



NEWSLINK

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

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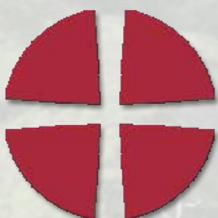
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On the way to Diocesan Synod - Ladies' view Kilarney



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The Bishop Writes

Build on your strengths!

I would like to share just one point from my address to the Diocesan Synod. It is our Diocesan task for the year ahead. Build on your strengths!

At Diocesan Synod each of us thought of something we really enjoy doing. Then we recalled when someone had said to us, 'You are really good at.....!' We shared those thoughts with the person sitting next to us and then with the Synod. We heard a flood of activities, ideas, skills and gifts of those present in Kenmare. It was a treasure trove of talent. If all this potential was gathered together and put to work for our Diocese, we would be unstoppable. And we would enjoy the hard work!

We have been thinking as a Diocese about our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges. That is necessary if we are to face the future realistically. But this exercise will be disastrous if all we remember is our 'Weaknesses' and 'Challenges'. We will be without hope never mind joy. We need to move on to acknowledge our 'Strengths' and grasp our 'Opportunities'.

I am dreaming that 2013-2014 will be a year of encouragement for each person in our Diocese. Do you know someone who has the gift of encouragement? You inevitably feel better after being in their presence. They take thought to say thanks, to acknowledge the contribution that someone has made, to put into words their appreciation of what someone has done. It is not about 'battering people up'. We can all see through that. Encouragers are people who widen our horizons, who help us recognise what is possible.

One of my regular engagements is to visit the St Patrick's Day Parade in Limerick. What strikes me every year is the vast number of organisations, clubs and associations doing great work. The vast majority of those marching, leaders and members, are volunteers. They are taking part because they love what they are doing. Before I saw them in the parade, I didn't even know they existed.

The thought has struck my mind, are we using the talents of parishioners? Are we searching out the hidden talents that people have to offer?

Some faithful people have been overworked for years and would love to do something different. Is there really no one else who could do their current task and give them a break? Could the task be done differently, so that it can be shared between a number of people?

The great disincentive to a parish taking on a new project is that it will create more work for the small group of people who are required to do everything! So let me offer you a challenge to think about over the summer months. There are people you know, who would willingly contribute their talents and their skills to the benefit of the Church, but they have never been asked, they have never felt that they are needed. These potential volunteers may be sitting beside you in the pew. The reason they are not more involved may be that they have never been invited to use their talent for the parish.

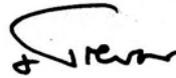
There are others who don't come to Church regularly. But if asked, they would help with parish events, they would contribute their skills and talents. It is my experience that many have become regular Church members because they were invited to 'do' something. While on this subject it is crucially important that every young person who was confirmed this year is given a task within the Church community.

What is it our parish longs to do? What skills are needed to make this work?

Having answered these two questions you can begin the search for those skills among parishioners, friends and members of the wider community. You will be surprised who will want to join in! This is building on our strengths.

Have a great summer!

Yours



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Diocesan Calendar

(for updates see Diocesan web site - www.limerick.anglican.org)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sun 7th July, 2.30pm: | Aghancon Parish Fete, Aghancon Community Hall |
| Sun 14th July, 1.30pm: | Dunkerrin Dog Show & Parish Fete, Dunkerrin Church |
| Sun 21st – Sat 27th July: | UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Avoca, Co Wicklow |
| Tue 23rd July, Evening: | Kinnitty American Tea Party, Kinnitty Castle Hotel |
| Tue 23rd July, 8pm: | Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin |
| Sat 17th – 21st August | UDYC Senior Summer Camp, Spanish, Co. Clare |
| Tue 27th August, 8pm: | Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin |
| Sun 8th September, 11.15am | Patronal Fesrtival, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick |
| Sat 14th September, 2pm: | Shinrone Parish Fete, Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse |
| Tue 24th September, 8pm: | Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin |
| Thu 26th September, 8pm: | Diocesan Council |
| Sun 29th September, 11am: | Diocesan Gathering, Villiers |

DEADLINES

The next issue will be for September, published for Sunday 1st September 2013.

All Material must reach the editor by Friday 16th August 2013 before 6pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

Editorial - Immerision

If you plan to spend time at the seaside this summer you might care to reflect on this short poem, entitled "Immersion".

Incoming tide of God – cover my feet.
I yield the direction of my life to You.
Incoming tide of God – cover my knees.
I yield the rule of my life to You.
Incoming tide of God – cover my hands.
I yield the shaping of my life to You.
Incoming tide of God – cover my heart.
I yield the tending of my emotions to You.
Incoming tide of God – cover my head.
I yield my need for control to You.
Incoming tide of God – overwhelm me.
Carry me into Your unimaginable depths.

It is a prayer of course – but all the best prayers are really poems. Written by Pat Bennett, it is taken from '50 Great Prayers from the Iona Community', of which he is a member. I recommend it for pool-side reading – you can download it from the web for a modest charge (google 'wild goose publications').

I find the spirit of the Iona Community inspirational. Their hymns, prayers and liturgies are so full of life, their hospitality to pilgrims life-changing. They are based in Scotland on the island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides, where St Columba founded his monastery. Wouldn't it be marvellous if we had a Community like theirs in our United Diocese? Heaven knows, we have enough ancient cathedrals in our care, whose stones like Iona's speak of an ancient, living, Christian tradition, to serve as a focus, as Iona's do.

God bless,
Joc Sanders, Editor

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardferd, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emlly. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: www.limerick.anglican.org.

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese. Newslink recieved a "Highly Commended" award in the Church of Ireland Communications Competition for diocesan magazines at General Synod 2013.

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. Contact details:

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NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2013

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|--------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----|
| | 10 x Colour | 10 x B&W | Colour | B&W |
| Full Page | 1193 | 1069 | 154 | 143 |
| Half Page | 596 | 534 | 77 | 71 |
| Third Page | 398 | 357 | 51 | 48 |
| Quarter Page | 299 | 268 | 39 | 36 |
| Eighth Page | 149 | 133 | 19 | 18 |

The Church of Ireland/Methodist Covenant

a Methodist perspective, by Gillian Kingston



Standing inside the gates of Chrome Hill, near Lisburn, is this extraordinary tree – or is it trees? Rooted separately, these beech trees have grown together into one mass of intertwined branches, completely inseparable. It is said that the Revd John Wesley, while staying at Chrome Hill in the summer of 1787, twisted together two beech saplings, observing that this was how it should be for the established church and the 'people called Methodist'. In 2002, Methodists and Church of Ireland people gathered under those trees for prayer before going into the house for the signing of the Covenant. And the rest is history! The work of the Anglican/Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission (AMICUM) has just completed the work mandated to it by the Anglican and Methodist world bodies – and it seems clear from its March communiqué that it has learned a thing or two from the Covenant process here in Ireland.

So is Mr Wesley's dream coming true? Are the churches, our churches, 'engaging themselves together more fully in faith, mission and sacramental life'? (ref. Anglican/Methodist report 'Sharing in the Apostolic Communion' paragraph 3)

The answer is, of course, that some are and some aren't, in terms of local congregations. There are places like the Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown, near Belfast, which have for many years been pioneering togetherness, where successive ministers and clergy, District Superintendents and Bishops, have had the vision and courage to push things forward, and where the congregation sees itself as one people, not two denominations. There are other places where the Covenant seems not to have made any impact at all – and there are many more who are somewhere in between.

What is tremendously encouraging is the positive approach of the General Synod and the Conference to the advances made by the Covenant Council over the years. The move towards full interchangeability of ministries, as outlined by Dean Nigel Dunne in the April 2013 issue of Newslink, will free both churches to use resources of personnel more creatively; in some cases small and struggling congregations may be relieved of financial pressure as they find they can share a priest/minister with their neighbours; the possibilities are many.

What we have here is the reconciliation of two sister churches divided at a time when any departure from establishment ways of working was seen as threat – there were political and social factors at play as well as missional and theological. Neither of the Wesley brothers sought division. Division, however, happened, but that is history and we are now in a very different place. Archbishop Rowan Williams, speaking at the signing of the British Covenant some weeks after the Chrome Hill event, observed that in our division we have learned things that we might not have otherwise learned; the time has come to share these.

At the heart of the Covenant is the notion of mission. The word occurs a number of times in the text of the document signed by the then church leaders, Archbishop Robin Eames and the Revd Winston Graham. Our coming together sends a message to society in Ireland that in Christ, things which have divided can be overcome and that we can witness together to reconciling love.

This United Dioceses and a significant part of the Midlands and Southern District of the Methodist Church occupy the same geographical territory – what can we, as Methodists and Anglicans, do together here, bearing in mind that we are not always in situations where it is possible to work together because of disparity in numbers?

- We could take up the suggestion of the Covenant Council that, each year, around September 26th, we intentionally celebrate the Covenant relationship between the two churches – special services, exchange of pulpits, a meal together?
- We need to carry on being intentional about including each other in special events – it is all-too-easy for a larger church to forget about the presence of a smaller one!
- We might consider holding joint Bible study meetings, discussion groups, perhaps along with our Roman Catholic and other Christian neighbours, but at least with each other. And what about social events?
- Look for that copy of the Covenant document which was sent to each church in Ireland eleven years ago – and put it in a prominent place!

Theology and faith matters are not just about talk, they are about walk. Let's carry on talking, and let's get walking!

Bishop Ellinah of Swaziland visits the Diocese



Bishop Ellinah taking questions

Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya joined with members of our diocese at the Woodlands Hotel in Adare on Saturday June 1st. It was a great joy to welcome Bishop Ellinah along with Linda Chambers from Us (once upon a time USPG).

Bishop Ellinah spoke of her family background. She is one of a family of seven and was brought up in South Africa and in a rural part of Swaziland. She spoke of walking long distances to school, of having to collect firewood and carry water for her mother and of how, on some occasions, she had to go to bed hungry as there was simply no food for an evening meal.

The Bishop also told us of her education, and how she ended up as the CEO of the council of Manzini, Swaziland's economic capital. But more especially she told us of her call to the priesthood and finally the episcopate, which as she said, 'had really come like a bolt out of the blue', and really tested her faith.

Bishop Ellinah then went on to give us a picture of life in Swaziland today, with problems of high unemployment, the highest rate of HIV infection in the world, and lack of leadership and commitment from the government authorities. She then described some of the infrastructure that the Anglican Diocese has put in place to help relieve the current situation; the role of the Mother's Union in catering for the many orphans and households where both parents have died, and grandparents or an older sibling are trying to keep the family homestead running; the part played by the schools especially in remote areas of the country, and their essential role in educating, and often feeding, the children to live in a society where the traditional way of life has collapsed.

Bishop Trevor showed us his filmed interviews with church leaders and teachers in Swaziland. Listening to them, and Bishop Ellinah herself, it was obvious the importance that their Christian faith plays in their lives – not as an abstract theology, but a practical faith of service & outreach to others in desperate need, based on the example of our Lord.

Linda Chambers spoke of the Luyengo Farm Project. Production of cabbages for the South African market has started and this is already bringing in much needed income to diocesan funds. However the canal from the river, which used to be the main source of water for irrigation purposes, is in a bad state of repair. A reservoir has been constructed so that the farm can have its own water supply, an important consideration, since with climate

change the rainfall is becoming unpredictable, both in timing and in quantity. Irrigation equipment, a tractor and implements are being purchased in order to double production of vegetables by the end of 2013. The farm project plays a crucial part in the long term goal of becoming self sufficient and not dependent on donations from overseas for the running of the diocesan care and pastoral facilities for sufferers of HIV, TB and other related diseases.



Two Bishops smiling

Máirt's Musings – When looking back don't forget to look forward

It seems that there is a lot of talk about anniversaries at the moment. Recently we had the 100th anniversary of the Titanic tragedy. This year it is 100 years since the Dublin Lock Out, next year 100 years since the start of the Great War, and then there will be a few years of 100ths coming from world history, and of course Irish history. In Cumann Gealach – the Irish Society of the Church of Ireland – next year we celebrate 100 years in existence. And this year many Christians are thinking about the 50th anniversary of the second Vatican Council. So in church and in society big anniversaries seem to be all around us.

Maybe I'm just picking up on this more than usual because I have some anniversaries coming up in my own life. I am 10 years married and 10 years ordained this year. I am not sure why 10 should mean more than 9 or 11 but having a 0 in the year seems to make it magical and having two seems to make it compelling. Maybe it is that having a 0 makes it a round number and we like to have some clear goals or stopping points, where we can take stock and see where we are.

With the 10 year anniversaries I suppose that it is a good point to take a look at things, how they have gone and what has been achieved. The honeymoon, fresh out of the wrapper feeling goes away after a year or two, but it isn't until 10 years that you can really talk about authoritative experience.

What about 20 years? That seems just to remind us how old we've got! It is 20 years since Bill Clinton was elected, since Macedonia became an independent country, since the movie Groundhog Day, and since Eric Clapton's 'Unplugged'!

With 50 year anniversaries I think something slightly different is going on. It is to do with people coming to terms with old age, looking back at the shining days of youth. Maybe some weigh the sense of possibility that they had in youth, at the start of life's

pilgrimage, against the record of actuality. For those who are younger it may be an opportunity to thank the generation that went before, before it is gone.

I think that 100 year celebrations are about remembering a generation that is passed, but is still in living memory. I had a granny that lived through the

momentous events of a century ago who I had the opportunity to talk to about those events. I had a grandfather who was in the British armed forces in the First World War. I suppose that we can celebrate differently since all those who took part are gone, but there is something about passing on the inheritance of the past to those younger than us, for whom these events are distant points in history.

These are all good things. But let us remember the Roman god Janus – he with the two faces. Amid all our looking back let us not forget to look forward. It is great to know and understand where we have come from and where we have been, but if you don't look where you are going you will always be in danger of falling over!



Girls Friendly Society



CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Our warmest congratulations go to Rebecca Mooney, Robyn Fitzgerald, Michelle Armitage, Lorraine Armitage and Tabitha Larke for their success in All - Ireland Competitions. We are very proud of you all.

We held our Open Night on 24th May. Girls were awarded their badges for work done during the year. Prizes were given for a special Crafts' competition held for the night. The girls performed three songs, three Action Rhymes and three plays. The plays were hugely entertaining and were partly written by the girls themselves. All performances were greatly enjoyed by the audience and by the girls. We ended our evening with a raffle, some shopping in the Variety Stall and refreshments.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mrs. Pearl Whiteford for awarding badges, to Mrs. Eileen Armitage who was our MC, to Mr. John Armitage for providing music and to Canon Neill for looking after amplification. Well done girls and thank you to you and your leaders for a wonderful evening.

SURPRISED BY JOY

This was the title of the GFS World Day of Prayer service, which was recorded by RTE on Sunday the 16th of June. It will be broadcast on a forthcoming Sunday but we don't know yet, wh.

