents who assisted with the supper and raffle on the night, and not least to everybody who bought and sold tickets for this event. The dance raised €1875 for the school, which will help to boost the school's finances when grants from the Department of Education and Skills are very significantly reduced.

#### **PTA FUNDRAISING**

The PTA will conclude its fundraising events this year with a Clough 8K Road Race/Family Walk which will be held on Sunday 19th May at 3pm. Registration will take place in St. Kieran's Hall from 1.30pm, with prizes for the first three male and female finishers. Entry fee: Adults €15, Primary and Secondary School Pupils €5 (includes a certificate), Free entry with a full sponsorship card, which will soon be available from Centra, B.C. Williams and The Food Store, Cloughjordan and Crawfords, Borrisokane. Refreshments served afterwards in St. Kieran's Hall. The PTA is very grateful to Borrisokane Athletic Club for its help with this event.

### **Kiltallagh National School Castlemaine**

Following the cold and blustery winter weather here in Kerry, the pupils in Kiltallagh School 2012/2013 (pictured below) are looking forward to an eventful and enjoyable summer term and were delighted to avail of some rare sunshine to have their photo taken.



#### **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

On May 26th 2013 Andrew and Colin will receive the Rite of Confirmation. This will be a very special celebration and we hope that the memories will remain with them and the gift of the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and direct them throughout their lives.

#### **FIRST AID**

On Monday May 20th AnnMarie Lynch, a qualified First Aid Instructor, will commence First Aid Training with both the Junior and Senior classes for a duration of 1½ hours per classroom. The course will be tailored to the needs of our school and our family units. Ann Marie will make us familiar with the dangers and the hazards in all environments, and what we can do in specific situations to give effective first aid care at home, at work or at play. The cost of this will be €140 covered by money raised through fundraising. This will continue on an annual basis and it is hoped that the children will eventually become confident and capable in the basic lifesaving skills of First Aid.

There is no training more valuable than a first aid course – training that enables you to save a life. It really is that simple. It could be the life of a colleague, a child, a senior relative, or perhaps the life of a complete stranger.

#### **SWIMMING**

Our five week course of swimming lessons will be commencing on Fri. May 10th 2013 at 12 noon. Each lesson is €10 with the remainder

being subsidised by fundraising. As we have to pay the Aura each week, each swimming lesson needs to be paid for in advance. We would sincerely appreciate if parents of junior infant children could come along to help with dressing the children. If you wish you may take your child home directly after swimming.

#### **ART GALLERY**

On Friday May 10th the senior room will visit the Art Gallery in Killorglin (beside the Library) to view the works of renowned artist Pauline Bewick. We are very fortunate to have the facility of an Art Gallery in our environs and all parents are invited to join us on this guided tour. Artist Kate Landers will be our guide for the morning.

We are also planning 'An Object Art Day' in Inch Beach when the children will collect various objects of interest on this outing and later will create their own master pieces with their collectibles.

#### **WELL DONE**

...to Kate Moroney who received a Distinction in her first piano exam. This is a wonderful achievement and we look forward to hearing more of Kate's music in the classroom.

Mile bhuíochas to our hard working and supportive staff, Board of Management and Parents Association, as many of these exciting educational activities the children will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy this term are only possible due to the wonderful recent fundraising at our Annual School Quiz.

### **Oxmantown National School Birr**

#### **LENTEN PROJECT**

All of our pupils worked hard for and enjoyed our annual Easter sale – lots of bargains and wonderful treasures were in abundant supply. This year our Lenten project is in aid of Barnardos. In a final push we held an Easter Egg raffle before the break, which is always great fun, and a great boost to our total fund, thus far we have collected €1430 which we were delighted with in these difficult times. Jacob Noyce, a sixth class pupil, made a very public and selfless effort to raise funds by having his hair shaved off in front of all the pupils after assembly on the last day of term, thanks to Mrs. Phealan O' Meara who expertly did the honours. Thanks to all of our pupils, their parents and our teachers who always give so generously of their support.

#### **NEW PUPILS**

We would like to welcome two new students who have joined us since the Easter break, William Parsons and his sister Olivia have moved to Birr from London, we hope that they will both be happy at Oxmantown School.

#### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FUND-RAISER**

The Parents' Association organised an afternoon of bag packing at Super Valu Birr to raise much needed funds for the School. We are very grateful to the parents who helped to organise this and to those who rolled up their sleeves and packed up the groceries!



*A happy winner at Oxmantown School Easter raffle*



**I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.** (Psalm 27:13)

**Issa Birba** is a vegetable farmer in Bingbo village, Burkina Faso. During the rainy season he grows millet, rice and onions, but it is the dry season market gardening which helps him grow food to eat when the rains fail, and also earn extra income to send his children to school.

**€20 could provide a dry season market garden for a village in Burkina Faso.**

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**[www.christianaid.ie/christianaidweek](http://www.christianaid.ie/christianaidweek)**



# Bishop of Swaziland to visit Ireland

The Rt Revd Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland, will visit Ireland in May this year. She will preach in St Michan's Church on Wednesday 29th May at 7.30pm, at a special service to celebrate Us (the new name for USPG), the partnership between Us and the Church's Ministry of Healing, and the refurbishment of Egan House. The theme of the service will be 'Serving Others – a Swazi Perspective'.

Bishop Ellinah was consecrated Bishop of Swaziland last November. She is the first woman bishop in the Anglican Church in Africa. A self-supporting priest (NSM), she was chaplain to the University of Swaziland, and CEO of Manzini City Council. Ellinah expected to retire in 2012.

The task facing her is enormous. Swaziland's people are oppressed by a regime controlled by King Mswati III, an absolute monarch. The country has the world's highest rate of HIV infection, which official government statistics give as 26%. Local estimates put the rate at nearer 40%.

Us has been working in partnership with the Diocese of Swaziland since 2007, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS programmes, diocesan schools, capacity building and income generation.



*Rt Revd Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland*

## STOP PRESS

**Bishop Ellinah will be in the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe on Wednesday 1st June. All in the Diocese who would like to do so are invited to meet her between 2 and 4 pm at Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick**

# Máirt's Musings – Am I Normal?

So Tiger woods is again winning at the golf, Munster are through to the next round in the rugby, Kerry have stayed up in the Football and its looking like rain and about 10°C out and about. I have a terrible urge to say that normal service has resumed. It's the same in our house as it is in the worlds of sport and weather, every thing is returning to normal after the holidays.

Oh of course there is the initial shock to the system, as my five year old looks up at his mother and I through bleary pleading eyes and says 'But I'm still tired', as if we have made some terrible error of judgement asking him to wake up just after 7:30 in the morning. The older one just mopes and the younger just says 'No!', but with the latter that seems to be the reaction to everything at the moment. So by the next day all the complaints have turned into a weary, 'Do I have to?' followed by compliance.

So we are back to normal, but then again, what is normal. What is normal for me might not be for you! I normally have a Cappuccino first thing in the morning – is that normal? Probably not, but I am always prepared to spend money on three things: a good vacuum cleaner, a good coffee maker and good shoes. Maybe normal for you is a cup of tea, or an ordinary coffee, or whatever. But how do you know what is normal? 'A-ha,' I hear you say, 'it's not what you drink or have for breakfast, but that breakfast is what you do first thing in the day'. Ok, I'll buy that argument. Put in another way it's like saying that it's the rhythm that is normal.

I suppose most of us, especial those with children have a similar rhythm to our days. So is it normal to have children? And at what age? Come to think of it, the rhythm I had when I was in my early twenties is not the one I have now. Which one was normal? I know my parents always used to give out to me about the abnormality of my daily rhythm, but I was a musician at the time and it seemed normal enough for a musician to work till one and sleep till ten! My father used to greet me with the phrase, 'Good after-nine!' when I was staying at home and made my bleary way downstairs at 10:30.. So

what IS normal, if normal for me is not normal for you? I suppose normal is what you're used to, and as my dad always says you can get used to anything if it doesn't kill you first. Normal is the zero point on the scale of what it is like to be you. Maybe I sound like a bit of an aging hippy here, but I

believe that everyone gets marked against their own scale, and we should build ourselves up by going with the grain not against it.

Putting on my God Botherers hat for a moment, one of the things that I think is good about Christianity is that it is not necessary to subscribe to a particular Normal Life. It is about the way you live whatever life style you have, rather than the life style in itself. Which is liberating but also quite a challenge!

Rev Máirt has one wife, two Chorlton and the Wheels DVDs, three children and four weeks to get ready for his 'Feile na Bealtine' reflective walk.



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## Rathkeale No. 2 National School

If you visited the school on the afternoon of Wednesday 17th April you could be excused for thinking that you had walked into a zoo. We had a visit from Rosie and Dennis of Animal Magic and some of her furry and not so furry friends. The children were enthralled for the afternoon as they listened to Rosie talk about the animals she brought this time. The children also got a chance to pet some of the animals and those who listened carefully and were able to answer Rosie's questions got a chance to hold the animals. How many of you had a visit from a bearded dragon, a kid saanen goat, a Bengal eagle owl, a kestrel, a python or a boa when you were in school? It was a first visit to a school for the owl so we all had to be extra quiet while she was about. Some of the older pupils got a chance to hold her which was a great thrill. We got a chance to see a kestrel fly and even got a chance to let the kestrel land on our hands, which were protected by a special glove. Emily, in sixth class got quite a shock when the kestrel landed on her head!

We were delighted to hear the news that we have been successful in achieving our third green flag. This is the water flag. Thanks to plenty of hard work throughout the past two years and to our green flag committee for all they have done in encouraging everyone to be environmentally responsible. Emily (6th class) and Robert (5th class) are looking forward to attending the presentation ceremony in Cork on the 16th May to accept the flag on our behalf.

With the Great Limerick Run fast approaching we are once again hoping to raise some funds for the school by way of sponsorship. Principal Niall West and one of our parents Alison Geoghegan are both preparing to run on Sunday 5th May. Our senior pupils are all looking forward to the inter schools sports day in Villiers on 15th May.

We welcome our new pupil Braydan to second class. Braydan joined us following the Easter break. A reminder that the closing date for applications for September 2013 of 30th April is fast approaching.



