



NEWSLINK

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

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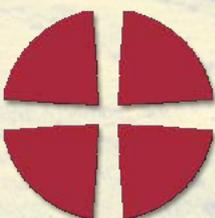
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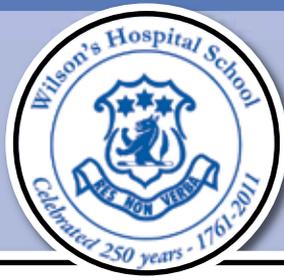


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Celtic cross in Modreeny Churchyard (photo: Stephen Neill)



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The Bishop Writes

HOW ARE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EASTER VESTRY GOING?

Dear Friends,

I was relieved with the change to Summer Time. This winter has been long and dreary for most of us, and for a few absolutely disastrous. Flooding and fierce winds have wreaked havoc across our Dioceses. Spring helps us look forward with hope of better times ahead. After observing Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday, we can really rejoice when the good news of Easter morning arrives.

TIME TO PREPARE

Easter is very late this year – towards the end of this month – 20th April. So there is still time to prepare for your parish's meeting of the Easter Vestry. I know I wrote about this last month. And I wish to reemphasize the main points again. Some of you may feel the Easter Vestry has nothing to do with you. You never go and don't intend to go this year. Please can I implore you to think again about your important contribution to the annual Easter Vestry meeting.

One of the central tasks for this meeting is the election of your Parish's Select Vestry. People have told me that's why they don't go. They don't want to serve on the Select Vestry! But that misses the point. You go to elect the Select Vestry, not to join it. Some people don't attend because they fear they will be forced by others, to allow their name be put forward for election, against their wishes. This is not on!

NOBODY TO BE ELECTED WITHOUT CONSENT

I am asking Rectors to refuse to allow a name be proposed at the meeting if that person has not given their consent to serve. This can take the pressure off the meeting itself. This should be made quite clear in the weeks leading up to the meeting. I am also hoping that the parish will find a way of making the meeting attractive so that as many people as possible will attend. As well as the Easter Vestry business, what else could be added to make the occasion a celebration of all that the parish is and does.

So what are your responsibilities as a member of the Parish concerning the Easter Vestry meeting?

PARISHIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

Firstly, make sure you have signed the form to become a member of the General Vestry. There are two different forms, one for those living within the Parish, and a separate form for those who live outside the parish (accustomed members). Only those who have signed these forms can vote at the Easter Vestry.

Secondly consider the various elections that will take place at the Easter Vestry and who you think would be the best person for the job. You have the opportunity to vote for the People's Churchwarden. This is a key post in the parish. The right person can make all the difference. You will also elect a People's Glebewarden who has the task of looking after the Church property. Then the meeting will elect the Select Vestry. We need a gender and age balance. It is always good to have men and women, young and not so young, working together. Each of them bring different gifts and experiences and working together they can be very effective.

Thirdly, this year we have additional elections. Every three years at the General Vestry meeting Diocesan Synod members and supplementalists are elected. The Diocesan Synod is an extremely important body as it looks after the day to day running of the Dioceses. We need people of vision, commitment and skill from the parishes to take our Diocese forward and develop our parishes. They will serve for a period of three years.

Finally Parochial Nominators and supplementalists will be elected for the next three years. These people will choose your next Rector if there will be a vacancy. It is important that you think carefully who you wish to fulfil this task.

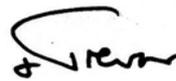
Please think about these posts, and as you do so, pray for your parish. You have a responsibility to elect the best possible leadership for your parish. Fresh blood is essential. No post should be held for life, it is not good for the person or for the parish. Think outside the box!

When you have thought and prayed, ask the people you have chosen whether they would be willing to stand. If so, be willing to propose their name at the meeting, or get someone else to do it for you. We are all involved. We are all responsible for our parish. The Easter Vestry meeting is THE meeting where your voice and your vote really counts. I am asking you to be there, and play your part.

RETIREMENT

Finally, at the meeting of Diocesan Council on the 27th March, I announced that I will be retiring as Bishop at the end of July 2014. It is not a decision I have come to lightly, but I am convinced it is right both for myself, my family and the Dioceses. I will leave very thankful for the privilege of serving this Diocese for the past six years.