FACEBOOK

GFS is now on Facebook so why not check out the link www.facebook.com/GirlsFriendlySociety. You don't need to have a Facebook account to keep up to date with GFS news and events.

KILLALOE DIOCESAN CAMP

This took place on 21-23 June in the Faith Mission Centre, Knocknagally, Durrow, Co. Laois – see page 21 for a report with pictures.

BIRR BRANCH



Laura Bulfin, Birr Branch, receiving her All Ireland prize



1st NENAGH COMPANY

Our last Wednesday meeting of the year was made very special with the help of some very generous people! Firstly we met with the men and women of the North Tipperary Civil Defence who gave the boys a tour of their fire engine, ambulance, rescue boat and communications vehicles. Flashing blue lights, loudspeakers, life jackets, radios, buttons...you can imagine the fun! We are extremely grateful to them for taking time out of their weekly training schedule to give the boys such a good time. They will remember that for a long time to come and grow to really appreciate the amazing commitment and skill the Civil Defence all so generously give.



With North Tipperary Civil Defence

That was just the first part...then it was off to the Courthouse for a tour with Tony, the most knowledgeable caretaker ever. The boys learned the history, explored the three law courts and finished up being shut in the cells! Unfortunately so many of them are old enough to read... We are grateful to everyone that evening for giving up their own time for us. Patrick Rowley-Brooke recorded some film to include in the Nenagh Union contribution to the big event in Limerick in September.

Saturday was our summer trip to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park. The boys behaved well, had a good time and the weather was reasonably kind to us. We could hardly drop them home without a stop off at McDonalds...after which we made a presentation to Denis Sheehy for 100% attendance at Boys' Brigade for the year 2012/2013. Great dedication!

We also presented a framed photo of the boys to Emma Dowling-Hussey, our Secretary and Crafts Co-ordinator along with, sadly, a leaving card as we are losing her to Dublin in August! We are very sad to lose Emma; she has been an integral part of our group since the beginning and her input has been a great influence on the way we operate. She is loved by boys and leaders alike and we all wish her the very best of luck for the future. Thank you Emma!

On the positive side, she is hoping to get involved with Boys' Brigade locally and is talking about twinning with us! Similarly we are aiming to meet up with Tralee, following a chance meeting at Diocesan Synod. The boys will benefit from meeting new friends, comparing notes so to speak and getting a sense of the greater organisation to which they belong. So now we look forward to our July BBQ, re-located to Emma's house in the country for a nature trail, lots of laughs and a right good send-off for Emma.

Mothers' Union

ST JOHN'S BALLINASLOE BRANCH

St. John's Mothers' Union had their summer outing in June to Clonmacnoise Pottery and Ballinahown Craft Village. Several car loads of members and friends had a lovely afternoon in glorious sunshine, which concluded with delicious afternoon tea with lots of chat and laughter. We now look forward to our summer "get together dinner" in August.



Valerie Swanwick and Margaret Ollett



Marjorie Salter, Marie Quinlan and Kathleen Newton

LIMERICK BRANCH

A very generous gift was received from Connor Diocese to Limerick and Killaloe of a bag of hand knit teddies which will be given to the Limerick Ambulance Service. As part of the Diocesan outreach programme members are asked to support this worthwhile cause by knitting more of these teddies (pattern available from Margaret Schutz).

SYNOD 2013

Once again we had a stand at the Diocesan Synod in Kenmare and were delighted that so many called to either purchase goods or chat to us. Kenmare, being the only branch in Kerry, were able to be with us and we were able to spread happenings of other MU branches to others.



Teddies – a gift from Connor Diocese

CURRY IN A HURRY

This booklet is made up of recipes and handy hints suitable for students entering Third Level Education. It has been given to students in Connor Diocese, who prepared it, and has now been reproduced for other Dioceses including Limerick and Killaloe. They will be arriving soon and we will have some available for those entering higher level institutions from our Diocese.

If any parish or MU Branch would like to get some they are FREE to give to any of these students going away for the first time. This recipe booklet would be a nice present to get and the recipes are very suitable for 'cooking for one' in accommodation.

If anyone/branch would like to get some please get in touch with Margaret Schutz ph.061 336141 or Ina Blackwell ph. 057 9131253 as soon as possible.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and sunny summer, and hoping all will be refreshed and ready for the new Mothers' Union programme in September.

DIOCESAN ELECTIONS

Nominations have closed for people to serve on Trustee and Diocesan Council for the next Triennium commencing on January 1st 2014 and ending on 31st December 2016. All positions have been filled and names will be announced at the next Trustee meeting later in the year.

United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

YOUTH STUFF

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend was held again this year in Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, between the 31st May and 3rd June. While numbers were smaller than previous years a great weekend of fun, faith, and fellowship was had. The participants reflected on the meaning of Confirmation especially as related to Baptism and the Eucharist, the 'dinner party' of the Church family. Leading our worship sessions were Rev. Lesley Robinson, who in addition to feeding us all

spiritually served in the catering for the weekend, and Bishop Trevor, who in addition to sharing the story of his Christian journey led us in our closing celebration of the Eucharist. We also joined St. Mary's, Killarney, for worship (with a great welcome) on Sunday morning.

The rest of the weekend was kept busy with activities, which included icebreakers, bowling, swimming in the Aquadome, watersports in Castlegregory, the high ropes course at Play @ Heights in Killarney, as well as a more relaxed visit to Muckross Traditional

Farm. Leaders Niki Downes and Rachel Clayton also entertained the group with a game of charades as well as a Beetle Drive. Niki also encouraged the participants, and leaders, with her own reflection on her faith story. Thanks again to all other leaders without whom the weekend could not have happened, especially Edward.

While numbers were small, the weekend provided a great opportunity for the participants to come together with those on a similar stage of the journey and to broaden their own view of what or who the Church is. Please continue to pray for all those recently, or preparing to be confirmed in the Diocese that they may take seriously and grow in their commitment to Christ and his Church.



SUMMER MADNESS

By the time this issue of Newslink is published, Summer Madness 2013 will have taken place in Glenarm, Co. Antrim. We look forward to including a feature on this event, as well as our summer camps in the next issue of Newslink.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Junior Summer Camp – Sunday 21st – Saturday 27th July 2013

Senior Summer Camp – Saturday 17th – Wednesday 21st August 2013

What? It's nearly summer time, long summer holidays and time to book for U.D.Y.C.'s Junior & Senior Summer Camps..... Both summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Where? Our Junior Summer Camp will take place at splendid Scripture Union owned Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow and our Senior Summer Camp at much loved Clarecare owned Catherine Mc Cauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare

Who? Our Junior Summer Camp is for 10 – 13 year olds and our Senior Summer Camp is for all those 13 years and over. Last date for

receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 12th July and for Senior Summer Camp is Friday 9th August.

What's on? Our action packed programmes on both camps will include the following:

Zany Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Waterfight, Table Quiz, Charades, Bingo, Bonfire, Variety Show, Treasure Hunts, Disco, Fast food, BBQ

(Junior Camp Only)

Superb range of activities at Ovoca Manor Adventure Centre to include: Archery, Abseiling, Bushcraft, Canoeing, Crate Climbing, Jacob's Ladder, High All Aboard, Leap of Faith, Mountain Walks, Orienteering, Rock Climbing, Team Building, Zip Line, Low Ropes and Obstacle Course, etc.

Day trip to Dublin City to include Dart Trip, Open Deck City Tour, Dublin Zoo and Swimming at National Aquatic Centre and Fast Food at Mc Donalds.

Evening trip to Sealife in Bray followed by Bowling and Quazar and Cinema.

(Senior Camp Only)

Surfing at Lahinch Surf School

Watersport activities at Nevsail Watersports to include windsurfing, raftbuilding, coasteering, canoeing and kayaking, etc.

Day Trip to Aran Islands from Doolin to include cycling or bus trip around island.

Swimming and Aquarium at Lahinch Seaworld

Bowling, Quazar, Games, Shopping and Cinema in Ennis

And much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine.....

How Much? The Junior Summer camp fee will be same as last year two year at €220 for 7 days. The Senior Summer Camp fee this year will be €170 for 5 days. SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family. A non refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The balance may be paid at the time of booking if desired and is refundable up to the start of the camp. Please contact Edward in confidence if financial support might help.

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

Until next month, Damian

Email: 05shortend@gmail.com

Diocesan Board of Mission

See page 6 for a report of the visit of the Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya of Swaziland.

MISSION FOCUS

At the Diocesan Board of Mission meeting held on 12th June, the following preliminary decisions were made:

1. Since the project is at a critical stage of development, it was decided to continue our support for the work at Luyengo Farm, in Swaziland, for another year.
2. This will be the project for Mission Sunday 2013, which is on Sunday 24th Nov.
3. Our aim is to raise €15,000.
4. Since the canal feeding water to the farm from the nearby river is undergoing repairs and in view of the fact that this work may take at least two years, the farm has decided to build a reservoir. It is our intention to put the money from Mission Sunday 2013 towards the cost of construction and the pumping/irrigation equipment.

MISSION EVENING – TRAVELS IN ISRAEL & THE WEST BANK

A Mission Evening followed at 8pm, at which Bishop Trevor reflected on his travels in Israel and in the occupied West Bank.

The Bishop opened his address by explaining that he came away profoundly troubled by the methods being used by the Israeli Government in their control of the West Bank, especially with regards to the establishment of Jewish settlements. It quite literally was a policy of ethnic cleansing, going on behind a public relations screen to give the impression that the Palestinians were entitled to full self-government with the same rights and entitlements as a Jewish citizen. Unfortunately, as the Bishop went on to explain, this was far from the truth.

In the case of the Bedouin families, they had been evicted from their tribal homeland, denied a safe source of water supply, which had resulted in their traditional way of life being destroyed. As part of his work with Christian Aid, Bishop Trevor also visited the Gaza Strip where he saw at first hand the 'after-effects' of the recent war with Israel, especially among the children who had witnessed the death

of relatives from shelling and aerial bombardment. Christian Aid was playing its part in funding centres for rehabilitation and education through a local organisation called, 'Cultural and Free Thought Association'.

To quote the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, 'There must be another way of mutual respect and working together.' Such sentiments were reinforced by Rabbi David Rosin, who put it more bluntly by saying that if the current policy of apartheid and resettlement continued, it would eventually destroy the state of Israel itself.

The photo shows David Frizelle and John Jarvis signing 'The Wall', a petition about the Separation barriers in the Occupied Palestinian territory, at the Mission Evening.



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

ACTIVE WEEK

Our active week was held during the week of May 27th to 31st May and it certainly was active! The committee organized a sponsored walk in the grounds of Adare Manor, we spent a day in Curragh Chase using our orienteering skills followed by Zumba dancing and soccer. The week finished off with a dodge ball tournament, playground games from bygone days and golf. Our Activities Board is filled with photos from all the activities.



Zumba dancing during Active Week in Adare

CAKE SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Well done to everyone involved in the successful Cake Sale and Coffee morning on June 8th. There was a delicious array of cakes, buns and home produce and senior pupils organized some novelty stalls as well as a toy and book stall. Thank you to all the organizers and supporters.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Jonathan Cooke on winning a day scholarship to Villiers, a wonderful achievement.

SCHOOL TOURS

The younger pupils in school had a very enjoyable day in Ballymorris Pottery near Cratloe, Co. Clare and afterwards at the playground at Cratloe Woods.

The senior classes are looking forward to their trip to Dublin before the end of term.

CHESS NEWS

Well done to all our chess teams who competed in the Limerick Chess League. Congratulations to our champions' team and Under 10 team on winning their leagues. Well done to Garrett, Stephen, Jonathan and Cian and to Greg, Bryan Arthur and Olivia.

RAISE THE FLAG!

We invited Ellen O'Sullivan our Green Schools' Coordinator for the past two years to raise the school's fourth green flag. The student members of our Green Schools' Committee welcomed everyone to the event and we were delighted to watch Ellen hoist the flag. Afterwards guests and pupils were treated to a slice of "green" cake and refreshments in the school.



St. Nicholas' Green Team raise their 4th flag

St Mary's No 2 National School, Nenagh

"Let us cultivate our gardens" – Voltaire

Anational programme of School Self Evaluation was introduced in 2012 by the Department of Education and Skills. Each school now has a responsibility to evaluate their performance and develop key areas of the curriculum each year.

After consultation through questionnaires to staff, students and parents, St. Mary's will be prioritising the following areas of literacy development for 2013-2014:

- Comprehension (the direct or inferred understanding of text)
- Digital Media Awareness (use of technology assisted instruction, child engagement with ICT)
- Handwriting (a staged approach to the development of script)

We owe thanks to all who contributed their opinions to this valuable process.

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

The staff and pupils have enjoyed a variety of curricular and extra curricular activities this month and are now ready to wind down for their holidays.



Jake & Emma with their Great Grand Uncle Mr. Jack Powell on his recent visit

We would like to wish Stephanie and Leah every success in their secondary education and look forward to hearing great things about them.



Leah & Stephanie's Graduation

The Board of Management, staff and pupils would like to wish all Newslink Readers an enjoyable summer and hope the sun shines.



Lamp making in St. Cronan's NS

Cloughjordan No 1 National School

What a busy month June was in Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Some of the highlights included:

- Welcome back to school to Mrs. Amanda Hayes from maternity leave

- Senior School Tour to the Hunt Museum, Craggaunowen, bowling at Funworld and the Crescent Shopping Centre
- French Classes for pupils from Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes with Ms. Fanny Healy
- Third and Fourth Class School-Farm project, culminating in a harvest lunch at Django's Hostel
- First and Second Class Place-based learning Project
- Grass Roots Education Workshop
- Third - Sixth Class field trip to Cabragh Wetlands
- Fifth and Sixth Class cookery lesson at Cloughjordan House Cookery School
- Swimming lessons for all classes at Birr Leisure Centre
- Annual School Sports Day and Fourth Green Flag Raising Ceremony. It was a great pleasure to welcome back Mrs Joan Larke, Principal of the school from 1958 - 1988 to raise our fourth Green Flag and to welcome The Corrigans and Aaron Neill to accompany the children as they performed "Our Green Flag" to a packed and delighted audience. Many thanks to the PTA Committee who organized refreshments for all on the day and sold ice cream, in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland.
- Visit on Sports Day by those starting in Junior Infants in our school in September 2013. It was lovely to have you all with us on the day.
- Visit by Olive Mooney to read from "The Book of Ornís", her first book in The Chronicles of Cadaver College.
- Welcome back to Melissa Mooney on work experience who was an invaluable help throughout the school for the whole month.



Mrs Joan Larke, former Principal, raising the 4th Green Flag

Congratulations to Ian Armitage who won a scholarship for Villiers School. This was a tremendous achievement and we are delighted for Ian, his family and his teacher on his success.