*Looking a kestrel in the eye!*



*The python - fainting in coils!*



## Villiers School

### FORM 1 MATHS WINNER

First years took part in a National competition by An Post called 'Impostipuzzle'. It involved students completing a maths puzzle similar to sudoku and answering questions relating to an An Post video. Congratulations to Sarah O'Connell in 1P who was selected as a runner up and won herself a €100 'One for All' voucher' and €500 for Villiers.

### TY STUDENT EXCELS

Ailbhe Wheatley from transition Year has reached the last 11 of 21,000 entries in the national John West Fantasy Writing Competition. Her work is truly outstanding and we wish her the best of luck at the upcoming awards ceremony in Dublin on Monday 29th April.

### ACHILL ISLAND – OUTDOOR PURSUITS

On Monday 8th of April all of TY assembled in school in preparation for an exciting week of Outdoor Pursuits on Achill Island. We stopped en route in Castlebar before arriving in the wilds of Achill. On arrival we were split into groups for our activities. Excitement was buzzing around the Outdoor Education Centre. Every group then went off to a different activity ranging from mountain boarding, camping, hiking, surfing, coasteering, canoeing, kayaking, climbing and archery.

With the long journey over many hauled on cold and damp wetsuits. Once activities got under way it was all worth it. On our return we were always greeted by a nice warm meal, whether it was breakfast, lunch or dinner, and looking around there was always a warm atmosphere and smiles on everyone's faces as they shared stories of their day.

There was never a dull moment in the evenings, as the centre staff kept us busy with recreational activities. We were also lucky enough to have a few talented performers among our year, which

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*Adventurers in Achill*

made for a few brilliant sing-alongs.

However the highlight of the week for most was our Gaisce adventure which consisted of a long hike up the mountains, setting up camp and cooking outdoors.

We must not forget to congratulate our boys who took on the locals – Colaiste Pobail in a soccer match on the Thursday evening and came out winners by 5-1.

We were so fortunate with the weather which was beautiful all week. We must thank all the Villiers staff who organised the week, kept an eye on us and gave up of their time. To the centre staff, we must thank them for their excellent instruction and hospitality. Throughout the week, new friends were made and everyone was kept laughing and active with American football matches, county finals and instructors with funny accents. (gyamping = camping!).

All in all, an amazing week and a huge bonding experience for all.

#### **CHESS SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Jeffrey Alfred in Form 1 who recently competed in the All Ireland chess competition and finished fourth. An excellent achievement.

#### **PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY**

We look forward to hosting our second Primary Schools Sports Day on Wednesday 15th May – where we will be over run with wanabee Villiers students of the future. They will take part in tag-rugby, soccer, basketball, orienteering and much more on an action packed day.

#### **PAST PUPILS HOCKEY**

Our annual past pupils men's hockey match saw the 'old boys' narrowly defeat our seniors in a close encounter by 2-1.

The day took on an added dimension with the inclusion of a past pupils ladies' match earlier in the day. Our girls defeated the ladies by 4-1.

We all joined for dinner in school with presentations after. Congratulations to Andrew Smith from form 6, who was voted man of the match on the day.



*Old boys and current seniors*



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Further information can be found on our website or by contacting the School Office.  
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Web: [www.newtownschool.ie](http://www.newtownschool.ie)



# Killaloe Diocese

## Killaloe & Stradbally Union

*Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.*

**Vacant**

**Priest in Charge: Rev. Stan Evans**

**Tel: 065 708 4970**

**Mob: 087 636 9473**

**Email: [stanevans@eircom.net](mailto:stanevans@eircom.net)**

**Rev. Lucy Green**

**Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425**

**Email: [lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk)**

## FRANCES MOONEY

The funeral took place of Frances Mooney in Mountshannon on Tuesday 2nd April. Frances was born in Wicklow and after marriage lived in Roscrea before moving to Canada where she spent over 45 years. Sadly losing her only daughter Rosalene and her son-in-law Terry in a traffic accident – she returned to Ireland in 2005 where she lived with her niece Alma Kelly until her care needs necessitated a move to firstly a nursing home in Woodford and then on to St Brendan's in Roscrea. An excellent turnout in Mountshannon was greatly appreciated by her extended family. Cremation followed in Dublin.

## WHOOPS – a somewhat sick car!

Revd Stan – on the way to the clergy day in Glenstal hosted by Russ Parker – lost power at Bunratty! Russ's book 'Free to Fail' was brought to mind! The timing chain was the cause, and sadly he and his passenger Revd Patricia Hanna were stranded – that was until John Jarvis (Parish Reader in St Michael's Limerick) came to the rescue. He collected Stan and Patricia, drove all the way to Miltown Malbay to deliver them home, and then managed to get back to Limerick to collect his wife from an appointment. What a true Samaritan! John you were a real star!! That's what being part of a loving and caring church is really all about.

## SHANNON VERSES

That is the title of an evening in St Flannan's Cathedral which heralded the launch of the Kincora Traditional Weekend. The Cathedral was full to welcome Malcom Connolly, Ann Mulqueen, Nora Butler, Deidre Scanlan, Kelly Ryan and Aoife Daly for what was a celebration of unaccompanied traditional singing tracing the flow of Irish song tradition across three generations.

Revd Stan welcomed them, stressing the importance of bringing the very best of Irish tradition to the very best of Irish heritage in St Flannan's.

This was a wonderful example of how the whole community spirit, with the involvement of so many, demonstrates the richness of our community life together.

## ENGAGEMENT

We congratulate Peter Lefroy and Cara Tyrrell on their engagement. Peter is the younger son of Killaloe stalwarts John and Sandra Lefroy. Cara is from Dublin – an experienced sailor, she fits well into the Phoenix team!

## CELEBRATION OF 1600 YEARS OF FAITH

Through out March and April the Sunday School Children in Castleconnell have been creating a Wall Hanging to celebrate the 1600 years of worship on the site of All Saints Church.

The Banner will be on show at the Ecumenical Service in All Saints on the 5th of May at 3 o'clock. We have been very fortunate to have Amy Acheson helping us out with this as part of her "Gaisce" Silver Medal Project. Thank you Amy!

## GRAVEYARD RECORDS

Twenty one members of Castleconnell community came together in the spring of 2013 to record for digital preservation information from 950 graves from the Stradbally Graveyard and All Saints Church. Huge thanks and credit must go to Project Manager Colum Hardy (Community Archaeologist from Ballyhoura) for the time, commitment and expertise he brought to the project. Following his guidance our group were able to apply low cost, high tech, field survey methods to produce the excellent results we now have.

The exercise is linked to a national project which is creating a database of graveyards, memorials and stories and will ensure that our historic information is preserved for future generations. See [www.historicgraves.com](http://www.historicgraves.com) for the early results.

## The Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

**Rector: Venerable R. Wayne Carney**

**Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert**

**The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly**

**Tel: 057-912-0021 Mob: 087-786-5234**

**Email: [mapleire@eircom.net](mailto:mapleire@eircom.net)**

**Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill**

**Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly**

**Tel: 057-913-5341 Mob: 087-948-4402**

**Email: [ruth\\_gill40@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth_gill40@hotmail.com)**

## PASTORAL

Prayerful good wishes for continuing improvement in health are sent to Henry Harding, Derek Kenny and Diana Odlum who have each spent some time in hospital recently. Also, sincere sympathy is extended to Phyllis Wolfe and her family on the death of her sister, Mildred Baskin, in Donegal. May all those who are ill and who are bereaved, find comfort and peace in the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## THANK YOU

Mrs Joan Fairbrother ran a novel event on the 8th April when she displayed a selection of her wonderful handcrafts in St Brendan's Market. She thanks those who came and supported her on the night. €70 was raised and has been divided between the Community Nursing Unit, Birr and the Irish Cancer Society.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To John and Edel Gill on the birth of a baby daughter, Róise, on the 5th April – a little sister for Seán and Luke and another granddaughter for George and Ruth!

## CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, 12th May, Richard Alexander from Birr, and Zara Harding-Horan from Lorrha, will be confirmed by Bishop Trevor Williams in St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. We keep both of them in our prayers as they mark this important milestone in their Christian journey.

## MUSICAL TOAST

On Saturday, 18th May, at the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, you can hear 'Musical Toast' in concert. 'Musical Toast' consists of Jonathan Carter, Baritone, Edel Shannon, Soprano, and Sinead Conway, Soprano. There will be a guest appearance by Audrey O'Meara. 'Musical Toast' brings a programme of popular opera and musical theatre, with some modern classics thrown in. This promises to be a fun evening for all.

## BIRR SUMMER FETE

At this writing, details of our annual Fete are not finalised – last year's venue, Oxmantown School, may not be available because of our the construction of our new classroom. Details will be announced soon.

## Roscrea Group of Parishes

*Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle*

**Priest in Charge:** Rev. Lesley Robinson

**St. Cronan's Rectory, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.**

**Tel: 0505 – 21725 Mob: 087 – 9091561**

**Email: kandrobinson@eircom.net**

### EASTER VESTRY APPOINTMENTS

#### Roscrea

Rector's Churchwarden: David Lewis

People's Churchwarden: Heather Evans

Rector's Glebwarden: Robin Wallace

People's Glebwarden: Colin Young

#### Corbally

Rector's Churchwarden: Clive Davis

People's Churchwarden: David Dann

Glebes Committee Representative: Albert Dann

#### Bourney

Rector's Churchwarden: Yvonne Dudley

People's Churchwarden: Vivienne Carter

Glebes Committee Representative: Dick Benn

### NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Robin and June Wallace, Roscrea, on the birth of baby Penny, a sister for Isobel, Jessica and Lucy.

### BAPTISM

Ben Pearson, son of Sarah Clare and Brian Pearson, was baptised in St. Molua's Church, Kyle, on Easter Sunday. We wish him and his family every blessing.

### THE LATE JACKSON HODGINS

Jackson Hodgins, Bourney, passed away in Limerick Regional Hospital on 13th April following a short illness. His funeral service was held in St. Burchin's Church, Bourney, and the address was given by Adrian Hewson. He was buried in Dungar Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to his son Richard, brother Harry, sister Betty (Benn), and his many relatives in the parish.