School closed for the summer holiday on Wednesday 26th June when we said goodbye to Ian Armitage who is going to Villiers School, Eoin England, Robert Guest, Stephen Harding, William Mooney and Mark Stanley who are going to Borrisokane Community College and to Jennifer Hodgins who is going to Kilkenny College. We also said goodbye to Harry Swan who is going to Coláiste na Rinne, Co. Waterford and to Caoimhe and Maeve Power who are moving to live in Germany. We wish these pupils every success and happiness for the future. As we say goodbye to these pupils we also say goodbye to the Harding, Hodgins, Power and Stanley families. They leave us, some after a very long association with the school, with our very best wishes and thanks for all that they did for the school during their many years with us.

We said "Thank you" to Mrs. Teresa Kennedy, Miss Jean Ryan, Miss Yvonne Ryan and Miss Jennifer Foster who taught in our school this year. They leave us with our thanks for their hard work and dedication throughout the year and with our best wishes for the future.

Sincere thanks to the members of the Parent Teacher Association Committee and to the Board of Management who, once again, did so much on a voluntary basis throughout the year, for the good of the whole school community.

Hope you all have a lovely summer, at home or away, and the sun shines in abundance.



Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year here in Kiltallagh NS we extend our sincere thanks to our patron, Bishop Williams, our Board of Management, the hard working and committed staff, our parents and our entire school community for your on-going support in helping our school to continue to thrive. Finally we congratulate all the children of our school who continue to be an absolute credit to themselves, their families and their school.

A very fond farewell to our sixth class pupils Tom, Zach, Andrew and Colin who take leave of us this month to begin the next chapter of their young lives in Presentation Secondary School, Milltown We will miss you here in Kiltallagh N.S. - go now, and keep with you our school motto - Be the very best that you can be.

Here are some snapshots of our most memorable moments this year in Kiltallagh NS.



St John's Parochial School, Tralee

All of our school tours are over at this stage. The senior classes had a very successful and enjoyable School Tour to Star Outdoors in Kenmare where they enjoyed a range of activities both on land and sea. The "middle" classes went by train to Dublin Zoo and a trip to the Muckross Traditional Farms was the choice for the juniors where they saw cows being hand milked and soda bread baked on an open fire, amongst a whole range of fun activities.



Handprint Rainbow - Junior Classes

The School took part in the Feile na mBlath Primary Schools Art Competition and Display - a World of Colour. Congratulations to four students, Billy, Joshua, Peace and Nelson who won prizes and were presented with medals in their particular categories.



Parents Can Have Fun Too!

The School Sports day was held in the Rugby Club in Tralee and was a huge success - much enjoyed by all.

The senior students in 5th and 6th classes had two trips to Fenit recently. They went on an historical visit to see the St. Brendan monument and learned about the history of Christianity in Kerry. They also went on their Road Safety cycle with the school Gardai, Pat Rice and Seamus Moriarty.

We have an orientation day for new pupils who are due to commence in Junior Infants in the school in September. We look forward to meeting with and welcoming Alexa, Aerin, Jamie, Daniel, Timothy, Robert and Marcel to our school and to meeting with their families.

We also had our end of year service for the school. This was held in the school and we extended a welcome to all to come and join with us to give thanks for the life of the school during the academic year. Rev Jim Stephens and Rev Mairt Hanley celebrated Holy Communion and the students did the readings, prayers and uplifted our worship with song and movement!



Enjoying the wonders of the zoo

It is time to say goodbye to Sam, Jack, Jean Gervais, Amy, Ciara, Caroline, Dakotah and Lianne as they leave 6th class to move on to secondary school. We also say goodbye to Peace and Nelson as their family moves to live in Dublin. We wish God's Blessing on all of these young people and their families.

Slan go foill.



Crossroads Dancing at Muckross

Rathkeale No 2 National School

The past month or so has been a very busy one in Rathkeale. We were delighted to welcome back Ms Lucy Gow on Friday 31st May to raise our third Green Flag. The sun shone for the afternoon as proceedings began in the school grounds just after 1pm. Parents, grandparents, past pupils and friends gathered together to mark the special occasion.

Our school tour took us to Trabolgan in Co. Cork. We departed from the school at 8am on Thursday 6th June. Our first activity was the birds of prey exhibition which proved to be very popular. Our group was then split into two: the pupils from infants to third class took part in crazy golf and spent some time at the outdoor playground, while the pupils from 4th to 6th class explored the grounds of Trabolgan with some challenging GPS orienteering. We rejoined again in the pool for our final activity of the day. Tired but happy, we returned to the school at about half past six.



Six of our 5th and 6th class pupils (Emma, Adam, Robert, David, Lizzie and Zoe) took part in a Splash and Dash at Askeaton

Swimming Pool. They had to swim 50m followed by a 675m run. Well done to Robert and Adam on coming second and third in their heat. This event is organised by County Limerick Sports Partnership and it is hoped that the event will include a third discipline, cycling, in the near future.

In a change to our usual sports day we headed to Castlegregory Beach, Co. Kerry this year for some beach games and challenges. Once again we were very fortunate with the weather as the sun was shining on the beach while it rained in Rathkeale. Our group challenges included sand castle building, sand boat building, relay races, crab football and kite flying. Our senior pupils had made kites in school and we used this as an ideal opportunity to attempt to fly them.

As another school draws to a close we prepare to say goodbye and good luck to our sixth class pupils. We have four pupils who will transfer to secondary school in the autumn and we wish them every success in the next stage of their education. Adam will begin in Villiers (Limerick), Emma in SMI (Newcastle West) and Emily and Damian in Coláiste na Trocaire (Rathkeale).



Mrs. Lucy Gow raising the 3rd Green Flag

Regrettably we will also be saying goodbye to our SNA, Mrs Helen Dunne. Helen has been an SNA in the school since 2000 but unfortunately her position will not continue in September. We would like to say a big thank you to Helen for all her help, support and friendship over the years. The whole school community will miss her greatly.

Our new school year will begin on Monday 2nd September and we look forward to welcoming our new pupils. We hope you all make the most of the summer and stay safe wherever you may travel, be that home or away.



Villiers School

GEOFF PENNY RETIRES FROM VILLIERS

A gentleman, a friend, enthusiastic, the face of Villiers, the Geography teacher, the housemaster, the hockey coach, the fundraiser, the legend, the weatherman, the scientist, table tennis coach - these are a sample of some of the different memories we have of Geoff Penny's 35 yrs in Villiers. We are all very sorry to see him head off into the sunset as he retires.

Geoff certainly has seen drastic changes from the onset of his teaching career in Villiers when there were approximately 150 pupils, to 560 today. He has taught many mothers and daughters, fathers and sons throughout his career. He has been instrumental in the school's development and given of his all throughout the years.

All past pupils have fond memories of Geoff and remember him organising geography field trips to the Burren and beyond, his famous 1st and 2nd Yr trips, his table tennis coaching, his minor hockey successes, his table quizzes and discos for charity, his compering at the TY fashion shows.



Geoff Penny in his element

Geoff has much to look forward to in his retirement. He, no doubt, will spend many days with his former colleague and close friend Eric Prestige in Co. Kerry. He is a keen and excellent golfer, a budding fisherman, a gardener in the making and he has a fond love of nature and the environment.



Geoff with Anita Mahon

We are all sad to see him leave and realise how much he has given to all of us in Villiers – students and staff alike. We wish him and his wife Cora the best of luck and health into the future.

DIOCESAN ACTIVE RETIREMENT DAY

Villiers School's 2nd Diocesan Active Retirement Day was organised by this year's Transition Year students. It was great to see such a wonderful turn out both of young and not so young. Teas, coffees, scones, buns and lots of nice goodies were on the menu. This was followed by song and dance, great chat and great fun.

We would like to extend an invitation to Active Retirement Groups, Grannies, Grandads, Great-aunts, Uncles and clergy in the Diocese to come to next year's Diocesan Old Folks Day on Friday May 30th.

If you are in an Active Retirement Group you might be interested in taking part in a Friend's of the Elderly School's Programme, please see www.friendsoftheelderly.ie/schools-programme for more information. Please register your interest by e mailing info@villiers-school.com or telephoning (061) 451447 and giving your contact details to Janet.

JAPANESE EXCHANGE

Welcome home to pioneering student Sinead Mulcahy who has become the first Villiers student to participate in our new cultural exchange programme with Mukogawa High School in Nishinomiya, a large city located between Osaka and Kobe in Japan. Mukogawa High School is somewhat larger than Villiers with over 2000 students, all of whom are girls!

Sinead spent three weeks living with her host family and attending school. She attended regular classes, but also had lots of other opportunities including attending a NASA lecture, learning the koto - a traditional Japanese musical instrument, and attending traditional Japanese cultural events including tea ceremonies and flower arranging classes. Most of the time Sinead wore the Mukogawa school uniform, but also a yukata, a simple type of kimono, for some of these activities. In her free time she managed some shopping, and of course some karaoke too!



Sinead Mulcahy in Japanese dress

Sinead, who has just completed Form V is studying Japanese as one of her Leaving Certificate subjects, and to her delight was often complimented on the fluency of her Japanese. Much credit is due to our Japanese teacher, Ms Chigusa O'Sullivan whose enthusiasm and passion has resulted in the realisation of this exchange programme. Commenting on the exchange programme, Headmistress Jill Storey said,

'This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and really brings learning to life. We want our students to be educated citizens of Ireland and Europe but to broaden their horizons and truly be world citizens. Sinead has embraced this opportunity and we are delighted for her. We look forward to further exchanges in the coming academic year.'

Sinead now waits to be reunited with her host 'sister' who will complete the exchange when she comes to spend three weeks with the Mulcahy family and Villiers in the new year.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

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

Rev. Lucy Green

Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

There was a special visitor to All Saints Stradbally on Sunday 16th June. Dorothy Pease, grandmother of Debbie Farrell, was on her annual visit to Castleconnell. Dorothy was born in Plymouth, Devon and now lives in Exmouth – a true Devonian. Her visit was very special as she celebrated her 96th birthday on June 14th and so the parishioners had 'baked a cake' and surprised her after the service. A very happy 96th Dorothy, and may you enjoy many happy and healthy years ahead – we look forward to next year.



Mrs. Dorothy Pease

ST SENAN'S, KILTINANLEA (CLONLARA)

This beautiful church stands at the heart of this attractive village. Sadly the church has been closed for some months and needs some TLC – so a community working party is setting about the task. Once completed we are positive that this church will see its doors open again for worship. We are encouraged by the ground swell of support from the community for the possibilities of a wide range of activities. Watch this space!



St Senan's Church in need of TLC

SPECIAL THANKS

Sometimes we take for granted people who make a difference! At the Diocesan Synod in Kenmare on 15th June members heard the most excellent report from Roy Benson, treasurer of Killaloe Stradbally group. He was the proposer to the Report from the Diocesan Council and in his address Roy explained the workings and pressures upon the Church governing body at this time. He is a member of the Investments Committee of the Representative Church Body and he was able to explain with such clarity the challenges facing us all during these changing times.

A special vote of thanks to him on behalf of us all for the tireless work and dedication he gives on our behalf together with his fellow committee members.

A special thanks also to Revd Lesley Robinson, who seconded and supported Roy's proposal to Synod – which tipped the scales in God's favour. Ask your Synod members to explain.....

DIOCESAN SYNOD IN THE KINGDOM

We all should offer our thanks to Revd. Michael Kavanagh, his wife Margery, and the fantastic team in Kenmare who greeted and cared for us all on Saturday 15th June. It may have been a long journey down – but such a joy. It also makes us realize just what commitment those in the southern extremities have when they travel north!

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

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

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

Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

MARRIAGES

On Friday, 24th May, Andrew Gill, son of Whitten and Linda Gill, married Deirdre Bailey in St Martin's Church, Culmullen, Co. Meath. Fr Michael Whittaker was assisted by Fr Aidan Murray and Archdeacon Carney. The reception was at Luttrellstown Castle in Castleknock, Dublin.

On Saturday, 1st June, Lorraine, daughter of Anne and Henry Gill and Dermot, son of Frances and Michael Burke were married in Dorrha Church. Their marriage service was conducted by the Revd Ruth Gill, a relative of the family, assisted by Fr Kieron Blake and Archdeacon Carney. The church was beautifully decorated by Richard Haslam and music supplied by Mr Peter Whyte. It was a lovely relaxed ceremony with the happy couple and their relatives and friends, followed by a reception in the Hodson Bay Hotel. We wish both couples every blessing in their married life together.

BAPTISMS

Baby Ava Grace MacLean, daughter of Deirdre (née Walsh) and Neil was baptised in Birr Church on Sunday 16th June. It was the first occasion when the area around the font was open and easily accessible for parents, Godparents and all the family members who attended – some had travelled especially from Scotland. Ava has been welcomed into the family of the Christian Church and we pray that she and her family will be blessed in their home in Skerries, Co. Dublin.

Also, on the 16th, Róise Jane Gill, daughter of John and Edel (née Flynn) was baptised into the Christian Church in Cadamstown by Fr Michael O'Meara, making her and her family feel most welcome in a friendly and caring way.

PASTORAL

It's good to know that Derek Kenny has been discharged from hospital. We pray that he continues to make good progress on the road to recovery. Our prayers are also with Robert Grant, Cree, who is in the Birr Community Nursing Unit.



Pillow-fighting at Birr Fete

BIRR SUMMER FETE

Thursday, 20th June started out bright and sunny as the children and teachers from Oxmantown School made their way up to the Rectory for their annual Sports Day. After the competitions, they and the parents joined with the parishioners for our Summer Fete. The older folks patronised the traditional stalls, the railway game, the raffles, and the tea room, while the younger (and those who didn't feel their age!) made for the pillow-fighting, horse-racing, soccer shooting, burgers, pancakes, ice-cream, and minerals. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Fete a success this year.



Stall's at Birr Fete

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

BAPTISM

Little Rachel Hodgins, first child of Thomas and Lorraine Hodgins, Dangan, was baptised in Bourney Church on 19th May. We wish her and her parents every blessing.



Rachel Hodgins with her proud parents Thomas and Lorraine following her baptism

MU OUTING

On Wednesday 19th June around a dozen ladies and two gentlemen enjoyed a guided tour in glorious sunshine of Enda Thompson-Phealan's stunning Clonoghill Gardens in Coolrain. They were joined by more revellers for a meal in Cosy Kitchen restaurant

on the way home. Thanks to Doreen Roe who organised the trip and to Violet Dreaper who looked after the logistics on the day.

BBQ & FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

St. Cronan's Parish wishes to thank everyone who supported its BBQ & Family Fun afternoon in St. Cronan's NS on 9th June. A special word of appreciation goes to our sponsors and suppliers: Cordial Marquees, Young's Garage, Stapleton's Bakery, Corrib Oil, Centenary DIY, Tesco, Madden's Pharmacy, Coffey's Pharmacy, Rosemary Pharmacy, Mullally's Electrical, Jade Hair Salon, Creation Hair Studio, Supervalu and Fresh Fields. Thanks also to everyone who supported the Summer Splash of Cash Raffle – the winners were: 1st Phil O'Meara €500; 2nd Liam Young €250; 3rd Dermot Burke €125; 4th Carol Sinnott €75 and 5th Pat Drought €50.



Rev. Lesley in the firing line at the BBQ & Family Fun Afternoon

HEALER PRAYER

The Healer Prayer Union takes a break for the month of August but there will be a special Healing Service open to all in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on Monday 1st July @ 8pm. The service will include a time of individual prayer with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for all who desire it.

AROUND THE PARISHES

Congratulations to Des & Florence Reid on the safe arrival of a new grandson, Alfie, courtesy of Mark and Karen in Galway. Our prayerful condolences go to Eva Harvey and her family on the death of her brother James Culbert in Portumna. We look forward to baptising little Stephen Dann in Corbally Church on 7th July. We wish all Newslink readers a good Summer with lots of sunshine!

PET BLESSING

The 2nd annual Pet Blessing service was held at Bourney Church on 26th May.



All God's creatures got a place in the choir!

Harriet Monsell – a Mother Superior with Limerick & Killaloe connections

by Rev. Patrick Comerford

Editor: Patrick has kindly given his permission to reprint this from a post dated 26th March 2013 on his inspiring blog revpatrickcomerford.blogspot.ie.

It is of great local interest, and an example of the lives of Christian service to which members of our diocese have been called over the years.

Harriet Monsell (1811-1883) is one of the few Irish-born women to be remembered in the Calendar of Saints in Common Worship in the Church of England, her commemoration falling on 26th March.

Harriet Monsell was the founder of the Community of Saint John Baptist, an order of Anglican nuns dedicated to social service. By the time she died on Easter Day, 25 March 1883, the order had numerous houses, including houses in England, India and the Americas.

The Hon Harriet O'Brien was born in 1811, the third daughter and the eighth of nine children of Sir Edward O'Brien (1773-1826) of Dromoland Castle, Co Clare. Her father was the MP for Ennis in the Irish House of Commons (1795-1800) and MP for Co Clare in the Westminster Parliament (1802-1826), until he resigned the seat for health reasons.

When Edward O'Brien died in 1837, his widow Charlotte (née Smith), who was a devout Anglican, moved to London with their four daughters, then to Dublin and to other places. The second daughter, Grace, never married, but the other three daughters, including Harriet, married Anglican priests: Catherine married Charles Harris, Bishop of Gibraltar; and Anne married Canon Arthur Martineau of Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. Of the four sons, Lucius O'Brien (1800-1872) succeeded his father as MP for Co Clare and later inherited a family title as the 13th Lord Inchiquin; while William Smith O'Brien (1803-1864), was a leader of the Young Ireland revolution in 1848, was tried for treason, deported to Tasmania, but later returned to live in Co Limerick.

On 21 September 1839, Harriet married Charles Henry Monsell (1815-1850) while he was studying and receiving medical treatment at the University of Dublin. They moved to Oxford the following year. There, while he completed his studies, they came under the influence of the Oxford Movement. Charles was the third son of the Ven Thomas Bewley Monsell, Archdeacon of Derry, and after his ordination he became his father's curate. Later, he became a canon of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.



Harriet Monsell as a girl

Because of his continuing ill health, the couple spent much of their later married life in Europe, most often in Naples.

After Canon Charles Monsell died in 1850, Harriet continued her affiliation with the Oxford Movement. She began working in the railroad and army village of Clewer among former prostitutes and unmarried mothers at a House of Mercy. The house had been founded some years earlier by Mrs Mariquita Tennant, who was a Spanish refugee, a convert to Anglicanism and a clergyman's widow. However, due to ill health, Mrs Tennant moved to nearby Windsor, where she soon died.

Harriet Monsell moved to Clewer with her sister Catherine and her husband, the Revd Charles Harris, later Bishop of Gibraltar.

After Charles Harris moved to another parish in 1852, Canon Thomas Thellusson Carter became the Rector of Clewer and the Warden of the House of Mercy. Soon, Harriet Monsell professed religious vows with two other women, and became Mother Superior of one of the first Anglican religious orders since the Reformation.

The women lived according to a rule attributed to Saint Augustine of Hippo and at first they were called the Sisters of Mercy. They later changed their name to reflect their inspiration from Saint John the Baptist's call to penitence. During the new order's first five years, it expanded from assisting about 30 marginalised women to dedicating a building to serve about 80 women.

As the Community of Saint John Baptist, the nuns were guided by Mother Harriet, with her energy and humour. They extended their original mission to running about 40 institutions, including mission houses in parishes, as well as orphanages, schools and hospitals.



Mother Monsell, founder of the Community of Saint John Baptist,

Mother Harriet retired to Folkestone in 1875 for health reasons, although she was occasionally able to visit the communities she founded.

She died on the morning of 25th March 1883, which was both the Feast of the Annunciation and Easter Day that year. Because of this coincidence, her commemoration in the Calendar of the Church of England has been moved to 26 March.

The order she founded continues to this day. They will shortly move to a new house and Education Centre being built at Ripon College Cuddesdon, near Oxford, which will be known as Harriet Monsell House. Their presence at the College "is eagerly awaited in order to complement our rhythm of prayer and help deepen our spiritual formation as a community."

Diocesan Synod 2013 – Live the Vision!

by Rev Keith Scott

This year the Diocesan Synod was held in Kenmare, the most southerly parish in the diocese. The meeting began with the Eucharist at St. Patrick's Church and then moved to the Carnegie Arts Centre Kenmare. The Arts Centre was an excellent venue for our needs. The entrance foyer had enough space for the stalls of various different organisations which make the effort to meet with us and promote their various causes. There was also a proper theatre complete with screen and sound system and large enough to accommodate the Synod members with comfort for the actual business of the meeting. This year the President's address was not only given by our Bishop, but included sections from our two guest speakers: Linda Chambers from Us and Pastor Anke Dittrich from our German partners Evangelische Landeskirche Anhalts. It also had an element of "interactivity" requiring the members to talk to one another and to the whole house.



Rev Lesley Robinson demonstrates God outweighs Mammon

Bishop Trevor's address drew from Hebrews Chapter 11 verse 8 "By Faith Abraham obeyed..." to focus on the idea of 'Living the Vision'. He referred to his theme of last year, the four "C"s of Confidence, Community, Care and Celebration. These words have become part of a growing vision of how we might like to see ourselves as a diocese in 2025. This vision must become the focus of our living now.

Bishop Trevor asked the members to think of the range of skills, experience and gifts that were available in the Synod meeting. Each member was asked to speak to a neighbour, and tell them one thing they liked to do and one thing they had been told that they were good at. When the discussion was over and people had had an opportunity to say what they had heard from their neighbours it became clear that there was a very wide range of skills and abilities, things people enjoyed doing, things that others considered they could do well. Our task, Bishop Trevor, said, was to build on those strengths and live the vision of hope before us.

Bishop Trevor also spoke of the natural way in which the diocese falls into three relatively distinctive areas. Already work is being done to build up the relationships between clergy and parishes in these areas, and he suggested many possible projects which maybe could not work in a small parish but could work with the support of the larger community of parishes in a region. This sharing of

ministries and resources is key to our living the vision.

Bishop Trevor also spoke of the September "Gathering to Go" event, now registered as part of The Gathering Ireland. It will be held in Villiers School from 11:00 a.m. and will include worship, workshops and fun. The last event "Celebrate Together" was attended by 600 or more people and it is hoped that this year's event will be bigger and better, so keep the 29th of September.

The vision for our diocese would be nothing if it did not also send us outwards. Bishop Trevor spoke of the G8 meeting in Enniskillen and of the IF Campaign supported by Christian Aid, a project to end hunger in the world. This is very achievable IF we all work together. A wider vision which we can be involved in.



Enjoying the lunch served by Kenmare parishioners

We were reminded of our link with Anhalt, and the link document was on display for the whole of the Synod. Pastor Anke Dittrich took the podium to speak about our link with the Evangelical Church of Anhalt which has been growing in many ways. Indeed while she was at the Synod Ed Hardy seized the day to invite the youth of Anhalt to the diocesan summer camp next year. She in turn invited our diocese to join the Evangelical Church in Anhalt for the anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, and to begin planning now for our participation in that event. Don't say you weren't invited! Michael Johnston took a moment to respond and say something about the Anhalt link from the perspective of our diocese.



Pastors Jürgen & Anke Dittrich from Anhalt

Bishop Trevor also spoke of his trip to Swaziland and of the recent visit of Bishop Ellinah Wamokoya. Linda Chambers took over to speak about the ongoing work of Luyengo Fresh Produce. Where there was only scrub and wasteland there is now a farm producing cabbages and maize. Cabbages are going to market in their thousands, and the first baby sweet corn was seen packaged up and ready for transport. A large reservoir is under construction right now, financed out of US assets. The Board of Mission has decided to continue to support the development of Luyengo Farm, particularly by raising funds to replace those spent on the dam, which is vital for the next stage of the farm. You can learn more about the farm in the Swaziland section of the diocesan website www.limerick.anglican.org.

With all the extra and innovative sections the President's address spanned lunch, which was an excellent meal provided by Kenmare parish, and even included live music! The later part of the afternoon was taken up by the usual business of Synod, which was not nearly so interesting but every bit as vital to the life of our diocese as the first part of the day.

Roy Benson of Killaloe & Stradbally Union proposed the Report of Diocesan Council. He urged parishes to consider investing any surplus cash in the RCB Unit Trust as a secure way to benefit from expert fund management. Rev Lesley Robinson seconded the Report, wittily illustrating how God's blessings far outweigh financial headaches by placing them in a set of scales. Synod ended with the grace and with a renewed sense of purpose amongst many of the members.

So let us all heed the call and build on our strengths to live the vision this year.



Stalls at Diocesan Synod



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Tractors for Africa

by Roger G Stephenson, RGS Developments

I am an engineer specialising in agricultural mechanisation and technology transfer.

To put my story in context I must go back to 1974, when as a young engineer I was asked to go to Bangladesh to shut down a failed tractor project funded by a consortium of British charities – after two years it had ran out of funds. What amazed me was the sheer waste of money and potential. After Bangladesh I worked in Nigeria for four years, then Egypt. And each time I came away knowing that soon the programme would grind to a halt and be abandoned. The underlying problem was that the tractors and machinery that the donors were providing were not suitable either for the environment or the stage of development they had to operate in – they were too technically advanced for the level of operator or mechanic employed to use or maintain them.

MOTIVATION

In 3rd world peasant farming families the old and the young go to cultivate their fields with nothing more than a machete to cut down the weeds and a crude hoe made up of a wide steel blade mounted on a broken branch to hack at the ground. The hoe tells its own cruel story: the farmer goes to market to buy a new hoe; on his return he gives his half worn hoe to his wife; she in turn gives her three-quarter worn hoe to a child; and the cycle continues. It wasn't so different in Ireland in the 1800s.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 80% of the food grown in Africa is cultivated with human power, 15% with animal traction and only 5% with tractors. Compare that with farming in the developed world where mechanization is almost 100%.

If ever the millions of rural African farming families are to escape a life of unending toil and drudgery it will only be with the introduction of affordable and appropriate forms of agricultural mechanization.

As a Bengali doctor once said to me, what is the use of curing malaria or typhoid or any of the many killer diseases today only for the people to die of starvation tomorrow? Without mechanization people will never be able to lift themselves or their families out of the poverty trap.

BUILDING TRACTORS

It was during this time that I began to think about designing a tractor specifically for developing countries, but it was not until 1995 that I felt sufficiently competent to undertake the task of building a prototype. The first tractor I built was from recycled construction parts – it was donated by a local school in England to a school in the Gambia, where a second model also went.

In 2003 just outside Kilkenny in a cattle shed I built what I consider to be my best design – that tractor is now in Ghana. In 2009 I was invited to Tanzania to discuss setting up a small production facility to manufacture the Ghana tractor in Arusha, Tanzania. In July 2010 we exhibited six hand built tractors at the Dar es Salaam Trade Fair. They were built by myself, one female Tanzanian engineer and five local artisans in just six months. None of this group had ever done anything as complex as this in their lives, but they confounded their critics, and I am immensely proud of how they rose to the challenge. It makes me wonder just what Africans can achieve given the right incentive and support.

Much of Africa and the developing world is blessed with land, sunshine and water – what is missing is the machinery to allow

them to exploit it properly.

The difficulty is in developing farming systems that suit the environment that they are to be used in, and reflect the needs and the technical capabilities of the users. For too long the developed world has basically dumped unsuitable farm machinery on the third world. Then when it breaks or is underused we criticize the operators for not being able to make the overnight technological leap necessary to operate or maintain them properly. RGS Developments aims to change that.



A tractor for Africa, built in Africa



Building tractors at Arusha, Tanzania

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

Killaloe Diocesan Camp at Faith Mission Centre, Durrow, Co. Laois



29 girls enjoyed an action packed weekend on 21st – 23rd June. On Friday night we enjoyed Icebreaker games with Norma Jean Carney. Girls loved the Cinderella game organised by Birr Branch.

On Saturday morning we travelled to Kilkenny city for shopping. We all came back to the bus with lots of bags! We had our lunch in Castlecomer, unfortunately, the weather was not the best so we had a typically Irish picnic (undercover). For the afternoon the girls experienced the climbing wall, leap of faith and tree top walks of the Discovery Park – not for the faint hearted but worth the effort. Saturday evening girls decorated shopping bags – lots of paint, glue, buttons and tons of imagination.

Competitions were available all weekend – guess the number of sweets in a jar, name the teddy, mystery parcel and colouring pictures for anyone who wanted some quiet time. Thanks to Gillian Grant and Grace Healy, Cloughjordan Branch, for organising the competitions. Unfortunately Grace could not be with us on camp this year as her husband, Johnny, was ill – our thoughts and prayers are with Grace and Johnny at this difficult time.

We enjoyed excellent food thanks to Betty Delahunt, Helen Whyte, Ruth Haslam and Jean Blackwell. The Faith Mission Centre was an excellent venue with wonderful facilities such as the playground (in use early until late each day).

On Sunday we travelled by bus to Church in Durrow where we met Rev. Alex Purser. 5 girls took part in the Service by reading the Intercession Prayers – thanks to Anne Mae Powell, Maruna Manthe, Wren Higgins, Nadia Fletcher and Olivia Grant who all read beautifully.

A leader's comment by Sandra Hayes: 'Wonderful chats and company, lots of fun and friendship. A busy weekend with a wide range of activities, a real team effort, well done everybody and thank you.'