### CONDOLENCES

We keep all the bereaved in our prayers, especially Evie Lupton, on the death of her sister-in-law Pearl Walsh; and Arthur Moynan and George Carry, on the death of Arthur's brother Richard, George's brother-in-law.

### TABLE QUIZ

Many thanks to Tommy and Hazel Greene and family, Coolroe, Roscrea, for running a very successful and enjoyable Table Quiz in their home on 19th April in aid of parish funds. Thanks also to all who supported it – the excellent sum of €800 was raised.

### ST CRONAN'S CHURCH WINDOW RESTORATION APPEAL

St. Cronan's Parish, Roscrea, wishes to thank the proprietors of the Cosy Kitchen Restaurant, Roscrea, for hosting a dinner party in aid of the window appeal. Fifty one diners enjoyed a fabulous five course meal with all proceeds going to the parish – a very generous gesture indeed. We also wish to thank Leslie and Violet Dreaper for sponsoring the cost of the first window repaired; Bourney Parish for a very generous donation of €500, and numerous other generous donors.

### PET SERVICE

The second annual Pet Service will be held at Bourney Church on Sunday 26th May at 12 noon. All creatures great and small welcome but must be restrained. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Come along and join the fun!

### FLORA LADIES MINI MARATHON

Mrs. Ann Powell, Principal St. Cronan's NS and Rev. Lesley Robinson, Chairperson Board of Management, will be taking part in the Flora Ladies Mini Marathon in Dublin on Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd June, in aid of the school. Funds raised will be used to fund the purchase of tablet computers for the senior room. Sponsorship cards

are available from the school or either lady – your support would be appreciated!

### BBQ & FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

St. Cronan's Parish annual fundraising event will be held on Sunday 9th June at St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea from 2-6pm. All the usual stalls and attractions including monster Cash of Splash Draw.

## Nenagh Union of Parishes

*Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.*

**Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke**

**St. Mary's Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.**

**Tel: 067-32598 Mob: 085-1474792**

**Email: revdmarie@eircom.net**

### SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30 am Templederry, 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays.

11.00 am St Mary's Nenagh

12.15 pm, 2nd and 4th Sundays Killodiernan.

### EASTER SERVICES

On Maundy Thursday both choirs sang 'The Way of the Cross' in St Mary's church, the music being interspersed with prayers, readings from the gospels and congregational hymns. Again this year the moving service was greatly appreciated by all who attended. The Junior Choir wore their handsome blue choir robes whilst the Senior Choir were resplendent in red robes borrowed from Killaloe Cathedral, which helped mitigate the effect of the always very cold chancel. Many thanks to Killaloe for the loan of the robes.

On Good Friday St Mary's was a hive of industry and activity as twenty children, some of them very young, went through the story of the day, making hot cross buns, a garden of remembrance, crowns of thorns and individual wooden crosses. The children were encouraged to reflect on the story of Jesus' death by using some of the Stations of the Cross and this very successful workshop ended with them eating the hot cross buns they had prepared earlier. Many thanks to the organising team.

This was followed by a devotional service for the adults at St Mary's, and in the evening there was the usual ecumenical Walk of Witness in Templederry, beginning at the Church of Ireland Church, and finishing at the Roman Catholic Church.

Easter Day was celebrated with the Eucharist in all three churches, with Easter eggs afterwards for the children. As always the flowers were magnificent.

### WEDDING

On Saturday 13th April St Mary's was the venue for the wedding of Stuart Andrew and Kathryn Dolan. The church was full of family and friends of the couple who both come from Dromineer. Canon Marie, assisted by Joc Sanders, conducted the service.

### FAMILY WORSHIP

This is without doubt our 'growing' service and numbers are increasing very satisfactorily. Our April Family Worship focussed on the Emmaus story, with our confirmation candidates presenting the story in dramatic fashion. Many thanks to Grace, Zoe, Luke, Devin and Ian for their participation. We also had a baptism where we welcomed Holly Georgina Fitzpatrick into the Christian family.

### OUTSIDE WORK

A totally dry week helped the work on the surroundings of St Mary's, and the church now has new gravel all round, facilitating a total drive round experience, and making parking both more plentiful and easier. Two disabled parking bays have also been created. Thanks are due to the team who organised this work.

### EASTER VESTRY

This was held on the evening of 15th April. We had one change in our 'management team' – Joe Kelly resigned as People's Church

Warden in St Mary's. Tributes were paid to Joe's unstinting and tenacious work in ensuring that St Mary's came up to the mark regarding Health and Safety requirements. Joe was replaced by Rae Croft, and whilst she will be the 'official' People's Warden, we are gathering together a team of people to undertake the Sunday tasks in rotation and so far have had a positive and committed response.

Following the official business of the Easter Vestry and a cup of tea, we then held an open Forum where Diana Whitehead from Killaloe came to talk about their Select Vestry's affirming their welcome of our gay sisters and brothers through membership of Changing Attitudes Ireland. We hope to follow their example.

#### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Joan Larke following the death of her brother, Eric Culbert.



*Newly baptised Holly Georgina Fitzpatrick with her parents Ruth & Danny and big sister Olivia*

## Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

*Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.*

**Rector: Canon Stephen Neill**

**Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.**

**Tel/Fax: 0505 - 42183 Mob: 087 - 2328172**

**Email: [stephen.neill@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.neill@gmail.com)**

**Parish website: [www.modreeny.com](http://www.modreeny.com)**

**Stephen's blog: [www.paddyanglican.com](http://www.paddyanglican.com)**

#### SERVICES IN MAY

##### **Sunday 5th May – Easter 6**

9am, Borrisnafarney, HC

10am, Ballingarry, MP

10.15, Borrisokane, HC

11.30, Cloughjordan, MP

##### **Sunday 12th May – Easter 7**

10.15, Borrisokane, MP

11am, Cloughjordan, Confirmation & First Communion

##### **Sunday 19th May – Pentecost**

9am, Ballingarry, HC

10.15, Templeharry, MP

10.15, Borrisokane, HC

11.30, Cloughjordan, HC

##### **Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday**

9am, Ballingarry, MP

10.15, Borrisnafarney, MP

10.15, Borrisokane, MP

11.30, Cloughjordan, HC

#### CONFIRMATIONS 2013

Three candidates from our parish are preparing for Confirmation

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at this time. They are Eoin England, Stephen Harding & Joel Young. Confirmation takes place in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on Sunday 12th May at 11am. Please pray for the Candidates at this important time in their lives.

#### HOLY BAPTISMS

In recent weeks two infants were baptized in our parish. They were Lily Maria Harding, daughter of Graham & Maria Harding of Ballylina, who was baptized on Saturday 13th April in Ballingarry Church and Amelia Rachael Fogarty, daughter of Colin & Olivia Fogarty of Toombरिकane, Borrisokane, who was baptized in Borrisokane Church on Sunday 14th April. We wish both these infants every blessing in their lives.

#### BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Robert Stanley of Borrisokane parish on the death of his sister Mildred Baskin (nee Stanley) after a short illness. We remember also Mildred's sister Phyllis Wolfe who has close associations with Cloughjordan parish and all the extended family in their time of loss. Mildred's funeral took place in Ardara parish Church, Donegal.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Gareth & Wendy (née Burn) Bell on the tragic loss of their six year old son Harry after a brief illness. Also among the bereaved are Harry's younger brother Peter, his granny Alice, his great uncle and aunt William and Ann and his Great Grandmother Geraldine. Harry in parting gave the gift of his heart to a little girl in England who received a transplant and a new lease of life through him. The service in the Presbyterian Church in Raphoe, Donegal was attended by a very large number of parishioners and friends from the parish and the rector, Canon Stephen, took part in the service. Also present was former rector, Canon Donald Atkinson.

We remember all the bereaved in our prayers in the weeks ahead.



## Shinrone Group of Parishes

*Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin*

Rector: Rev. Michael Johnston

St. Mary's Rectory, Church Road, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 0505-47164 Mob: 086-6086567

Email: [shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org](mailto:shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org)

Parish Website: [shinrone.blogspot.ie](http://shinrone.blogspot.ie)

### EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

Many thanks to all who attended the General Vestries this year, and a particular thanks to those who offered themselves for any role in the coming year.

### LINK PARISH VISIT

A full report on the recent parish visit to our link church in Harzgerode will appear in next month's Newslink. Meanwhile some photographs from the trip can be seen on the parish website - [http://shinrone.blogspot.ie/p/blog-page\\_19.html](http://shinrone.blogspot.ie/p/blog-page_19.html)



*Visiting the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin*

### GERMAN VISITORS

Revd Anke Dittrich, the pastor of our link church will pay a visit to the parish and diocese with her husband and daughter for a few days from 18 May. This is to prepare for the group visiting from her parish in July.

### SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING

A healing service will take place on Thursday 23 May at 8.00pm in St Mary's, Shinrone. All are welcome to come and pray for the sick and, if they wish, to receive the laying on of hands.

### GENERAL SYNOD

Please pray for those attending the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Armagh 9-11 May, particularly those from our own group of parishes.

### NEWSLINK

I would encourage all those reading this who don't actually subscribe to Newslink to consider doing so! Without the support of parishioners around the diocese this valuable source of news and community will struggle to survive. Subscription is only €34 per annum. Please think about taking one out for yourself or as a gift for someone else.



## Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

*Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon*

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: [bobhanna@eircom.net](mailto:bobhanna@eircom.net)

Parish website: [www.churchofirelandclare.com](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

### EASTER VESTRIES

The following officers were elected:

**Drumcliffe:** Rector's Warden - Mr John Donovan, People's Warden - Mrs Anharad Harding, Glebe Warden - Mr Adrian Bridge.

**Kilnasoolagh:** Rector's Warden - Mr Pascal Sage, Peoples' Warden - Mr Eckhart Wurm.

Tribute was paid to Minutes secretaries Edwin Bailey and Kim Hutchinson for their work. Edwin was also mentioned by the Rector for his sterling work as Parish Secretary. Among his many contributions was the overseeing of the transfer of Kilkishen Church building to a local community organisation.