Some comments from the girls: 'loved the shopping, arts & crafts', 'Discover Park was exciting', 'food was great', 'pillow fight late at night followed by mid-night feast was the best!', 'lots of talking with friends', 'playground was great fun – loved the whole camp'.

Well done to everyone who helped make this year's camp a great success.



Working at crafts,



Group photograph



Prayer readers in Durrow Church, Sunday 23rd June



Ready for activities at Discovery Park



High wires at Discovery Park

The Countdown to our Gathering has begun!



Limerick Killaloe and Ardfert
Diocesan Day

Sunday 29 September 2013

29th September 2013 promises to be a memorable day in our Diocesan life together as we have our very own 'Gathering' in Villiers School. The theme of the day is 'Gathering to Go' and we will be emphasising the need to go out into the world as active disciples of Christ.

The day will run between 11am - 5pm and consist of a lively opening and closing worship where we gather as one family around

the Lord's table; a presentation of good news stories from every parish in the United Dioceses as well as an input from members of our companion diocese of Anhalt, Germany, who will be visiting Kerry that weekend; a long, leisurely lunch break and coffee breaks to allow plenty of time for chat and catching up with old friends; a variety of workshops in the afternoon for all ages from 5 up, while a crèche will be in operation to look after preschool children and babies.

Some of the confirmed workshops include a men's slot hosted by Rev. Michael Cavanagh, hymn singing and contemporary worship workshops led by our musicians Peter Barley and Eric Hughes respectively, a circus workshop and a puppet show for the children, a beauty demonstration for the ladies by beautician Serena Cooper, a teenage programme led by Ed Hardy and UDYC and a prayer workshop led by Archdeacon Wayne Carney. During the lunch break Kenneth Baker will host a Chill Zone to keep the teenagers cool while a bouncy castle will keep the younger people occupied.

Buses will run from all areas of the Dioceses to facilitate ease of transport (details will be in the next issue) and there will be no services in the parish churches that day, although Saturday evening services may be provided to accommodate anyone unable to travel.

In 2009 almost 600 people from around our United Dioceses gathered for our Celebrate Together event in St. Mary's Cathedral - let's make this gathering even bigger and better!

See you there!
Lesley Robinson



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"Of course, the main reason churchyards make such good wildlife sanctuaries is that the cars only go at walking pace."

Do what is right not only to respectable citizens, but especially to the disrespectful ones as well; be at peace not only with those who are peaceable, but especially with those who do not wish to let us live in peace.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Patronal Festival at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Sun 8th September at 11.15am.

Sunday 8th September marks the Birth of the BVM, an appropriate day to celebrate the mother church of the Diocese of Limerick. We extend a very warm welcome to all in the Diocese (and beyond) to join us that morning at 11.15am.

We are delighted that Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke will be giving the address.

Do put the date in your diary, as it should be an uplifting act both of worship and of celebration for all that St Mary's stands for.
Dean Sandra

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, 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays, Templederry,

11.00 am, every Sunday, St Mary's Nenagh

12.15 pm, 2nd and 4th Sundays, Killodiernan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

... Joe Kelly who was awarded the College Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies by Mary Immaculate College, Limerick;

... Lauren Rusk, chosen as Transitional Year Student of the Year in Borrisoleigh School;

... Grace Langley, awarded the Girls' Boarding Scholarship to

Villiers School;

... Joc Sanders, Debbie Powell and Rose Langley, all elected to Diocesan Council at Diocesan Synod on 15th June.

BISHOP TREVOR'S VISIT

On Saturday 25th May we welcomed Bishop Trevor to the Nenagh Union for a parish bring and share lunch and tea, with a presentation in between of his Vision for the Diocese for 2025. Over 60 attended, and Bishop Trevor was greeted with a Welcome Banner specially made by the Nenagh GFS girls. There were activities for the young people, and at the end of the day they brought in the banners they had made: "Christ has no hands but ours...." and "Christ has no feet but ours....."

This is an important part of helping us realise our own Nenagh Union vision to complement the Diocesan Vision. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a successful day, and to the Nenagh Pastoral Centre for the use of their premises.



KATEY MORELAND

Also back in May St Mary's Church welcomed Katey Moreland of Word of the Lord Ministries as she continued her walk through Munster. Joc Sanders met her outside Nenagh and walked with her to the church, and Joe and Lynn Kelly looked after her for two nights. We joined together that evening with the choir and with members from Nenagh Churches Together for a prayer service with anointing.



Joe Kelly greeting Katey Moreland

JACK POWELL

Jack Powell celebrated his 100th Birthday on 29 May, and had a great party! The Nenagh Union presented him with a Big Birthday Card with over 100 signatures of parishioners (see picture). Jack also came to church the following Sunday and read the lesson - is he the oldest reader in the Church of Ireland?



Marty Sanders has been working hard on information leaflets to be kept in each church. These will cover different topics, including Children's Activities, a who's who in the churches, and a leaflet on 'what we're about'. These follow on from our discussions over Lent regarding our vision - hospitality was a topic mentioned frequently, and we hope these leaflets will help to make folk feel welcome. In addition, organised by Patrick Rowley-Brooke, we are offering refreshments after every service in St Mary's, and already there are appreciative comments about welcome and friendship.

Family Worship on 16 June coincided with Fathers Day, so Dads were suitably celebrated and prayed for, and given gifts. It was also the debut of the Junior Choir Band, with April and Heather Hayes on

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violins and Lauren Cao on guitar, in concert with Patrick on cornet, and Sylvia on piano. We all made a very joyful sound unto the Lord! Junior Choir didn't just sing and play, but read prayers, took the collections, presented the gifts to the Dads and generally played a huge part in the service. Their rendition of 'Standin' in the need of prayer' beautifully complemented their acting out of the Gospel story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

We have yet to have our Parish BBQ at the end of June, and also the School end-of-year Service which includes the blessing of those leaving for secondary school. Also the GFS Camp of course, and the Boys Brigade outing! Then we'll all collapse for the summer!

Our prayers will be with the Junior and Leaving Cert students as they anxiously await their exam results, and we hope they will achieve all they hoped and worked for. For those going away on holidays – travel safely, have fun, and return refreshed and renewed.



*St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on occasion of Family Fun Evening & Barbeque –
By local artist Chris Walker*

... AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Not every family can afford a holiday away this year, and part of the fun of a holiday is worshipping in different churches and seeing how 'they' do things. So, here in the Nenagh Union at 11 am on the third Sunday in July (21st) and August (18th) we shall be offering a Morning Prayer according to the Iona liturgy, along with a Noah's Ark activity for children, and refreshments afterwards. Whilst we already use much Iona material in our Family Worship, the Iona Morning Prayer we hope will offer something new, and refreshing, in the way of worship. Needless to say, all – especially visitors – are very welcome!



Circus Club Parachute Lift being filmed by RTE

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

Parish website: www.modreeny.com

Stephen's blog: www.paddyanglican.com

CLOUGHJORDAN & BALINGARRY FAMILY FUN EVENING & BBQ

We were blessed on 9th June with the best day of the year so far and large crowds of adults and children from far and near supported the event. There was an emphasis on children's entertainment and the two bouncy castles on the church green were among many attractions for the children which included, the Cloughjordan Circus Club Parachute lift and Hoola Hoop, Hairstyling, a nail bar and face-painting. Also featuring was the Penguin shoot, Ring throwing, Spin the Wheel, Cake stall, Teas and the Barbeque. The event was filmed by RTE who were doing some filming in the eco-village that weekend for the popular 'At Your Service' show and may feature in the next series of the show. It was a most enjoyable afternoon and hopefully will be repeated next summer (along with the same weather if possible).

BAPTISM

Welcome to Benjamin Patrick Nolan, son of Sean & Wendy of Borrisokane. Benjamin was baptized on Sunday 23rd June in Borrisokane Parish Church.

BEREAVEMENTS

Deepest sympathy to Violet Mooney of Ardcroney on the recent death of her brother James Culbert. His funeral took place in Christ Church Portumna on Sunday 16th June. He was buried in the adjoining churchyard.

Deepest sympathy to Frances Harding of Borrisokane on the recent death of her Uncle Jack Mills in Portlaoise. His funeral took place in St. Peter's Church Portlaoise on Saturday 8th June and burial in the adjoining churchyard

GIFTS TO TEMPLEHARRY CHURCH

Many thanks to John & Florence Cox who recently gave a new Church organ and hymn books and prayer books in memory of the late John Fred Chadwick & Lilian Chadwick. These gifts will be dedicated at morning service in Templeharry on Sunday 21st July at 10.15am.

MONEYGALL SALE

Thursday 18th July at 7pm – Venue Parochial Hall (Legion Hall Moneygall may be used if Hall renovations have started). All the usual stalls and attractions – All Welcome!

BEST WISHES

... to Zara Moynan and Noel Heffernan who are to be married in Templeharry Church on the 15th August – We wish them every happiness in their marriage.

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

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

AGHANCON FETE

This will take place on Sunday 7th July from 2.30pm at Aghancon Community Hall. All the usual stalls and teas plus this year a Fancy Dress Dog Competition! So bring all the family, dress the dog up, and come along for a fun afternoon.

DUNKERRIN DOG SHOW & FETE

The Dunkerrin Dog Show and Fete will take place on Sunday 14th July from 2.00pm at Dunkerrin Church. Plenty of categories for all types of dogs and all welcome. Teas and other attractions. All welcome for a great afternoon.

KINNITTY AMERICAN TEA PARTY

An American Tea Party in support of Kinnitty Church will take place on the evening of Tuesday 23rd July at Kinnitty Castle Hotel. Do book for an evening of good food, music and dancing till late! Please contact Ivan Sheppard - 05791 37122

GROUP SERVICE & MEAL FOR PARISH & GERMAN VISITORS

On Sunday 28th July there will only be one Group Service at 11.00am in Aghancon Church. A visiting group from our link church in Harzgerode will be worshipping with us that morning, so please do your best to come out and worship with them. Following the service will be a 3 course meal and entertainment for them in Aghancon Hall. This is also open to ANY parishioners who would like to attend. ALL are welcome. The cost to cover the meal is €10 per head - reduction for families. Please do come and make it a memorable afternoon for our visitors. Please contact Ina Blackwell - 05791 31253.

SHINRONE PARISH FETE

The Shinrone Parish Fete will take place in the grounds of Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse, Shinrone on Saturday 14 September from 2.00pm. Stalls, teas, raffles, prizes and plenty of fun for all the family.

ST MARY'S EDUCATION GRANT

Applications are invited from parishioners of Shinrone Parish for grants from the St Mary's Educational Trust. These are to support any child's educational needs in the parish and application forms are available from the Rector.

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

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

BISHOP'S CHALLENGE

The visit by Bishop Trevor to the joint congregations in June, as part of his tour of parishes under the Vision, Mission and Ministry theme, was much appreciated and elicited a good response from those who shared in the dialogue. It was the first such encounter possibly in living memory between a Bishop and his parish here, outside liturgical moments such as Confirmation.

What struck us all very clearly, from the Bishop's informative and challenging overhead presentation and the ensuing response and offerings, was the need for honest and clear self-reflection as a community regarding our capacity to cope with thin numbers and an aging congregation plus the escalating financial challenges.

At the very least the Bishop's challenge and encouragement should spark off more thought as to how we handle our own realities and catch more of the diocesan vision. Bishop Trevor issues a warm invitation to all able-bodied parishioners to join the united Diocesan Gathering at Villiers School on Sunday September 29th 2013.

CONFIRMATION

Falling on the feast of St Columba, Confirmation in St Columba's Church for three of our young people took on an even more colourful complexion when our chief pastor Bishop Trevor based his message on an audio visual presentation of the Irish Saint who founded the great community and mission station of Iona. Candidates confirmed in the faith were James Larkin from Kilnasoolagh, and Anna Courtney and William O'Connor from Drumcliffe Church.

Thanks to all who made the fellowship the lovely moment of worship it was, not least to parents Linda Courtney and Maeve Lait O'Connor for the refreshments.



FUNERAL

Mr Harold Philippson of Liscannor, whose funeral service took place in St Columba's Drumcliffe, had been involved in the stone cutting business for most of his life, both in England and in North Clare. Deceased by his wife Joyce in 1997, Harold was an adventurous man who served with the 8th Army in Africa, Italy and the Balkans, as well as undertaking action in the Far East. His brother George gave a splendid and humorous summary of his life and his son Nigel shared some words of faith from the mini Bible Harold carried with him into action and throughout his adult life.

FAREWELL?

Dr Mark and Cathy Munday leave us this Summer for Oxfordshire, where Mark has already taken up a new posting in research and marketing within the diamond processing business. They shall be missed within the Kilnasoolagh congregation and we wish them and their boys Gregory and Jamie rich blessings for the future. The move has a provisional element to it in that they will for the near future retain their lovely home at Newmarket and Cathy takes a year's break from Lecturing at Mary Immaculate Institute in Limerick.

OUTING

Kilnasoolagh hold their annual Summer Outing on June 29th to Blarney Castle and Gardens. Our thanks to Edwin and Frances Bailey for planning yet another venture with meticulous care.

LUNCHTIME CLASSICS

This is the title of the fortnightly series in St Columba's Church, organised by top soprano Helen Houlihan, who gathers into her programme several female singing colleagues plus the tenor Owen Gilhooley.

KILFENORA

St Fachnan's Cathedral, is a much busier place these days of summer thanks to the Kilfenora Timeline '13 programme which provides for the daily manning of the church in order to give hospitality to tourists. Special attraction is the display of Kilfenora's history over two millennia. Dr Peter Harbison launched the display at a ceremony attended by villagers and Burren residents.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9673735 Mob: 087 20 74739

Email: georgeandwyn@eircom.net

Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

Greetings from Co. Galway to all our readers within the extended Diocese. I hope that you are enjoying a touch of summer weather in your part of our country.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Thanks to Rev Michael Cavanagh and his parishioners for hosting our recent Diocesan Synod. Thanks for your hospitality on what was a busy day for you all.

FAMILY SERVICE

Our parishes and our young people in particular are looking forward to our forth coming family Service that will be well past as you read these notes. However we will endeavour to report to you on the Service and the after Fun Day that will be held in the rectory grounds.

GLEBE NATIONAL SCHOOL AUGHIRM

As for our Glebe National School Aughrim, it has been an exciting time. Our school has grown this past year from a very small number with an influx of new pupils that brought our numbers up to thirteen as the year draws to its close.

For the first time in recent years we have been able to have an end of term Service in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim. Under the guidance of Ms Lisa McKeigue, Principal, Ms Ruth Kelly, Ms Orla Delaney and the Rector, our children did themselves and the school proud by leading our service singing a number of hymns and reading the story of the Good Samaritan.

A very good attendance of parents and Grandparents and siblings, and parishioners were highly complementary of the service that was followed by refreshments in the school.

This service marked the long association of two families with our school as Enda Sinclair and Abigail O'Hara will be starting secondary school in September. We wish them well. They each received a small gift to mark their last year with us and their families were thanked for their many years of service and commitment that has seen our

school strengthened in numbers.



Glebe School end of term service



All things bright & beautiful!

HOLY BAPTISM

St John's Church Ballinasloe welcomed Philip Newton the youngest son of George and Beatrice Newton a brother to Mark, Adam, and Lydia into the family of Christ at his Baptism on the Sunday 2nd June. A large gathering of family and relatives and friends attended for this special day. We wish Philip and the entire family circle God's blessings for the future.

PASTORAL CARE

It has been a time of sadness for a number of families within our parishes with the demise of close relatives. We share with them their loss at this time and trust that their loved ones are at peace enjoying the promise of eternal rest with their Saviour. We continue to think of all who are ill at this time especially at our monthly healing Service in St. John's Ballinasloe on the first Wednesday of each month and trust that all the ill experience the inner presence of Christ's healing.

SERVICE DETAILS - please see website.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Niall and Trish Stoddart on the birth of Adam, a grandson for Elizabeth and Gibson. We wish Adam, with the help of God, health and happiness in the many years to come

ONCE AGAIN

A great time was had by all those that attended the Concert at St John's Church Eyrecourt. This year we had a larger visiting German classical orchestra which filled the church with some lovely interpretations from Handel's Water Music to pieces from films. This performance was interrupted by a small group playing Irish Music with singing and dancing. An even louder interruption was by two excellent bagpipe players as they marched from the back of the Church. We were once again thankful to have filled the Church to capacity and we are sure a good sum of money has been raised for the much needed renovations to the Church. We would like to thank very much the many people that supported this event.

UPDATE FROM SWAZILAND

We have been receiving regular updates from Maureen as she works through her programme at the Usuthu Primary School in Swaziland. As she settles down she has been able to help the teachers and pupils at the school where many problems exist. Part of the kitchen at the school has collapsed and all cooking is now done outside. There is a library at the school with books and teaching aids donated from America, but they remain unused as nobody there knows how to use them. We are often tempted in giving what we think these people need, but it is often more useful to them to give them the money to buy what they can use. Meanwhile there is plenty for Maureen to do. Good news is that the many pencils that Maureen collected are being put to good use as our photograph shows.



BEREAVEMENTS

It was with great regret that we heard of the death of Kathleen Grant on Wednesday 19th June. Our very sincere thoughts and prayers are with her husband Dick, daughter Audrey, grandson PJ and all her extended family and friends at this time. The funeral took place at St Brendan's Church Birr after which Kathleen was buried at St Rynagh's Cemetery in Banagher. Kathleen will be long remembered for her dedication, love and kindness to her family and friends and will be very much missed by them all and we pray that God will welcome her to her heavenly home.

The funeral took place in Christ Church, Portumna on Sunday 16th of James (Jim) Culbert. Jim is survived by his wife Edith and eight sons. Jim was a prominent member of The Living Church of God though he had for many years been a member of the Church of Ireland in Portumna. He was buried in Christ Church graveyard alongside his parents. Jim's pastor, Mr Henry Cooper lead the service assisted by the Very Rev'd Patrick Towers. We extend our sympathies and prayers to Edith and all the Culbert family in their loss.

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

Rev. Jane Galbraith

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061-302038 Mobile: 085-1450804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

SYMPATHY

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Donal & Jennifer O'Leary and family of Abington on the death of Jennifer's father, Frank Tyrell (Carberry, Co. Kildare) on the 28th of April and on the death of Donal's father, Art O'Leary (Bandon, Co. Cork) on the 8th of May.

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL AND BURIAL

On 27th May at St Mary's Cathedral: Kenneth Ivan GRAYDON (84). Our deepest sympathies are with Finnuala and all the family.

BAPTISM IN ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

On 9th June Jillian Beth was welcomed into the household of faith. Jillian is daughter of Cara and Alastair Cullen, granddaughter of Heather and Bill Cullen. Wishing Jillian and all her family a future enriched by God's blessing.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to Emily Howes and Lauren Hannon who both attained distinction in their recent Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life exams. Thank you to Dean Sandra and Rev'd Jane who both assisted greatly in the preparation of the two girls for the biblical sections of the exam. Thanks also to their parents for arranging for them to be in Dublin for the exams. We look forward to the special service (in St Mary's Cathedral) on Saturday 24th November at 4pm when they will formally be presented with their certificates, together with successful candidates from St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. Lauren will receive a Bronze Award, whilst Emily will receive a Silver Award.

ABINGTON CHURCH

The Patronal Festival on Sunday 23rd June - the Eve of St. John the Baptist's Day to whom Abington Church is dedicated - was a lovely occasion when friends from far and wide, some who were baptised and married there and others with family connections came together.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday 8th September (the Feast Day of the Birth of the BVM) St Mary's Cathedral will celebrate its Patronal Festival at 11.15am, and Canon Marie-Rowley Brooke will give the address. We warmly invite all friends and past members of the congregation, and from the diocese and wider community to join us in this special celebration of the mother church of the Diocese of Limerick.

PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR

This is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday 19th of October. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves. This year for your entertainment, we are limiting the types of books for the book stall and welcome books on Cookery; Gardening; DIY; & Natural History. We are also looking for non perishable items for the raffle hampers. There will probably also be a bargain stall for odds and ends (nothing electrical) which might

be someone's idea of treasure. So please keep us in mind when Spring cleaning your house and/or garden. Offers of goods and novel ideas for stalls welcome. For further details please contact lzbthstanley@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you to all who supported the joint (Church of Ireland/ Methodist) Coffee Dock on 17th May – over €300 was raised. Please note that Adrian Horsman of Christian Aid will be walking from Belfast to Limerick in June-July to raise funds for this important charity: we will be organising a welcome for him at St Mary's Cathedral when he arrives.

STATE EXAMINATIONS

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations are now over. We hope that the Leaving Certificate candidates will have their efforts duly rewarded when results come out on the 14th of August. We wish all candidates well and hope they now enjoy the summer!!

Adare and 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

The Confirmation in Adare took place on Pentecost Sunday. The six candidates were confirmed by Bishop Trevor. It was very symbolic to have the parents and godparents come up with each candidate at the point of confirmation as they knelt in front of the bishop and he laid his hands upon their heads. The parents physically standing beside them, and also placing a hand on the shoulder. It symbolised their role in each candidate's life since their baptism, as well as the rite of passage as candidates take responsibility for their own lives within the community of the church.



The newly confirmed with Bishop Trevor & Rev Gary Paulsen

At Kilpeacon the Sunday school had their prize giving and took the leading role in the service. The readings were dramatized by the children and the collection and offertory were taken up by them. They shared with the parish the work and themes they had been doing over the past year. This was such a good idea as often the children are in a room separate from the rest of the community, and when they participate and share what they do it is always an eye opener for all of us. It makes us all realise the important role Sunday school has in the lives and development of our children. The teachers are so dedicated and continue to raise the standards and provide a wonderful source for the children to connect to God in a meaningful way while learning about their faith. The Kilmallock children had the same opportunity on the following Sunday.

The layout of St Nicholas church has always been a challenge in that the high altar is so far from the main body of the church. Rectors in the past have therefore brought a table down to the main body in order to celebrate the Eucharist among the people. This also has given the sense of intimacy around a table rather than the priest being 25 metres away from the main body. Valerie Shire asked if there was something they could do in memory of her husband John who had died a year ago. It was decided that her son Ian would make us a new table for our Eucharist celebration. It was very appropriate to have the altar dedicated in memory of John on 16 June. We are all grateful for the gift of Ian's craft and the table that exceeded our expectations. So now we have the high Altar where it always has been and our smaller table in the main body of the church.



The new altar made by Ian Shire & dedicated in memory of his father John Shire

We had the privilege of Jürgen Dietrich visiting the Adare parish of Sunday 16th June. He and his wife Anke were visiting our diocese from the link diocese in Anhalt. Jürgen was able to share a little about Anhalt and bring us greetings.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcorman & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mob: 087 2885169

E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

It has been quiet during June. People have been busy making hay, or at least silage, while the sun shines, even if it only shines now and then and there have been all those dreadful exams to cope with. Now that summer really has begun there is time for other things, like a special celebration and barbecue and a wedding.

Just as you get around to reading this we will have had our special weekend celebrating 350 years of the chalice and patten at Askeaton. It is made of Limerick silver and was given as a restoration gift by the Sheriff of Limerick, Simon Eaton, in 1663. We have still managed to keep it in our possession despite the hazards of the intervening years and even an attempt to rob the church. It's no longer kept in the parish (it is irreplaceable after all). Yet it does tell an important story of the revival of the Church of Ireland after many difficult and troubled years, which has a resonance for today. Bishop Trevor will join us for the weekend and we will not only celebrate the past but look with confidence to the future as we share in the Vision, Mission & Ministry process.

To cap it all Samantha White and Trent Bowen will be getting married in Askeaton Church. Pray for them and for all the White family as they make their preparations and look forward to the future.

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 a.m. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

Kilgobbin: 10 a.m. every Sunday

Tralee: 10.45 a.m. every Sunday

Ballymacelligott: 12 Noon every Sunday

Dingle: 12 Noon every Sunday

ABOUT PEOPLE

Having held the post for a mere 30 years, Margaret Groves has stepped down as Secretary to the Tralee and Ballymacelligott Select Vestry. Olive Flynn inherits the post.

Births: Roisin Niamh, daughter of Pamela and Colm, and granddaughter of Hester Hill, well known member of Ballymacelligott Parish. Ben William, born to Eoin Martin and Sarah O'Donoghue and grandson of Helen Martin, longtime faithful parishioner of Kilgobbin Church. Sam, son of Jonathan and Annmarie Blennerhassett, and grandson of Tom and Yvonne, our Parish Secretary

Baptisms: Caoimhe and Jemma, daughters of Katherine and Ben Skinner-Syme, were Baptised in Kilgobbin Church on Sunday 12 May. Luke Gerard John Power, son of David and Nicola, was Baptised in Ballyseedy Church on Saturday 18th May. A great day for the Slye family. Finn Christopher, son of Janet and Fernando Fernandez, was Baptised in Kilgobbin Church on 2nd June.

Sympathy: We mourn the sudden death of Joe Hick of Ventry on Monday 21 May. Joe was a well known parishioner and an active member of the Ventry community. His funeral service in St. James' Church, Dingle, was conducted by Rev. Jim Stephens assisted by Rev. Mairt Hanley. He is survived by his wife Sabina, seven daughters, ten grandchildren, three great grandchildren and four sisters.

LINKS

Our LINKS ladies ended a very busy and enjoyable season in style with a great weekend away. Fourteen ladies descended on Cobh on Saturday 24 May where, thankfully, the sun shone upon them. After excellent food and company in the luxury of the Water's Edge Hotel on Saturday evening, they woke early Sunday morning to the noise and excitement of a docking cruise liner; adding even more interest to their stay. A particular highlight of the weekend was the warm welcome they received from the Rector and congregation when they attended Sunday service, to say nothing of the refreshments served afterwards. The weekend was rounded off with a tour of the Titanic Museum and the Heritage Centre before heading back across the county bounds to the safety of Kerry. The ladies will now enter a period of quiet domesticity (!) until September when the fun will start all over again.

YOUTH CLUB

The club enjoyed a final outing of the season to Killarney's 'Play at Height' on Sunday 12 May. Among other things, much fun was had swinging through the trees at this great facility. Our thanks Denise, Stephen and everyone involved for their enthusiasm and commitment over the season. They have every reason to be proud of the club's annual programme which has so enriched and inspired the membership. We especially hope that the fellowship it has helped to forge between them will continue as they move on in life, and they will value the friendships made during their time with the club.

NEWS FROM THE WEST

A bilingual Holy Communion Service was conducted by Rev. Canon George Salter, ably assisted by Rev. Máirt Hanley in St. James' Church on 5 May as part of the Féile na Bealtaine festival. The Service introduced the new bilingual An Choimaoineach Naofa. A group met in the afternoon for a walk led by Rev. Máirt Hanley whose reflective commentary wove the traditions of the past with present day living. A very pleasant day was enjoyed by all. If you find yourself in Dingle, Folk Concerts are held in St. James' every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and are well worth a visit.



Tralee & Dingle LINKS Ladies Outing in Cobh

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes.

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

(Vacant)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays at 11am.

A NEW BEGINNING

On Sunday June 2nd the congregation at St Mary's welcomed Rev. Máirt for his first Service of Holy Communion at the church. Many had been worried that there would be no Holy Communion during the vacancy created by the departure of Canon Sue for St Finbarre's in Cork, so Máirt's presence was greatly appreciated. Arrangements have now been finalised to ensure a Service of Holy Communion will take place every second Sunday and our sincere thanks must go to Bishop Trevor, Máirt and Andy Eadie for putting this in place.

MÁIRT'S SERMON

Whereas any new preacher in a new parish is going to bring his or her own style of sermon, and congregations take time to adjust, Máirt struck a note with all present on Sunday 16th when he urged us not to forget our welcome to the 40,000 visitors to St Mary's each year. He told the congregation that ministry is first and foremost about welcoming all who visit the church throughout the week and that ministry is not just confined to Sunday Services. He said that it is both his and our duty to provide a space for reflection, prayer and a listening ear for locals and visitors alike.

EXAMS

Congratulations to Maude and Ben Eadie; Jonathan Harig and Aoife Giles on the completion of their exams. In the words of Alice Cooper, 'School's out for Summer'; so go and enjoy your well earned break!

CONCERTS

As I write these notes we are in peak season for concerts and this year they are going down particularly well. Once again, a lot of the praise for this must be placed on Andy Eadie's shoulders as he has worked tirelessly all year with agents, concert teams, etc. Thanks also to the many parishioners who have given of their valuable time in setting up, putting out posters, delivering flyers to hotels and tourist offices around the town, and especially to those who marshal the concerts and take up the retiring collections. Upcoming concerts this month include:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| July 12th | Gonville & Caius College Choir (Cambridge, UK) |
| July 16th | Vallis Musicae (Connecticut, USA) |
| July 20th | Spraoi Chiarrai (Kerry) |
| July 24th | Siobhan Reidy & the Lambeth Wind Quartet (London) |

OUTINGS

At the time of going to print the weather remains unsettled so our boat trips to Innisfallen and the Blasket Islands are still up in the air. Anybody wishing to join us from our sister parishes is more than welcome to join us – contact Mike O'Sullivan (087 6862832) once the sun shines for two consecutive days!