We thank all our office-bearers for their efforts over the past year and ask blessing on those who enter a new year of service.

The Drumcliffe Select Vestry is currently overseeing the installation of a new lightning conductor system to the tower of St Columba's at some considerable expense. This new updated installation was made necessary because of vandalism. A full report on the physical state of the Church's fabric is being considered by the Vestry at present.

An inspection of the Rectory will be undertaken by the Diocesan Glebes Committee in early May.

### CONFIRMATION

St Columba's Day (Sunday) June 9th is the date for Confirmation at St Columba's Church, Drumcliffe. So it is nice to have our patron saint in the background as we send Anna Courtney, James Good and William O'Connor further on their pilgrimage in the Christian faith. Also we look forward to a good day with Bishop Trevor. Sophie Gibbons from Ennis will be confirmed on Thursday 9th May 2013, Ascension Day, in the Chapel of Wilson's Hospital School, Multyfarnham, by the Bishop of Meath.

### MORE MUSIC

One weekend in April produced a musical treat with a double bill on Friday and Saturday with first choir Voce Nuove from Cork University Music School and then the Clonakilty Brass Band. The latter were hosted by Ennis Brass Band who in turn have travelled to play with Clonakilty, an award winning band. Thanks to parishioners who helped provide hospitality to our visitors.

### SCHOOL VISIT

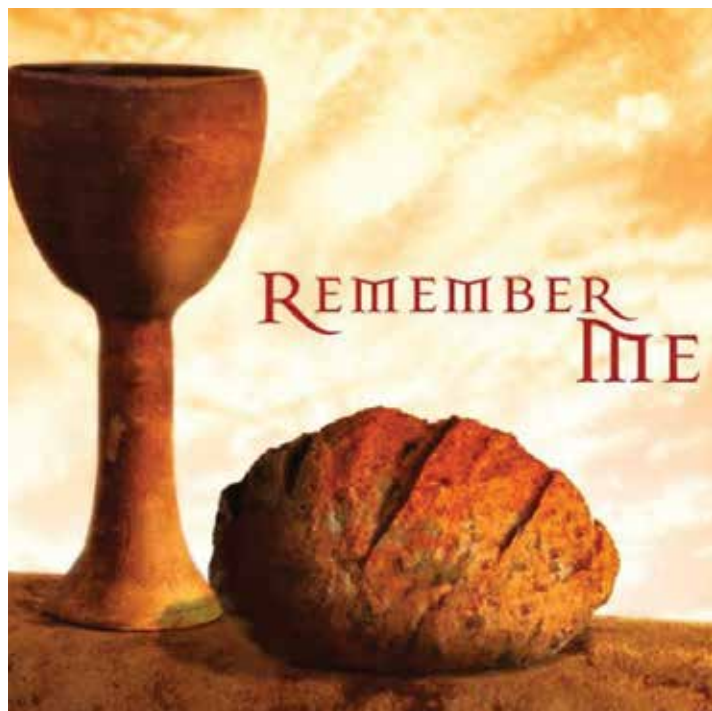
Bishop Trevor met with the Board of St John's N.S., Shannon as Patron in April and took the opportunity to share his vision of a listening outlook to assist the Board in pursuit of its duties to pupils and parents. He also introduced the Rev Vicki Lynch as a Patron's Appointee to the Board to replace Dr Rosemary Power, who retired from Methodist ministry in Shannon at Christmas. A further community place on the Board has yet to be filled following the resignation of Mrs Heather Halton, who is to be thanked for her enthusiastic efforts on the Board in an all too short tenure. We are grateful to Bishop Trevor for his interest and support and wish The Rev Vicki and her Methodist team well in their work in Shannon.

### BOOK LAUNCH

A history of the tablets in St Columba's entitled "Memorials of Past Lives" has been compiled by local historian Mr Eric Shaw, whose colleagues in the Clare Roots Society gathered for a splendid launch of their latest publication. Among the contributors was Professor Deirdre Hunt from Cork who is a great-great-grand-daughter of the builder of St Columba's in 1871, The Rev Canon Philip Dwyer. Our thanks to parishioners and friends who helped make the evening the success it was.

# The Eucharist – an Introduction

by Archdeacon Wayne Carney



Most of us probably learned about Holy Communion in Confirmation Class. We learned how we take Communion, and we learned why it was important, but we probably didn't learn very much background to help us understand what it's really all about. So here are some reflections on questions you may have.

## THAT WORD, "EUCHARIST"

'Eucharist' means 'Thanksgiving', and has since the early days of the Church, described the whole service. 'Holy Communion' is actually that part of the service when we receive the consecrated bread and wine.

## WHAT IS THE EUCHARIST, ANYWAY?

Because of the way we usually take Communion in most places – going up to the front of the church and kneeling down at a rail – we miss the fact that the Communion is basically a meal – the family meal of the people of God, gathered around the Lord's Table, with Jesus as our host. Just as our own families gather around a table for important events – Christmas, Easter, weddings, funerals, – so our church family gathers around the Table to celebrate Jesus' presence with us.

## WHY DO WE DO IT?

We celebrate the Eucharist because Jesus told us to – 'Do this in remembrance of me' (Luke 22:19). That, and Baptism were the only things Jesus commanded us to do, aside from, of course loving God and neighbour, and forgiving others.

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE HAVE COMMUNION?

From the 1st Century, church communities gathered on the Lord's Day to break bread and share wine in remembrance of Jesus. By the time of the Middle Ages, this had become a formal celebration of the Mass, in which only clergy took part; lay people were discouraged from receiving Communion except perhaps at Christmas and Easter. When the Church of England (and Ireland, of course) separated from the Roman church in 1533, Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer wanted lay people to be able to take Communion every Sunday. But because they had been taught for 400 years that they were not worthy to take Communion regularly, most lay people wouldn't receive. And because Cranmer wanted to stop private Masses, he commanded that there could be no celebration of the Eucharist unless there were at least ten people who wanted to receive Communion – and, except

in big churches and Cathedrals, there usually weren't. Morning and Evening Prayer were daily services, said every day including Sunday, when it preceded the Eucharist. If there was no regular Eucharist on a Sunday, only Morning Prayer was left. This was not what Cranmer had envisioned. Over the last century, we have moved back to a more regular celebration of the Eucharist – first once a month, now, in many places, twice a month. And there are parishes in Ireland that celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday, thus finally fulfilling one of the purposes of the Protestant Reformation after nearly 500 years.

## WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE?

We all know that Roman Catholics believe in 'Transubstantiation', and the Church of Ireland does not. What many people don't realise is that those two positions are not quite as far apart as we think. Transubstantiation was a doctrine adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 12th Century, which attempted to explain Christ's Presence in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. This was repudiated at the Reformation, but Anglican doctrine does not say that Christ is not present in the Eucharist, but that we don't try to define one of the great mysteries of God. Official writings of the churches of the Anglican Communion have consistently upheld belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Anglicans do not believe that the Eucharist is 'only symbolic', nor do Methodists. After all, Jesus did say "This is my body... This is my blood." We'll leave the final word to Queen Elizabeth I.

*Elizabeth I is reputed to have said,*  
**"Christ was the word that spake it.  
He took the bread and break it;  
And what his words did make it  
That I believe and take it.**

## HOW SHOULD WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST?

Most parishioners are familiar with how the Eucharist is celebrated in their own parish church, but each Christian community should find a way to gather around the Lord's Table that is appropriate to the size of their community and the architecture of their church building. Standing or kneeling, or seated around a table are all appropriate in different situations. The important thing to remember is that word, "celebrate". The Eucharist is not some solemn ritual we do as our duty – it is a celebration of the presence of Christ in our church and in our hearts. May we take part joyfully as well as reverently, as we would for any family celebration.



*A different way of celebrating – Eucharist at Koinonia Farm Christian community in Georgia*



# GFS Annual Diocesan Service & Prize Giving

As reported in the April issue, this was held on Saturday 23rd March in St Brendan's Church, Birr. Here are a selection of photos of the event.



*Girls receive Bible Study Prizes from Mrs Quinn*



*Mrs Joyce Williams presenting craft prizes*



*Banners crafted by girls aged 5 & 6*



*Tissue paper pictures crafted by girls aged 3 & 4*



*Bishop Trevor & Mrs Williams receive a presentation*



*Mrs Quinn, All Ireland President, receives a presentation*

*Drumcliffe Union from page 18...*

## **FAMINE EVENT, KILRUSH**

The former port and mill town will be visited by President Michael D Higgins on Sunday 12th May for the 2013 National Famine Commemoration (2.30pm). Kilrush was particularly badly hit by the famine. Bishop Trevor will join the Rector for the event. The Doonbeg Community are also promoting a Famine Commemoration Walk on Saturday 11th May at 7pm and extend an invite to all Church of Ireland parishioners.

## **PAINTINGS**

Sr Carmel Kehoe of the St John of God Order, based in Ennis and a great friend of the Drumcliffe Group, has overseen a marvellous gift

to the local Cahercalla Hospital-Home, once the responsibility of the Order. Carmel, a Clare Person of the Year who works with children and disadvantaged, has been an Anam Cara (Soul Friend) to Brother Ambrose O'Mahony of the Franciscan Order, now in failing health, compiling and framing his superb abstract oil paintings. Last year Cork Hospice was the beneficiary of the first collection of Ambrose's works and now Cahercalla has benefited and will prove an excellent venue. Brother Ambrose, based in Cork, has used St Columba's Church as a subject for his paintings.



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# Clonfert Diocese

## Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

Rector: Rev. George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9673735 Mob: 087 20 74739

Email: [georgeandgwyn@eircom.net](mailto:georgeandgwyn@eircom.net)

Parish website: [www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org](http://www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org)

Greetings to all readers - here's hoping that better weather will be on the way shortly, to warm our hearts and allow us tend to our gardens and our domestic crops and look forward to an autumn bountiful harvest.

### EASTER

Easter was celebrated by well attended congregations. It was a cheerful time in spite of the somewhat disappointing attendances at services during Lent up to Holy Week. Holy Week was a very pleasing conclusion to our journey walking with Christ, with the celebration of the Last Supper Service in the Rectory on Maundy Thursday and a Service of hymns and the reading on Good Friday of the Passion Story. This most moving Service was led by The Rector and assisted by a number of parishioners. Both services were followed by refreshments in the Rectory.

### EGG HUNT

The Saturday before Easter was a very special day for our young people when they were invited to the Rectory for two hours of fun and 'hunting' eggs. Twenty children plus twelve adults attended and had a great afternoon of fun, games, laughter and refreshments.

### MOTHERS' UNION AUGHRIM

The Diocesan President Ms. Ina Blackwell has requested that Holy Trinity Aughrim host a Diocesan Mother's Union Diocesan Service on Sunday 19th May. This will be a Service of Holy Communion taking place at 3.00 p.m. It is anticipated that Mother's Union Branches across the Diocese will attend. Tea will follow in the Rectory.

### EAST GALWAY CANCER SUPPORT BALLINASLOE

Aughrim mothers' union were delighted to be able to support this newly opened facility, when members presented a reclining chair to help ease the financial burden on this charitable organisation.

### PASTORAL CARE

It has been a busy time of pastoral care with a number of parishioners in hospital and under the weather with various illnesses. I am glad to say as I write these notes that all have recovered and are back at home or nursing homes.

Service times for the coming month can be viewed on our website.



*Easter Egg makers at work*

*St John's Ballinasloe Children chat to Rector*

## The Clonfert Group of Parishes

*Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna*

The Rev. Alan Nevin

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649

Email: [towers@iol.ie](mailto:towers@iol.ie)

### COMMISSIONING MISSIONARIES

On Sunday 14th April we had a joint service for our group of

parishes in Christ Church Portumna. The Rev Patrick started the service by explaining how in his youth (a long time ago!) he attended a commissioning service for himself before he was sent to Japan as a missionary. So we gathered that day to commission Maureen Moss before she sets out to Swaziland for three months to work in the Usuthu Primary School. The Commissioning Service was followed by Holy Communion after which tea coffee and some wonderful cakes were served. Some beautiful homemade cards, made by one of the parishioners, raised some €80 towards the €600 donated for Maureen to use to help towards projects in Swaziland. Maureen was also given letters from some of our young people in our congregation who hope to get Pen Pals with similar aged young people in Swaziland. Maureen would like to thank everybody who has contributed towards



this effort in any way.

*From the left: Rev Patrick Towers, Maureen Moss,  
and Diocesan Reader Ann Menheneott*



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## BEREAVEMENTS

Our thought and prayers are with Dorothy and her family Jean, Alan and Brian after the sudden death of Ivan Pattison on the 28th March. His funeral service was held in St John the Baptist Church Eyrecourt and he was buried in St Paul's Banagher. Granddaughter Kim, read out a very moving letter sent by Ivan's other granddaughter Sarah from Florida, saying in many words what a wonderful grandfather he was. Son-in-law Mark gave a wonderful tribute of Ivan's life as husband, father and Grandfather. Ivan served Eyrecourt Parish, not only as a member of the congregation but also for many years on the Select Vestry and his thoughtful contributions will be sorely missed.

Banagher Town was saddened by the death of Billy Ryland on 9th April and our sincere thoughts and prayers go to his wife Katherine, daughter Yvonne, sons John, Ken, Paul, David and William, his grandchildren and brother Bobby. Billy was well known and greatly loved in the town with his interest in the local GAA and was very popular when he worked in the family's local shop.

The parishioners of Eyrecourt extend their sympathy's to Betty Timmins on the death of her husband John.

May God welcome these people into his heavenly home, give them peace, and bless all the people that now mourn them.

## GERMAN MEETS IRISH

Once again we welcome a group of German musicians who will be playing with an Irish group at St John the Baptist Church Eyrecourt on Saturday 15th June at 9pm. If the joy we experienced at last years concert is anything to go by, it is not to be missed.

## MOTHERS' UNION

Ina Blackwell our Diocesan President gave us a talk on the changes that have been taking place in the M.U. recently and told us of the forthcoming events.

## KNIT IT

Several ladies from Banagher and Eyrecourt have been busy over the last few weeks knitting tiny vests for new born Aids babies in Africa. They have now completed nearly 300 and we would like to thank everybody who has contributed to this worthwhile effort

# Limerick Diocese

## Limerick City Parish

*St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's Pery Sq. and Abington*

**Dean: Rev. Sandra Pragnell**

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

**Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592**

**Email: [sandrapragnell@eircom.net](mailto:sandrapragnell@eircom.net)**

**Rev. Jane Galbraith**

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

**Tel: 061-302038 Mobile: 085-1450804**

**Email: [galbraithjane@gmail.com](mailto:galbraithjane@gmail.com)**

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Many thanks to all who supported the Holy Week services, including the Liturgy of the Upper Room, with the foot-washing and the stripping of the altar, the Three Hours on Good Friday, and the informal Easter Vigil which followed the Easter Egg Hunt in the cathedral grounds for our younger parishioners. The collections taken at the Holy Week services will be donated to the Irish Cancer Society for their Daffodil Day Appeal. Thanks to Bishop Trevor, and all who attended Limerick's first ever ecumenical Good Friday walk from St Mary's Cathedral to St John's Cathedral, following the Cross, which we hope will become an annual event.

*Bishop Trevor writes:*

A group of Roman Catholics, Methodists, Church of Ireland and others, followed the cross through the streets of Limerick City Centre on Good Friday. Many of those who took part found it extremely moving. Dean Sandra Pragnell, the newly appointed Dean of St Mary's and Fr Frank O'Connor made the arrangements and I as the Church of Ireland Bishop was privileged to walk with the pilgrims. And it was a pilgrimage. We stopped three times, on street corners, to hear a verse of scripture and recite the Lord's prayer, and then move on. The simple act of witness started in St Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral with a prayer and made its way to St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral. It was the first time to do this, and the turnout wasn't bad, but I have a feeling this is already a 'tradition' and the numbers are bound to grow next year!



*Limerick City Ecumenical Walk*

## THANK YOU

On Easter Day the Bishop dedicated new linen for the Holy Table at St Mary's Cathedral, a generous gift from Roland and Lindsay Boyle, in memory of their parents, John and Daisy Boyle and George and Kathleen Bingham. Thanks also to those who provided homemade soup for the Hunger Lunches on Saturdays in the Cathedral (Emma, Margaret, Gail, Lindsay, Lucy, Gail, Joyce Williams, and the Dean) and to all who supported this new venture. In total, we collected approximately €500 for the work of Brother Stephen House with the homeless.

## HOLY BAPTISM

On Easter Day, 31st March 2013 at St Mary's Cathedral: Eric GOLDEN, son of Ashling and Trevor of Newport.

On 7th April 2013 at St Michael's Church: Aitor Emmanuel CHUKWUEMEKA, son of Benjamini and Arantza of Joseph St, Limerick.

## HOLY MATRIMONY

On 6th April 2013 at St Mary's Cathedral: Clodagh Elizabeth MERRY and Cormac Patrick MULLARKEY, who will make their home in Dublin. Bishop Willie Walsh, a friend of the Merry family shared the ceremony with the Dean.

## BIRTHS

Congratulations to Amy Kavanagh and Peter Hayes on the birth on 26th March of their baby son Conall Xavier, a first grandchild for Joe & Lucy Kavanagh. May Conall be a source of great happiness to all his family.

## SINCERE SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended on the death on 6th April of Dorothy (Dodie) Reid (nee Watts) in Dublin - to her daughters Joan and Yvonne, son George, sisters Joyce (Howes), Patsy (Pomeroy), brother Lionel Watts, their families and relatives.

## EASTER VESTRY

At the meeting on 11th April, the following were appointed: Jemimah Egbulam (RCW Cathedral), Richard Brickenden (RCW St Michael's), Elizabeth Stanley (RCW Abington), and Trevor Morrow (RGW). The following were elected: Frank Sheahan (PCW Cathedral), Lucy Kavanagh (PCW St Michaels), Albert Swanton (PCW Abington) and Tracey Lytle (PGW). The following were elected to the Select Vestry: Peggy Carey (appointed Hon Sec), Gillian Cheatley, Barbara Clayton, Philip Cullen (appointed Hon Treasurer, St Michaels), Susi Eckhardt, John Jarvis, Colin Marsden, Keith Morrow, Keith O'Neil, Peter Schutz, Kayt Shier (appointed Treasurer Cathedral and Hon Group Treasurer), and Kieran Van Sparling. We thank all those who were willing to put themselves forward for election and office.

## Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes

*Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon*

**Rector: Rev. Gary Paulsen**

**The Rectory, Adare, Co Limerick**

**Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 085 764 0533**

**Email: [adarerector@gmail.com](mailto:adarerector@gmail.com)**

## EASTER

Easter services were well attended and the liturgy celebrated in all churches. At the Easter dawn service at 6 am in Adare the fire was blazing and we processed into a dark church where everyone lit a candle from the Easter candle - always a lovely sight to behold. The Easter Exultant was sung and the alleluias filled the air. Kilmallock too had a fire and procession into the church on the Saturday evening. The Easter Triduum was highlighted and emphasised, to remind us that we celebrate Easter each Sunday of the year as it is such an important day in the Christian calendar. We look forward now to Pentecost after fifty days of Easter and to the confirmation taking place on Pentecost of our six candidates who have been preparing for 6 months for this day.

## CIRCLE CLUB

Sunday 14th April 2013 at Croom Church we celebrated the friendship and good will of the "Circle Club" to the parishioners of this Church, as Rev Gary Paulsen blessed three long cushions which were made by many ladies from that club. Lay minister Barbara Bingham made an initial enquiry of the ladies of the "Circle Club", who meet weekly in Croom Mills. From this came the six month project to design and sew tapestries to cover the bare marble altar-step place of kneeling. Ladies from Kilmallock Church of Ireland joined the team and the resulting cushions depict their personal choices of things that had a resonance with the text chosen by Robert Davis from scripture: "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mat 19:26).

The congregation of Croom church helped raise the money for this project by donating items for sale at a Christmas craft fair in Croom. Lady Melissa Brooke was instrumental in the project and had a new light fitting installed which we dedicated on the same day. We all had tea and eats at Glenbevan after the church ceremony. A big thank you to all involved and the wonderful community spirit in which it was done.