BILLY VINCENT MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Friday June 28th a Memorial Service conducted by Bishop Trevor and Canon Brian was held in St Mary's for the late Billy Vincent. Billy, who in later years lived in Monte Carlo, was born in Muckross House and gave a life-time's commitment to St Mary's through donations and promotion. The interment of his ashes at Killeegy, in his beloved Muckross, took place immediately afterwards.

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

As we face into the high summer everything in our parishes seems to come to a natural conclusion. We have had some great discussions in our book club ranging from thoughts on our link parish in Gütensburge, to the churches attitude to the LGBT community in conjunction with the first Kerry Pride festival. We have had music classes and some fab pieces of music as part of our worship, particularly in Irish for St. Patricks Day, and even in Latin on Good Friday. We have had lots of confirmation classes and the evening prayer services that went with them. We have our monthly saint's day services in conjunction with the school and even had tea and coffee after. Most recently we have had a great garden party and cake sale in the garden of Pauline and Peter. Thank you so much to all those who took part and made it such a memorable day. It was great to do something in that end of the parish and see it so well supported by the local community. As I am writing this I am just getting over another fabulous event that we had, our end of year service for Kiltallagh School, complete with Bishop and Barbeque!



Bishop...



...and barbeque

It has been a great year - congrats to all of ye in the parish, but particularly those who have joined us through baptism or by having walked through the door. It is great to see so many new faces both infant and grown ups who have come into our community. But thanks also to all the old hands - with out your example none of these new people would have made the effort to come on board. Thanks to the tea and coffee makers and after service musicians. Last but not least thanks to the parish cricket team, who on Friday gave us our first Kerry county cricket league victory as they eased past Valencia - remember that feeling when Dingle have us under the cosh next week!

AND NOW A WORD FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL-

We have come to the end of another year of Sunday School. I would like to say thanks to the children for attending Sunday school and actively participating in the various activities such as our impromptu performances at tea and coffees after service, weeding in the herb garden and saying prayers at the family services. Also I would like to thank the Sunday school teachers Pam, Karen, Shauna and John for their work and preparation throughout the year. We look forward to next year and as always if anyone out there is interested in becoming involved in Sunday school, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Sunday school teachers. Or indeed if anyone has any suggestions for Sunday school just let us know!

Happy Summer all!

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

DIOCESAN SYNOD

It was wonderful to be able to host Synod delegates from near and far (mostly far – pretty much everywhere is far from Kenmare!) on 15th June. We reckon that around 35 members of our congregation made a contribution to the organisation of the day; a great team effort, and one which we know was much appreciated by all who attended.



Some of the lunch team



Bread for hungry Synod members

ST BRIGID'S RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

We continue to make progress on this adventurous project – the outline plans were submitted to the RCB last month, and although we await official confirmation, the indications appear quite positive. Once we get the formal approval, we start the planning process in parallel with fund raising activity – all contributions gratefully received, whether financial or experience / advice (the former preferred).

VALENTIA NEWS

Saint John the Baptist Church took centre stage during The Transatlantic Communications and Light Gathering Bank Holiday Weekend. Seven lectures were held in the church. Those in attendance included: Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Cyrus Field IV, Great great grandson of the inspirational leader of the first Transatlantic Telegraph Cable; Professor Alexander Gillespie of Waikato University, New Zealand; His Excellency, Layola Hearn, Ambassador of Canada; John Hennessey-Niland, U.S.A. Chargé d'Affaires; and Sir Adrian FitzGerald, 24th Knight of Kerry. At the final lecture a collection was taken up for the church which amounted to €335.

ST JOHN'S RESTORATION UPDATE

Work began on the west wall in the spring, when the cement mortar was carefully removed from between the sandstone blocks. Water which the cement had trapped for over 60 years poured out. However, despite a warm spell, the wall still remains saturated. As a consequence the wall will be left to dry for however long it takes. Other work such as the stripping and re-plastering of the internal west wall will not take place until after the outer wall has been re-pointed with lime mortar.

SUMMER SERVICES ACROSS THE UNION

Once again, we aspire to hold service in all four churches of the Union every Sunday during July and August – times as follows:
Church of the Transfiguration, Sneem 9.30 a.m.
St John the Baptist, Valentia Island 9.30 a.m.
St Michael, Waterville 11.30 a.m.
St Patrick, Kenmare 12.00 noon

Do come and join us – why not make a weekend of it in the Kingdom of Kerry, where the sun always shines, even if sometimes only above the rain clouds!

The Methodist District Superintendent writes



John Wesley, founder of Methodism, was not afraid that the Methodist Church would cease to exist but he did fear that it might become a "dead sect, having the form of religion, without the power." Phil Meadows of Cliff College, Sheffield, one of the key note speakers at this year's annual Methodist Conference, asked how far Wesley's prognosis is a diagnosis of Methodism today.

This year's Conference meeting in Carrick-Fergus in the North-East District was largely inspirational. The business of church departments, reports of committees, schools/colleges/city missions, was moved through on block without discussion to free up time for keynote addresses, bible studies, more worship events with powerful singing and meeting in District discussion groups.

Another new Methodist congregation was registered in Millstreet, Co Cork following others recently recognised at Kenmare, Tallaght, Blanchardstown and Carrick-on-Shannon. Many stories were told of doing church in new ways such as: offering cups of coffee to commuters at a local railway station; street pastors befriending young people coming out of night-clubs; taking up the invitation of the manager of a shopping mall in Cork, to provide worship there weekly, on Sundays. The Conference commissioned Jonathan and Beth Griffin to the work of the Surf Project based in Shannon, Co. Clare. All ages can learn to surf, but also, in a relevant and relaxed environment reflect on faith issues and 'living life to the full'.

The Conference heard that church finances were "going in the wrong direction" and noted a deficit of €5.8 million in the pensions fund. There were circuits for which a minister had to be withdrawn for financial reasons. There was a report on Reconciliation and Un-

resolved tensions which addressed the problem of conflict in the Church. New processes to follow were outlined and a Connexional Advisory Panel (CAP) is to be set up.

The Conference received reports on Poverty in Ireland. Food banks have been established in Carlow and Tallaght. An in-depth report on physically assisted suicide was received which said 'No' but recommended our focus to be on training in good terminal care. The decision made at last year's Conference to take lottery funding was rescinded by a big majority. This u-turn was accompanied by a clarion call for support for the work of the city missions amongst the poor.

The Conference Installed the Rev Dr Heather M Morris as an 'Episcopal Minister' or President. Bishop Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, shared in the prayers for her. Also installed was Mr Ken Twyble as Lay Leader of the Conference, for 3-years.

The concept of ministers in part-time appointments was adopted. The Conference confirmed its decision to appoint Lay Representatives to the Stationing Committee which recommends to the Conference where ministers are to be appointed. The Conference ordained 3 ministers, commissioned 5 probationers to circuit work and 9 young people to serve on 'Teams of Mission' to work amongst children and young people around the country.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Brian D Griffin
Superintendent of the Midlands & Southern District

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt (on Sabbatical)

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,

Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396236

Email: liz.hewitt23@hotmail.co.uk

Minister in Charge during Sabbatical

Rev. Vicki Lynch

Tel: 061 325325

Mobile: 086 829 2073

Acting Superintendent during Sabbatical

Rev. Brian Griffin

Tel: 0505 21670

Mobile: 087 987 0755

Greetings to Rev Liz Hewitt on sabbatical - we look forward to welcoming her back to the Circuit during August.

The members are grateful to Rev. Brian Griffin, District Superintendent and Rev. Vicki Lynch, Christ Church Limerick for looking after us in Rev Liz' absence. They also both took part in our Field Meeting on 4th June when we commemorated John Wesley's visits to the area in the mid to late 1700s.

We would also like to record our appreciation of those who

looked after our services each Sunday: Rev Tom Kingston, Rev Vicki Lynch, Elsie McDonnell, Rev Des Bain, Heidi Good, and Charles Payne.

(notes supplied by Lorna Shier)

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: vickilynch@eircom.net

The Christ Church Limerick and Shannon Circuit has just had the pleasure of welcoming Jonathan and Beth Griffin to Shannon. They will make this their base as Jono builds the Methodist Church Pioneer surfing ministry which he has been developing for the last five years. The ministry has taken them both all over the country and beyond as they work with young people from all backgrounds and at all stages of their journeys of faith. Earlier in the year the visiting Team on Mission joined the fun in Lahinch for a Saint Patrick's weekend surf camp. We wish Jono and Beth every blessing as they settle into their new home and hopefully we can persuade them to write an article for Newslink!



Jono and Beth Griffin

June 23rd was a really joyful occasion for Christ Church Limerick with two Baptisms and five Confirmations. The church was full to overflowing as Klorane and Kennedy were baptized and then we welcomed Rachel, Isobel, Klorane, Kennedy and Elvin into full membership. All our young newly-confirmed are all very different people. Over the last few months they've enjoyed listening to each other and talking more openly about their faith – and we'd like to especially thank Anna for all her work with them on Youth Alpha and more! It's been interesting and fun and we've all learned from the experience.



Newly confirmed at Christ Church Limerick: (l-r) Kennedy, Elvin and Klorane

We talked about how Christian community can be both a great joy and a great challenge at times and how people are saying when they choose to be confirmed, that they do recognise that reality and that they want to take a more mature role in the life and mission of the church community. We've talked a lot about confirmation being a part of a journey not an end in itself and we look forward to seeing how that all works out. Like all of us, they constantly have a lot to learn and experience with God.

We've opened the doors of CB1, the ground floor offices of Central Buildings, to facilitate groups connected to the Limerick City of Culture programme. Anyone can come along and use the space for meetings or training or events. We provide tea and coffee and a biscuit tin. All we ask is a donation. So, if you would like to benefit from a central, bright and friendly location and hopefully begin to meet other community volunteers please give me a call and we'll see how we can help.

The second floor of Central Buildings is also available to use with its wonderful view of the buildings up and down O'Connell Street. Watch this space for our new community partners arriving on the top floor at the end of the summer.

Andrew Coleman of Christian Aid will be joining us in Limerick during the service on Sunday, July 14th to speak to us about his work – all welcome! And don't miss our RTE Sunday Service on August 4th at 11.15am – press the record button!

LIMERICK

Sunday Service 11.30am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

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

Youth Group 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 of both

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet 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

Web site: 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 – 9.30am

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.

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30pm. Meeting in Drishane Castle. Bible study every Tuesday at 8pm in Millstreet Enterprise Centre on the town square. Entitled "Step by Step Bible Group" this group is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and grow in their faith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

During July and August most of our activities continue but some stop over the summer.

- The Parent & Toddler group will not meet during July and August and nor will the Men's Breakfast.
- The Kenmare Tuesday evening Bible study will not take place July and August.
- The Wednesday morning Bible study and coffee morning in Kenmare will cease during the month of August only and the Wednesday evening Bible study in Killarney will cease during the month of August.
- The Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group will continue on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month at 8pm.
- Also the Home Fellowship group in Lispole continues on the last Thursday of each month.
- We have recently recommenced a Home Fellowship group in Castleisland. We'd a wonderful opening meeting in June. Another meeting is planned for Monday 22nd July at 8pm. Contact Laurence for details of venue.

Our Prayer and Praise Celebration on Sunday 9th June was a great success. What a joy it was to gather together from Killarney, Kenmare, Millstreet, Dingle and Castleisland to inform each other about what God is doing in our midst and spend some time interceding for the work of God in each of our locations. This was all in the context of a wonderful time of worship together. We plan to do this again in the near future. Details later.

Also during June the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church met in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. It was a really special time. The business was kept to a minimum this year so that lots of time was set aside for us to listen to special speakers, worship together and spend time listening to God both as a large group and in smaller groups. The theme of the Conference was "A People Invited to Follow". We firmly believe that this Conference will prove to be a key moment in the ongoing life and witness of the Methodist Church across Ireland. One of our highlights of the Conference was the official recognition of Millstreet as a new Methodist Society. We continue to rejoice to be invited to partner with God in his mission in this area.

We have been glad to welcome the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland to our area recently. Rev. Dr. Heather Morris was installed at the Conference and is the first female President of the Methodist Church. We are delighted to have had her visiting and preaching at our Churches in Kenmare and Millstreet recently.

In Kenmare we are looking forward to the 21st July when seven people will be received in to full membership of the Church before which one of them (who's never been baptized) will be baptized in the local river.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Brian Griffin

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Interfaith Matters

by Rev. Dr. Keith Scott, Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group

Keith Scott is the Interfaith Officer for the United Diocese and you can contact him at rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org or 0872 885169.

At the beginning of March I attended the Church of Ireland Interfaith Working Group seminar lead by Canon Dr. Andrew Wingate. Dr. Wingate is a well known figure in Interfaith dialogue, having been director of the St. Philip's Centre for Interfaith dialogue in Leicester and written extensively on the subject.

The seminar allowed us to explore the "Why" of interfaith through a reflection document called "Keys to Interfaith Engagement" produced by the Porvoo Communion. The Porvoo Communion is an ecumenical initiative uniting in one diverse but common family a number of Lutheran and Anglican Churches in Europe. As might be expected from such a diverse community the "Keys" document emphasises the need to build healthy relationships between different faith communities as a vital part of our Christian mission. It argues that: "In each person we are called to recognise the image of God. Love for our neighbour has no limits – there is a wideness in God's love".

RESPONDING TO THE NEW & STRANGE

When people of new and strange cultural and religious traditions arrive in our midst there are different ways in which we can respond. We can treat people with a certain limited respect and pity, assuming that they will only be with us temporarily as refugees, asylum seekers, or, as in Germany through the middle part of the 20th century "Guest Workers". Then difficult times come, and these temporary guests become unwelcome visitors. This is something we see happening today all over austerly Europe.

Sometimes we try what is called "multiculturalism" where people live in their own segregated space without much interaction, with no common language or shared culture. This allows diversity but at the expense of genuine unity. Sooner or later rivalry and conflict will develop between diverse communities that, like the fractured people of Israel, have "no part" in one another. The racist clamour begins, and a society that was once stable and prosperous becomes fragmented, and then communal violence flares.

We need to think in terms of building a community together in which each participates equally, which offers recognition and

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A coffee morning, in Cloughjordan Methodist Church on Friday 21 June raised over €1,273 for the Unicef Appeal for Syrian Refugees. During July, friends of victims of Chernobyl nuclear disaster are bringing 9 children and interpreters to stay with families in the Birr area. The children will be involved in summer activities and will receive free medical, dental and optical treatment locally. Through the Red Cross the friends of Chernobyl offer financial assistance to families in need, at Luninets in Belarus. The children will share in a worship service in Cloughjordan Methodist Church on Friday 26 July at 7.30 pm.