## MOTHERS' UNION

The Adare Mothers' Union has been revived since the October AGM under the leadership of Jessie Griffin. Jessie took over after the death of Olive Spencer nearly a year ago now. Fortunately the remaining officers have stayed in position and this has also created stability. So they have had quite a busy programme with a Christmas



party, pairing up with one another as prayer partners. Janet Bray had an evening of flower arranging and on another day Jessie did a workshop on the making of greeting cards and also an enjoyable bring and buy sale was had. Members attended and played an active role in the World day of Prayer at Holy Trinity church in Adare. The branch also attended the Lady Day service on the feast of the Annunciation at St Michaels Church. The branch is growing, now with 22 members, and is active in our common life. We give thanks for their presence in the group of parishes.



*The Circle Club with the kneeling cushions in Croom church*

## Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

*Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcormac & Kilnaughtin*

**Rector:** Rev. Keith Scott

**The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick**

**Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087 2885169**

**E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org**

We have had a busy Holy Week and Easter with all the usual services and the excitement of celebrating the very heart of the Christian faith: the Resurrection of Jesus. A big thank you to all the people who helped get the Churches ready for the big day. Hours of cleaning, flower arranging and general hard work go into the buildings and as always we should be deeply grateful to all those who do it.

We held our Easter General Vestries in the last few days possible this year. In Kilnaughtin Eric Parkinson and Alan Fitzell are Church Wardens, in Rathkeale the Wardens are Niall West and Hazel Supple, Castletown are Victor Gardiner and Declan Shier while Askeaton has Richard Langford and Anne Drew. While we are thinking about our Wardens please remember Richard in your prayers, as he has been ill.

It is good to see people taking a role in the life of the Church, but our parishes need support from everyone not just the few who attend vestry meetings. These are difficult times for every person, business, institution and community. Like everyone else the finances are particularly tight, especially as there are changes in the tax rebate on charitable donations for Self-Employed people and the new property tax adding to the burden on the parish and the Church needs your support. If you can offer any help or make any contribution, please get in touch with Rev'd Keith or your parish treasurer.

### Grow old along with me

Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be;  
the last of life, for which the first was made.

Our times are in his hands who saith,  
'A whole I planned, youth shows but half.  
Trust God; see all, nor be afraid.'

*By Robert Browning*

# Ardfert Diocese

## Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

*Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney (Vacant)*

**Parish Office:** Teach an tSolais, St. John's Church,  
Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry

**Tel: 066 712 2245 Email: tralee@ardfert.anglican.org**

**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev. Jim Stephens

**Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.**

**Tel: 066-976 7735 Mobile: 087-052 9107**

**Email: stiofain.s@gmail.com**

## SUNDAY SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Ballyseedy: 9.45 am, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

Kilgobbin: 10 am, every Sunday

Tralee: 10.45 am, every Sunday

Ballymacelligott: 12 Noon, every Sunday

Dingle: 12 Noon, every Sunday

## ABOUT PEOPLE

Our congratulations to

... Cara Helen, daughter of Ann and Henrik Jensen, and sister to Isabel, of Sli na Coille, Gurtinard, Listowel, who was welcomed into the Christian community when she was Baptised in St. John's Church, Tralee, on Sunday 17th March.

... Jake John Groves Sugrue, son of Heather and Jerry who joined the family of Christ at a Service of Holy Baptism in Ballyseedy Church on Saturday 13th April. The water used in the service had been collected from the river Jordan by his grandmother Margaret during a pilgrimage some years ago.

Our condolences to

... Brida Gleasure, whose father Tom Moloney of Lissivigeen, Killarney, passed away on the morning of Thursday 21st March. He is mourned by Brida, her seven sisters, four brothers and many, many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

... The family of the late William (Willie) Hoffman of Gortagullane, Ballymacelligott, Tralee, who passed after a short illness in early hours of Tuesday 26th March. Willie was a faithful member of Ballymacelligott Church and will be much missed by his friends and fellow parishioners. He is survived by his wife Olive, son Cyril, daughters Sylvia and Stephanie, his two sons-in-law and five granddaughters.

... Sue Hook of Brandon, Clahane, whose husband Mike died suddenly on Tuesday 9th April. Sue and Mike, originally from England, settled in the Brandon area in 2007 and were well integrated into the local community.

## EASTER VESTRIES

The 2013 Easter General Vestries for both the Dingle Union of Parishes and the Tralee and Ballymacelligott Union of Parishes have been held since the last Newslink was published. The returns are as follows:

### Dingle Union Select Vestry

Kilgobbin Churchwardens: Rector's - Joyce O'Donnell, People's - Belinda Gascoigne

St. James' Churchwardens: Rector's - Eric Prestige, People's - Peter Roberts

Dingle Union Glebewardens: Rector's - Andrew Fitzgerald, People's - Robert Blennerhassett

Other elected members: Amelia Day, Cecil Hoffman, Eleanor Prestage, Jacqueline O Shea, Martin Murphy, Hazel Evans, Sandra Hoffman, David Frizelle, Robert Hoffman, Myrna Beardsworth, Joy Frizelle, Karen Davey

### **Tralee and Ballymacelligott Union Select Vestry**

St. John's Churchwardens: Rector's - Susan Keating, People's - Niall Groves

Ballymac Churchwardens: Rector's - Winnie Knightly, People's - Linda Butler

Ballyseedy Churchwardens: Rector's - Phyllis Mason, People's - Beatrice Peevers

Tralee & B'mac Glebewardens: Rector's - Colin Peevers, People's - Robert Groves

Other elected members: Olive Flynn, Mona Butler, Godfrey Blennerhassett, Daniel Giles, Margaret Groves, Michael Latchford, John Slye, Ann Shanahan, David Blennerhassett, George Poff, Lorna Gleasure, Maraquita Blennerhassett

### **PENINSULAR PARISHES**

Bishop Trevor conducted a Service for the dedication of gifts presented by parishioners in memory of loved ones in Kilgobbin Church on the afternoon of Sunday 28 April at 4pm. The well attended service was followed by refreshments in a local restaurant.

The popularity of the Ecumenical Retreat Walks led by Rev. Mairt Hanley continues to grow. About 25 people attended the most recent walk from Annascaul to Inch, which featured readings of scripture and reflection, at relevant stopping places along the route. The next walk is to be held after the Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise service in St. James' Church, Dingle, on Sunday 5 May. Held as a pilot event last year, this has now become part of the Féile na Bealtaine Programme of Events.

## **Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes**

*Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross*

**Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Canon Susan Watterson.**

**(Vacant from 19th May 2013)**

**The Rectory, Rookery Rd. Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry**

**Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 087 689 2025**

**Email: smwatt1@gmail.com**

At the Easter Vestry there were a couple of changes - Kathleen Giles replaces Lynda O'Connor on the Select Vestry. Thanks to Lynda for her many years on the Vestry and various sub-committees. Adrian Hilliard replaces Andrew Eadie as People's Warden - as Adrian lives and works in Killarney this will be an advantage during the upcoming vacancy. Church Wardens are Adrian Hilliard (0851252085) and Marcus Harig (0879776672)

The community at St Mary's were saddened to learn of the passing of Nancy Carson, Beaufort P. O. who was laid to rest on April 14th.

At a recent meeting of the Book Club, it was decided to postpone our visit to Chartres until September to facilitate all wishing to travel.

Just as we prepare for a busy summer season, concert coordinator, Andrew Eadie, issued an open invitation to other parishes in the diocese to join us in Killarney for one of these special occasions. Upcoming concerts include:

- May 17th - Jane Froman Singers
- May 23rd - Golf Club & Presentation Monastery School Choirs
- June 8th - Spraoi Chiarrai
- June 11th - Chumley Methodist Choir

### **FAREWELL TO CANON SUE**

There's another open invitation to all on Sunday May 12th when we hold a barbecue / lunch in the Grounds of St Mary's after Service to mark the occasion of Canon Sue's departure to St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork as Dean's Vicar. For the congregation of St Mary's and many people in the wider community and throughout the diocese, this will

be an occasion tinged with much sadness as well as celebration.

In the six years since Sue first came to us she has touched all of our hearts, not just becoming our Priest-In-Charge, but also becoming a friend to one and all. Her concern for her adopted community was limitless and her weekly sermons were not just engaging, but challenging as well. Sue epitomised what ministry should be, insisting that living life as a Christian was more than just about turning up on Sunday. She not only preached, but lived God's message and encouraged each of us to do the same. Her unique gift is that rather than being austere, she engages all with compassion, humility and a roguish sense of humour.

Canon Sue's departure presents a challenge to us, as a community and congregation, to regroup in order to look to the future with optimism - after all; it's certain that's what Sue wants us to do. That said, we can also be certain that Sue will be guaranteed success when she moves on in early June. She leaves us with our blessings, our prayers and above all else, our thanks for coming amongst us to rejuvenate our faith in God and our in own potential. I'm sure that I speak for all when I pray that God will continue to bless, guide and protect this very special person.

from Michael O'Sullivan (*Canon Sue - on behalf of the Vestry - has asked me to take over submitting Newslink Parish Notes during the vacancy*)

## **Kilcolman Union of Parishes**

*Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh*

**Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley**

**20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.**

**Mob: 087-619 4733**

**Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com**

**Parish Website: [www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org](http://www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org)**

It has been quite a busy few weeks in the parish. It was a great joy to have had Maisie and Guss, Lettie's grand children, christened a few Sundays ago, and it even looked as if Maisie is shaping up to be an organist. I must inform her rector! We also had a lovely day in Kiltallagh for Freya Clendennan's introduction into the Church. We have also had some sadder occasions with the passing of Mrs. Barry, Georg Gartner and Nancy Carson. My thanks to all who helped make Nancy's funeral such a special occasion. There will be a memorial service for Georg at the start of May - dhéis De go raibh a annam.

The next few Tuesdays will see evening prayer at 8pm followed by confirmation class. The exception to this will be Tuesday the 21st of May where there will be a discussion about two articles on the topic of the human sexuality debate which will be followed by an IDAHO service run in conjunction with the Kerry pride festival.

On the 5th of May I will be in Dingle helping with the Irish Language service and running a reflective walk in the afternoon at 2:30 which starts and finishes at Tig Bríc, all welcome.

### **EASTER VESTRY MEETING**

The incoming Select Vestry is as follows:

Secretary - Simon Champ, Treasurer - Maureen Corcoran

Church Wardens: Killorglin - Matt Murphy & Ivan Stephens, Castlemaine - Nigel Boyle & Peter Clendennen

Glebe Wardens: John Flynn & John Orme.

Elected Members: Pauline Dobbins, Peter Evans, Charlie Smith, Barbara Irrgang-Buckley,

Aine NicGhabhann, Linda Spillane, Adrian Boyle, David O'Neill, Kenneth O'Neill & Eric Champ.

In his address to the meeting rounding up the year the Rev Máirt noted that:

- The Monday morning Parent & Child meetings were discontinued due to a lack of support.
- Tea & Coffee after the midweek Holy Day services in Kiltallagh has grown and offers an opportunity for parents and children to spend some time together.
- The leaflet reading in the book club is working as it allows a person to miss a meeting without losing the thread of a story.
- The Parish Web Site will include a calendar of events and the news letters will be included.
- Printed copies of the newsletters will be available in the churches.
- The Rev Máirt is setting up a list of mobile phone numbers and another of email addresses to enable him to communicate more efficiently with parishioners. Text your name to 087 619 4733 to get yourself on his list & include your email address if you have one.
- The German visit at the end of Sept is in need of more interested people to make themselves known to us. We are planning the itinerary at present and you might like to go to Germany in 2014 on a return visit, so get involved now. All those interested will be very welcome.
- He thanked all those many people who helped in any way during the past year.



*The knitted Last Supper – a work of art!*

## CONFIRMATIONS

The Sunday after Easter is commonly referred to as 'Low' Sunday. It wasn't for us! St Patrick's was full as the congregations of both Sneem and Kenmare churches joined together to help celebrate the confirmations of six of amazing young people: Katia, Isobel, Amber, Sasha, Ana and Caoime. We were treated to a rather different presentation by the Patrick's Puppets – reminding us that wherever we go, Jesus will always be there. 'Low' Sunday? No chance! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



*Just confirmed, with Bishop Trevor: Katia, Isobel, Amber, Sasha, Ana and Caoime*



*St Patrick's Puppets*



*This is an extract from the Güntersberge parish newsletter, translated for us by Frankie:-*

"1-year jubilee of birthday service in Güntersberge and a special gift. Once every quarter year we have a service for the blessing of our birthday children. All parishioners are invited. This time not everyone could come, however there was a good turnout with smiling faces ending with coffee and cake. Last time we opened a gift from our Irish partner church. It was a St. Brigid's Cross, which now hangs in the Winter Church. This cross not only reminds us of our Irish twin parish, but also symbolizes God's blessing and protection to all entering. The birthday services will be continued."

## Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

*Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia*

**Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh**

**St Patrick's Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.**

**Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312**

**Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net**

## EASTER

Our Easter journey, travelling through an evening of farewells, a day of immense sadness as we followed the cross into the garden, then the emptiness of feeling totally alone being replaced by unimaginable joy as we heard of resurrection, was an experience which every year has fresh new meaning even though we have walked the same road many times. The Easter Gospel readings speak for themselves – there is no sermon that can enhance them; we just listen again and visualise those dramatic events, letting ourselves in as part of that story which continues to move, inspire and heal us.

That experience was this year enhanced for us by an unusual gift from Marjorie & Michael's lovely friend Norma from High Legh in Cheshire – a knitted 'Last Supper', complete with bread and wine. Despite it being a somewhat unusual icon, it helped us in our meditations; and as several people remarked, it is just as much a work of art as any painting or sculpture.



# Finances in Marriage – from the Church of Ireland Marriage Council

## Why opposite attitudes to money can put pressure on your marriage ....

In the early years of their marriage, Ben and Sue found the one thing which caused tension between them was money. Ben was a natural saver, but Sue was the exact opposite. Looking back, Ben comments "Whenever the bank statement came, I would be frustrated that we had no money left, or we were overdrawn. We didn't even seem to know where the money had gone, which made it worse. I had always been careful with money, and I felt resentful towards Sue because of her spending.

Sue reflects: "Money had never been an issue with me. I usually knew roughly how much I had in my account, and enjoyed spending what I earned. I love being able to buy little extras, being able to treat people on occasions and to give spontaneously. I had an overdraft facility which gave me a bit of a buffer. Ben didn't seem to understand that, and I would then feel guilty about spending, and began to feel that I was hopeless with money."

Advice from another married couple helped Sue and Ben work through their difficulties. Together they worked out a budget and paid all their money into a joint account to pay for the household expenditure. Then they agreed a sum of money that they were each free to spend, or save, however they wished.

"Just facing the problem and working out what to do was of huge benefit," says Ben. "It brought things out into the open, and we found working through the issue brought us closer together."

How money affects marriages:

- Three quarters (74%) of couples find money the hardest subject to talk about with their partners.
- Over a quarter (27%) of couples regularly argue when they try to discuss their finances.
- A third (32%) of couples lie to their partners about how much they spend on their credit cards.

### Towards a better financial future

Open communication about finances is important between couples, particularly if there is debt. Whatever your financial situation, the following principles will help you talk about your finances, and

prevent money becoming a source of tension between you.

**1 Starting point: share everything.** Most couples 'wedding vows include the promise to share everything you own with each other. The fact that you share everything is the starting point to discuss how you manage your money.

**2 Seek to understand each other and communicate.** Opening a joint account reflects the fact that everything you have is shared. Agreeing a limit on the amount you spend from this account without consulting your partner will help you avoid disagreements. Many couples also have individual accounts which they use, for example, at Christmas or birthdays, or for expenditure that they consider their responsibility. Some couples transfer an agreed sum of money into their individual accounts at the beginning of the month - it doesn't have to be very much.

**3 Work out a budget.** The process of working out a budget together has a number of benefits. It will give you a clear picture of your financial position and can be a catalyst for frank discussion. Calculate your monthly income and expenditure, and discuss any planned giving.

If your expenditure exceeds your income, check that you are claiming all benefits to which you are entitled. Then cut down on expenditure until the figures balance. Agree to review your financial situation regularly.

If you are finding managing money difficult ...

- Buy a notebook and write down everything you buy.
- Cut up your credit card.
- Go back to using cash.

These simple principles will help any couple get their finances straight, and hopefully avoid arguments about money. With increasing pressure on family finances, it's important for couples, who are worried about money, to start addressing it now. Hiding the bills and pretending there isn't a problem will only cause more difficulties later on.

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# The Methodist District Superintendent writes

The 275th Anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience will be celebrated on 24 May. In 1725 John Wesley dedicated his life to God. As an Anglican clergyman he gave up an easy going existence in England to take up a much more uncertain role as army chaplain in America. Another aspect of his work there was to evangelise the American Indians.

He was absolutely terrified in an Atlantic storm but observed that the Moravian Christians sat with serenity singing psalms. Wesley knew he lacked this serenity.

As a failed missionary he returned to England and on May 24 1738 he sought out the Moravian community attending a meeting in Aldersgate Street in London. It was at this meeting that Wesley believed God accepted him "warts and all" and which began the process of neutralising sin in his life which set him on the road to perfect holiness.

His 'Aldersgate' experience was a really energising one. In the years' that followed he travelled over 500,000 kilometres, preached 42,000 sermons and wrote 450 books. His brother Charles, also an Anglican clergyman whose faith was quickened at Pentecost 1738,

wrote 6,000 hymns.

John Wesley believed there was "no holiness without social holiness." Religious revival led to social reformation.

He established a network of support for the needy. Food and shelter were provided for the homeless and relief for prisoners. Clinics were established providing free medicine for the poor. Schools and orphanages were built, the dangers of alcohol abuse were confronted and he backed the movement to abolish slavery.

The late Henry Turner, a Cork layman, explained that the secret of being a Methodist is not to copy the Wesleys but to think ahead of the times we live in. The Wesleys were ahead of their time.

So Methodists who are truly faithful to their origins must embrace change in the way we do church. The Development Board of the Methodist Church in Ireland has accepted new initiatives through people like Rev Mark Forsythe, who is pioneering ministry through cell groups in Co Meath. Dr Rosemary Power has completed four and a half years of pioneer ministry in Co Clare through prayer walks and contact with cultural groups. The Co Clare ministry is now taking a



new direction aimed at reaching youth, by Jonathan and Beth Griffin, through the Surf Project. The Rev Alan Lorimer has established a Christian counselling ministry at Carlisle Circus in Belfast, close to the Carlisle Memorial Church now long since closed. There are also small house fellowships springing up in South Tipperary, North Cork and Kerry.

The break with Anglicanism would not have happened if those on both sides had kept their heads. Has the critical breakthrough been made in Ireland opening up the way to heal the old separation between the Church of Ireland and Methodism? Much has been done



John Wesley

# Methodist News

## Christ Church Limerick, United Presbyterian & Methodist and Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,  
Clonmacken, Limerick.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: [vickilynych@eircom.net](mailto:vickilynych@eircom.net)

You might have noticed a new exhibition in CB1 over the Easter weekend.

*Resurrection* was an exhibition inspired by the Easter story, a love of Limerick City and the creative skill and imagination of a group of proactive young people who partnered with Christ Church to bring a message of hope. The exhibition began with the sadness and dereliction of Good Friday and moved through to the powerful resurrection theme of Easter Sunday – from death to life, from darkness to light, from despondency to a new creation.

A group of current and former architectural students and others with knowledge and interest in the built environment brought together their images and models of the city's Georgian core which showed both the reality of the current environment, at times neglected and forlorn, and the potential for innovative, life-giving and enriching change using radical urban strategies for renewal.

In Christ Church we were very excited by the idea that young people, not necessarily actively engaged in church life, decided to work in this way, with this theme. One of the young architectural graduates made the comment, 'To me the exhibition in itself is exactly what the modern Church should be all about, it's free and engaging for the public and communities - new and old, encouraging to join in, but yet not all in your face about religion and discouraging to people who are on the fence about religion itself.'