On Saturday 6 July, Shirley Armitage and John Brennan were married in Borrisokane Methodist Church. During August the Circuit will welcome the Rev Paul and Mrs Heather Grant to its pulpits. Paul's background and theological training is Methodist. He is pastor of Welcome Bay Community Church in Tauranga, New Zealand, a non-denominational community church formed originally in a new suburb by the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. It is a vibrant church and Paul has chosen to work 70% of full-time and the balance of the stipend pays an excellent children's worker for two days a week. Paul will preach at an open-air service on Sunday 4 August in Derry House, Shinrone, the home of Billy and Phyllis Gee, at 3.30 pm. A warm welcome to all.

affirmation to diversity and which delivers justice and dignity to all. We have to work towards this vision of shared community for the sake of the world in which we live and work and for the sake of our witness to Christ.

A COMMON WORD BETWEEN US

Just over five years ago Muslim scholars issued "A Common Word Between Us" (<http://www.acommonword.com/>) in which they say "our very eternal souls are all also at stake if we fail to sincerely make every effort to make peace and come together in harmony". As the many of the world's religious communities face one another, often as nuclear-armed states, across heavily militarised borders it is hard to disagree that we are today in great peril if we do not learn the ways of peace and harmony in the midst of all our wonderful diversity. This must start in the small scale with you and I reaching out to build a shared community with our neighbours. If we cannot learn to build shared communities with the people we see in the street or meet at the school gate how can we do so with those we might never see?

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

There are of course many questions that face us as Christians in the effort to build a shared community with people of other religious traditions. One obvious question is: "should we not simply 'evangelise'? Is that not the command Jesus has given to us?" Well yes, we should bear witness to Jesus Christ, which is what we are 'for' as a Church. We can only bear witness, however, if we are properly humble, open and loving towards others. We must present Jesus to the world, the Jesus who is himself 'humble' and who turns no one away, the Jesus who says to us clearly and without qualification "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called Children of God".

There is more, so much more, to be said about interfaith dialogue than I have room for here. If your parish would like to explore the issue further do please get in touch with me. Interfaith encounter happens in Limerick and you can read about some of it at www.midwestinterfaith.org or read up in more detail on Muslim Christian dialogue at www.chrishewer.org or explore the recently published resource "A Journey Together: A Resource for Christian Muslim Dialogue" at www.coistine.ie.

Gathering under the High Cross

by Canon Bob Hanna

Among the many attractions which Ireland affords to the world during the 2013 Gathering, can there be any doubt that our ancient landscape with its spiritual history ranks as an unmatched jewel? There we can find the footprints of those pioneering religious, largely monastic figures and hermits, who in their single minded devotion and simplicity won over the tribal chiefs and people to give up the old pre-Christian Celtic pagan ways. Their unfolding story began with Patrick and can be told against the backdrop of our amazing old abbeys with their unique round towers and the High Crosses, which not only marked out ecclesiastical and sacred territory, but were in a sense bill boards for proclamation of the faith.

COURAGE & HOPE

Throughout our diocese, from Clonmacnois in Offaly to the Skelligs monks off the Kerry Coast, these pioneers opened up new horizons of courage and hope in darkness. The world wants to know about them, their motivation and zeal, their devotion to faith and learning and their creativity (think of the art of the Books of Kells and of Durrow).

Kilfenora in the Burren is a hill top village with a 12th century cathedral, built on a 6th century Early Christian site. There a monastery was founded by Fachtnan, a Bishop from Rosscarberry in Cork, who felt compelled to turn radical for God, to forsake his patrician background and to become a hermit in a strange desert like St Anthony. Understanding why he did so may take a little time, a bit of gathering and fellowship through prayer with others, maybe in a hostelry over tea or a Guinness. Many visitors stand under our High Crosses and seek information and understanding. We are perhaps embarrassed as well as excited by the appetite our many guests have for what we have taken for granted and never quite got round to researching.

Recently Dr Peter Harbison, our top living archaeologist on religious sites, told a gathering in Kilfenora that they sat over the best collection of High crosses in the island. Crosses like the Doorty, one of at least seven linked over centuries with the monastic village. The late renowned Galway scholar Professor Etienne Rynne described Kilfenora as the third most important religious site in Ireland.



The Doorty Cross at Kilfenora

HISTORY PROJECT

Dr Harbison launched the Kilfenora Timeline, a voluntary project spawned by local people to explain the development of the Burren village and its hinterland since earliest times. Much research has produced a bullet point history display set in St Fachnan's Cathedral Church, loaned By Bishop Trevor and Drumcliffe Group of Parishes.



Dr Peter Harbison at the opening of the Kilfenora Timeline project in St Fachnan's Cathedral, with Canon Bob Hanna, Mayor of Clare Cllr Pat Daly and Time Line Chairperson Brian Keenan

At that event I ventured on behalf of our Church that it was a privilege to open the doors and let Kilfenora know that the building belongs to all who cherish our history. I pay tribute to Mr James Kelly and the Timeline team, who will be manning the building every day until at least September. Parish Priest Fr Ned Crosby joined his church choir for the launch ceremony when they sang the Benedictus.

The Clare Pilgrim Way is a walking fellowship, actively seeking to uncover the old pilgrim ways in Clare and bring to the modern searcher a more holistic picture of life than hitherto. It has contributed a history of early Celtic monasticism in the Burren, to undergird this effort. What is this feel for the earth which still has such a hold on the Irish, brought to the warmth and riches of Christ the Incarnate One from out of Nature's wonderful and terrible cauldron? A team of academics, clerics and lay enthusiasts from Concordia University Montreal wanted to know this as they stood under the Doorty Cross with its imagery of the serpent being crushed by the staff of the Abbot figure as it sought to overcome its lay victims. Seeking to interpret it for them was Brian Mooney, inspirational leader of Clare Pilgrim Way, who in addition to having been involved in nearly every cooperative and constructive activity in the Burren over 40 years, writes now as theologian and poet on the hermitical lives of Senan (Iniscattery, Kilrush), Caimin (Inscaltra, Lough Derg), Colman (Eagles Rock and Kilmacduagh) and Fachtnan (Cork and Kilfenora).

Brian has traced the movement of these gospel takers, as they set up centres of faith and hospitality in places as far away as Kiev in Ukraine, and central Europe, as well as Britain. Senan of Iniscattery is possibly linked with Iona and Lindisfarne, two great missionary stations founded by Irishmen, Columcille and Aidan!

A POINTER FOR THE FUTURE?

What is fascinating for us within the joint diocese is the number of very special Celtic sites on our doorstep, and the privilege and responsibility we share to value them and help them to work for the Gospel. Also riveting is the growing awareness of movement of the early Christian Celts between monasteries and church communities, often by river and by sea.

These sites can be important for us to share fellowship as Church of Ireland pilgrims. Might we eventually set such activity into our diocesan 'Gathering to Go' strategy? Could this be a means of new life and opportunity for our struggling and scattered Protestant communities, as we walk ecumenically with our larger and perhaps more "Celtic-orientated" neighbours?

The Eucharist: Part II - The Gathering of God's People

The second of a series of articles on the Eucharist
by Archdeacon Wayne Carney

We are all, I'm sure, aware of this year's Irish tourist promotion, 'The Gathering', which is designed to bring members of the Irish diaspora back for a visit. The term 'gathering' is, however, much older and richer in meaning than a mere tourist promotion – in Greek (the language of the New Testament) it is *'ecclesia'*, which we translate into English as 'Church'.

Appropriately, the beginning of the Eucharist is called, 'The Gathering of God's People'. We come in from all the distraction and busy-ness of our lives, and remind ourselves that we *are* the Church, and prepare to worship Almighty God.

GREETING

We begin with a greeting; usually, 'The Lord be with you', but there are alternatives, especially for Eastertide. This sets the tone immediately – this is not a business meeting or a social gathering, where 'Good morning' might be appropriate – we are about the Lord's business, and we should bring the Lord into it right at the start. This is *not* a time to have announcements; we are concentrating on God, not on bake sales or parish fetes.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Then comes the 'Collect for Purity' – a prayer that our deepest thoughts (the 'thoughts of our hearts') may be pure and holy as we

begin our worship. This prayer dates from at least the 11th Century, and was translated into English by Thomas Cranmer.

PENITENCE

The section called 'Penitence' comes next, though it can be used after the Intercessions. (That can be a good way of making Advent and Lent different from the rest of the Church year.) This begins with Jesus' Two Commandments, or the Ten Commandments, and then the Confession and Absolution. The Absolution, or Promise of Pardon, can only be said by a priest; it is God's promise of pardon for those who are truly penitent. Penitential sentences with the response 'Lord have mercy...' can be used instead of the Confession and Absolution.

GLORIA

The Gathering concludes with the *Gloria in Excelsis*, said or sung. It dates back to the 2nd or 3rd Centuries, and again was translated into English by Cranmer. In his second Prayer Book (1559) he moved it to the end of the service (where it still is in Holy Communion One) to provide a triumphant musical ending in a time before hymns were sung. Now that we do usually end the Eucharist with hymns, it is somewhat superfluous at the end, and so our modern liturgies move it back to its original position. Here it serves as a song of praise to introduce the next part of the service, 'Proclaiming and Receiving the Word' – and more about that next time.

PRAYER CORNER

Collect Reflection – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (18th August 2013), by Joc Sanders

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire, or deserve:
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
save through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.*

This collect is a modernised version of that composed by Cranmer for the first Prayer Book in 1549. It beautifully illustrates the five parts which go to make up a good public prayer:

1. The address: a name of God. In this case, 'Almighty and Everlasting – displaying an appropriate humility.
2. The doctrine: a truth about God's nature that is the basis for our prayer. Our faith teaches us that God is always there for us, and that his gifts to us are more than we could possibly dream of – and of course more than we could ever deserve.
3. The petition: what we ask for. Here we ask not for anything specific, but for God's mercy, in all its abundance – God knows better than we do what it is that we need.
4. The aspiration: what we hope for if the prayer is granted. God has created us as creatures knowing right from wrong, but we all know we find it difficult to do right – we all sin. So we seek forgiveness to still our conscience. And we trust that in his mercy God will give us those good things which as sinners we have no right to expect.
5. The advocacy: the support we rely on. And for Christians this must always be Jesus, the only mediator and advocate. No other person, no matter how saintly, can plead our case before God.

Partners in Prayer – July - August 2013

Each Sunday

The Dioceses of Tuam, Killala & Achonry and Bishop Patrick Rooke
Our Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

7th July, Trinity 6, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese On the Niger (Nigeria) and Rt Revd Owen Chidozie Nwokolo

Our Diocese: Roscrea Parish and Rev Lesley Robinson

14th July, Trinity 7, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Osun North East (Nigeria) and Rt Revd Humphery Olumakaiye

Our Diocese: Shinrone Parish and Rev Michael Johnston

21st July, Trinity 8, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Pennsylvania (USA) and Rt Revd Charles Bennison

Our Diocese: Diocesan Junior Summer Camp in Ovoca Manor starting today

28th July, Trinity 9, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Phulbani (Church of North India) and Rt Revd Bijay Nayak

Our Diocese: Aughrim & Creagh and George Flynn

Partners in Prayer – August 2013

Each Sunday

The Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough and Archbishop Michael Jackson
Our Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

4th August, Trinity 10, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Pretoria (Southern Africa) and Rt Revd Dr Johannes Seoka

Our Diocese: We pray for holiday chaplaincies throughout the diocese and all who join our congregations in the summer months

11th August, Trinity 11, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Rayalaseema (Church of South India) and Rt Revd Dr Kommaddi Birru Yesuvararasad

Our Diocese: Diocesan Senior Summer Camp starting next Saturday in Spanish Point

18th August, Trinity 12, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Rt Revd Filadelfo Oliviera Neto

Our Diocese: Clonfert Parish, Rev Alan Nevin & Rev Patrick Towers

25th August, Trinity 13, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Ruaha (Tanzania) and Rt Revd Joseph Mgoni
Our Diocese: We pray for teachers and young people throughout the diocese as they prepare to return to their studies



God's generous gift to us



Barney says

Hello friends,

The Apostle Paul liked to write letters to encourage the first churches. He wanted to reassure the early Christians and remind them that God was with them.

It was very dangerous to be a Christian in Paul's day. So it was important to be reminded that God would take care of everything they needed.

There would be days when the Christians in Philippi would wonder if following God was worth it.

Paul says it is! God is there for you and he wants the very, very best for us.

That's a promise worth remembering.

Love Barney



Barney's jokes

Why was the broom late?
it over swept!

Why did the child have school lessons in an aeroplane?
He wanted a higher education!



FREEDOM

Today, in this country, it is quite safe to talk about religion. If you want to go to church or Sunday School you can, and if you don't want to, you are not forced to go. Some people at school or work might poke fun at you for being a Christian but that is all. We can all read the Bible in our own language and are free to ask questions. But it hasn't always been like this.



God's word

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (The Message)



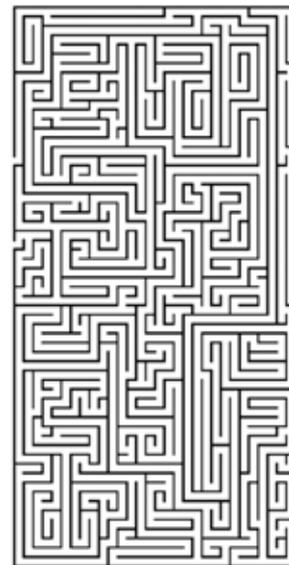
Wordsearch

Can you find all these words in this puzzle? They are from the Bible passage!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| A | L | L | N | O | P | S | T | SURE |
| C | R | A | C | U | C | U | A | GOD |
| J | H | Y | O | U | A | R | K | TAKE |
| E | G | L | B | S | R | E | H | CARE |
| S | S | O | W | N | E | A | N | ALL |
| U | S | G | L | O | R | Y | E | YOU |
| S | Q | G | O | D | L | K | E | NEED |
| N | T | A | K | E | A | M | D | GLORY |
| | | | | | | | | JESUS |

A-MAZING

Can you find your way through this maze? Both the exit and entrance on the left hand side.



Adam and Eve are sitting around Eden when a leaf floats down from a tree. Eve points and says, excitedly: "Look Adam, an invisible man."



What's green, curly and religious?
Lettuce pray.



Let's talk to God!

Dear God, thank you that you are everything we need. Please help us to worship you always. Amen.

Over the centuries many men, women ... and children suffered for their beliefs. Christians were killed by other Christians who argued that their way was the right way and everyone else was wrong. one another - isn't it good that today all Christian churches are working together for peace? And isn't it about time? Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus died for all of us.

Jesus told us that we must love

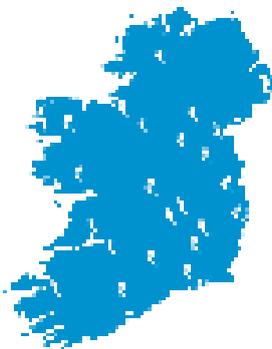


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