Sean, Emma and Ger came in on Easter Sunday and added the 'Hope' part of the overall exhibition with the tag line – '*For change to happen we must learn how to do things differently. Our actions may be small but the results may be great. Hope is what inspires us to try.*'

The Church has always reached people through buildings whether opulent or humble, maybe this is a new way to do it – by looking outwards and engaging with people through their own everyday experiences of the built environment.

We enjoyed a visit from Rev Des Bain, a previous minister of Christ Church, currently the General Secretary of the Methodist Home Missions Department. Des and his colleagues are working with us to try and develop a community project in Central Buildings. He described our congregation as a 'Zebra' community! He explained how the combination of black and white stripes on a zebra means that the air is constantly moving over their bodies – the black absorbs heat and the white reflects causing currents of air. I haven't 'Googled' it yet so I don't know if he was making it up! Anyway the analogy

through the Covenant Council in Ireland to heal the old division. The Very Rev Nigel Dunne's article, page 6 in the April edition of Newslink, is worth re-reading. This may be the model for the new expression of church between Methodism and Anglicans, world-wide.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Brian Griffin

Superintendent of the Midlands Southern District

was that our stripy congregation of black and white, young and old, traditional and not so traditional might be enjoying the movement of the Holy Spirit over our body! We certainly hope so.

### LIMERICK

Sunday Service 11.30am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

Midweek Holy Communion Wednesday 10am

Lectio Divina Tuesday 11am in the meeting room (access from the lane)

Discovery Group (adults) Monday 7.30 – 8.30pm (The Manse, 15 Aylesbury, Clonmacken)

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7- 8pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch

### SHANNON

Fellowship group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7pm

Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday 6pm

(contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details)

## Killarney & Kenmare Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: [laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org](mailto:laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org)

Web site: [www.irishmethodist.org/kerry](http://www.irishmethodist.org/kerry)

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:

Ed & Jean Ritchie

Tel: 064 6620580

### KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney

Sunday Services: 9 and 11am (inc. Children's' programme at 11)

Prayer meetings: Monday – Thursday 8.30 am – 9.30 am

Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8pm, Friday 10am.

Drop in for coffee each Friday: 11am – 12noon

Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesdays 10am – 12noon

Youth Club (11+) 2nd & 4th Fridays 8-10pm, preceded by Youth Bible Group at 7pm.

Women's Fellowship: 1st Monday of the month 10am-12noon.

### KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

Sunday Service: 11am (preceded by coffee, inc. Children's programme)

Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings: Tuesdays at 8pm, Wednesdays at 10am.

Drop in for coffee: each Wednesday 11am – 12noon.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Gneeveguilla Home fellowship group is scheduled for Thursdays 2nd and 16th May at 8pm. Contact Laurence for directions to the venue.
- In Killarney the monthly men's breakfast will meet on Saturday 11th May from 8.30 – 10am. The speaker will be Charles Payne from Cork.

- South Kerry Parkinson's Association meet in Killarney Methodist Church on the second Monday in at 7.30pm.
- Services in Millstreet continue every Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Meeting in Drishane Castle. These services are a lively mix of contemporary worship and Bible based preaching. There is also a great mix of people from various nations as well as from the local area. Anyone is welcome to join us. Also in Millstreet we have a mid-week Bible study/fellowship each Tuesday evening at 8pm contact Laurence for details of the venue.
- Our Bible study outreach meetings in Lispole near Dingle continue on the last Thursday of each month and the next one is planned for the 30th May at 8pm. Contact Laurence for details of the venue.
- On St. Patrick's Day in Killarney a number of us stayed behind after Church so as to give out free tea/coffee, juice and biscuits to people who were gathered at our gate to watch the St. Patrick's Day parade. We also gave out a little leaflet which summarized the Christian Gospel using the words of St. Patrick. All this was well received and we enjoyed meeting people at the Church gate.
- At the time of writing we are looking forward to the District MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland) Conference which will meet again in Killarney from 26th -28th April. It is always a treat for us in Killarney to have the speaker at the Conference as a preacher on the Sunday morning. By the time you read this we will have been blessed by the ministry of Dr. Lindsay Hall.

## North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Brian Griffin

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755

Email: beg08@eircom.net

### CHERNOBYL

Victims of the Chernobyl disaster has been the focus of Methodists on the Circuit and supporting friends in the wider community. Herbert Armitage, a local preacher has visited Belarus to plan and organise a holiday each summer for the children from Belarus, in Ireland, staying with local families.

A Vintage Rally at Bruckera, Limerick Road, Roscrea, is organised each year by John Hastings, also in aid of the Victims of Chernobyl.

This year's rally will take place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May.

### CHRISTIAN AID

The Christian Aid coffee morning will be held in Roscrea Church hall on Friday 17th May from 10 am to 12 noon. The focus of the Christian Aid Week this year is to "bite back at hunger". Today, one in eight people are desperate for food. Between us we could feed them all.

### SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

The Service of Confirmation and Reception into membership will be held on Sunday 19th May in the Roscrea Methodist Church at 11.45 am. There are 7 candidates this year: David Armitage, Robert Guest, Elana Mackey from Cloughjordan; Ian Armitage from Borrisokane; Leah Drought, Philip Gee and Andrew Drought from Roscrea. The preacher will be Jonathan Griffin, presently the Youth Worker on the North Dublin Circuit.

### MWI

Cloughjordan/Borrisokane branch have arranged their annual outing for Saturday 11th May to the Adare Methodist Flower Festival. The Roscrea/Shinrone branch enjoyed their recent outing to Fancroft Mill.

# PRAYER CORNER

## Collect Reflection – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

*Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
By the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

This modern collect, taken from the Church of Ireland Alternative Prayer Book 1984, is a much finer prayer than the traditional BCP collect for Pentecost. Its vivid imagery is taken, of course, from the account of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

The 'wind from heaven' reminds us of the "wind from God" – 'ruach' in Hebrew – which "swept over the face of the waters" at the very moment of creation, when "the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep" (Genesis 1:1-2). The apostles experience the Holy Spirit as irresistible.

The 'tongues of flame' remind us of John the Baptist's prophecy, "One who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). This is Jesus, who promised the disciples that, "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything" (John 14:26).

And Acts 2 goes on to describe the radical change the Spirit effects in the apostles. Peter who had been filled with fear is transformed to boldly proclaim his faith in public, drawing three thousand people to it that day.

So we pray, through Jesus, that God 'by the power of the same Spirit' may 'strengthen us to witness to (His) truth and draw everyone to the fire of (His) love'.

by Joc Sanders

## Partners in Prayer – May 2013

### Each Sunday

The Diocese of Armagh and Archbishop Richard Clarke  
Our Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

### 5th May, Easter 6, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Newcastle, England, their Bishop Rt Revd Martin Wharton, and his Assistant Bishop Rt Revd Francis White  
CofI: The General Synod of the Church of Ireland meeting on Thursday, Friday & Saturday in Armagh

### 12th May, Easter 7 – Sunday after Ascension, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Anglican Communion Sunday, Diocese of Niger West, Nigeria, and their Bishop Rt Revd Anthony Nkwoka  
Our Diocese: The Diocesan Board of Mission meeting this week in Adare

### 19th May, Pentecost, Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of North Dakota, USA, and their Bishop Rt Revd Michael Smith; and Diocese of South Dakota, USA and their Bishop Rt Revd John Tarrant

Our Diocese: Candidates for Baptism & Confirmation throughout the United Diocese

### 26th May, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of North West Australia and their Bishop Rt Revd David Mulready

Our Diocese: Parochial & Diocesan nominators in their work of discernment during the appointment process to vacant parishes in our diocese. We pray too for all who provide pastoral and liturgical cover to parishes during this period.





## Remember with a rainbow



### Barney says

Hello friends,

God has made lots of promises to his people and he always keeps them.

Do you remember the story of Noah and his Ark? Noah built the Ark and stored up animals after God told him of his plan to flood the entire planet.

When the flood was over and Noah and his animals could return to the land, God promised that it would never happen again.

To show that he would keep his word, he created rainbows.

I love it when I see one when we're playing in our fields. I always feel safe having a reminder that God keeps his promises.

Love Barney



### Barney's jokes

Why did the pony cough?  
He was a little hoarse!

How do you know when there is an elephant under your bed? Your nose touches the ceiling.



### God's word

I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood. The rainbow ... will be my sign to you. *Genesis 9:11-12 (NIV)*



### I can see a rainbow

Here's a rainbow for you to colour. Do you know which order the colours go in? I use a mnemonic (a memorable phrase) to help: Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain ~ Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet.



### Let's talk to God!

Dear God, thank you for your gift of rainbows. They light up the sky and remind us that you created everything. Amen.



### St BONA of PISA May 29th



Bona was born in Pisa, Italy in 1156. When she was 14 she made her first journey, going to see her father who was fighting in the crusades near Jerusalem. On the way back she was captured by pirates in the Mediterranean. Rescued, she set out again, this time taking with her a large number of pilgrims to make the 1,000 mile journey to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain.

Bona became an official guide on this famous pilgrimage route and made the journey 9 times, "full of energy, helpful, and unselfish, ready to reassure with her smile those who were sick."

In recent times St Bona has come to be associated as the patron saint of travellers along with St Christopher; and in particular of couriers, guides and air-hostesses.



### TRAVELLING ON...

There are lots of journeys recorded in the Bible. Can you find the answers to these travel questions? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts, chap. 27)?

2. Where was there no room for Mary and Joseph when they journeyed from Nazareth?

3. Which country did Joseph's brothers travel to find food? (Genesis, chap. 42)

4. Why does the Bible always say that people were 'going up' to Jerusalem?

5. When Moses led the people out of Egypt, what did he take with him? (Exodus, chap. 13)

6. Which of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse rides a red horse? (Revelation)

What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

Hop in!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

Lost.

Answers: 1. Malta. 2. in the inns of Bethlehem. 3. Egypt. 4. because Jerusalem is built on a hill, so whatever direction you come from, you will always be going up to it. 5. Joseph's bones. 6. War.

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