Yours in Christ
+Trevor



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Diocesan Calendar

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

Saturday 5th April, 2.30–4.30 pm

GFS Diocesan Service & Prizegiving, Roscrea

Friday 18th – Sat 19th April

UDYC Youth Fellowship Group Easter Retreat,
Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea (5th year +)

Easter Sunday 20th – Monday 21st April, Evening

Play "Drinking Habits", in aid of Shinrone Church, Shinrone
Community Centre.

Tuesday 22nd April, 8pm

Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Friday 25th – Sun 27th April

GFS All Ireland Camp, Wilson's Hospital School,
Multyfarnham, Co Westmeath

Saturday 26th April, 3–5.30 pm

UDYC AGM, Kilmurray Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy

Sunday 27th April – 2.30pm

Dream Auction, in aid of Kinnitty Church, Kinnitty Community
Centre

Saturday 17th May, 7.30–9.30 pm

UDYC Youth Fellowship Group, Kilmurray Church Arts
& Community Centre, Castletroy

Tuesday 27th May, 8pm

Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Friday 30th May – Mon 2nd June

Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, Catherine McCauley House,
Spanish Point, Co Clare (2013 & 2014)

Editorial

A downside of editing Newslink is that it takes me out of the garden for a few days a month. I feel it particularly keenly at this time of year when growth is burgeoning. Every moment is precious. It's so hard to stay on top of all the jobs that need to be done, and to miss the first breaking of any bud is heartbreaking – this morning I saw the first *Magnolia stellata* blossom.

I feel closer to God in my garden than I do in any church building, no matter how magnificent. I find in it clear traces of the Trinity on every side. The loving Father feeds not only me but all his creatures – juicy spears of asparagus to go with my breakfast egg, but also grubs and seeds to feed the birds. The self-giving of the Son is imaged in the three cornered dance of pollinating insects, fruit trees and seed-dispersing animals, and a worker bee's labour to raise a sister's brood. And the continuing creative power of the Spirit is evident in constant death and resurrection and the kaleidoscopic variety of life poured out by evolution.

Divine revelation did not cease when the last full stop was written in the last book of Scripture – God's amazing creation all around us is a continuing revelation, to which we should give more heed.

God Bless,
Joc Sanders,
Editor

An Illustrated History of the Church of Ireland

A limited supply at €25 is available at St Mary's Cathedral. Those wishing to purchase a copy or copies, are required to pay cash – cheques cannot be accepted – and collect them from the Cathedral, as copies cannot be posted. Contact 061- 310 293, or Peggy at 087 - 285 0974 or email peggyrcarey@hotmail.com.

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardferd, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emlly, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh. 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 received a 'Highly Commended' award in the Church of Ireland Communications Competition for diocesan magazines at General Synod 2013.

EDITOR

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.

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for May 2014, published for Sunday 4th May 2014. **All material must reach the Editor by Friday 18th April 2013 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.**

NOTE THIS IS GOOD FRIDAY – please don't leave your notes until the last moment.



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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,

Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2014

(unchanged from 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
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Council for Mission Conference at Dromantine

Report by Damian Shorten, Rathkeale Group of Parishes

The Church of Ireland Council for Mission held a conference in the beautiful surroundings of the Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Co. Down on 28 Feb–1 March 2014 with guest speakers the Revd Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, Bishop of London.

This extremely positive and refreshing event drew together representatives from all twelve dioceses and different organisations within the Church, to engage with the general theme, "How can we articulate the Mission of the Church of Ireland in a way that engages and is accessible to all?" Edward Hardy (Clonfert Group of Parishes) and Damian Shorten (Rathkeale Group of Parishes) represented the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe.

BISHOP RICHARD CHARTRES

As well as worship and discussion in small groups, a large part of the weekend consisted of input from those involved in various forms of missional leadership and ministry in different contexts. The first keynote address by the Bishop of London Richard Chartres gave us an insight into the encouraging story of the Diocese of London over the past number of years, which has been one of considerable growth under a vision and mission strategy called 'Capital Vision'. Some of Bishop Chartres' most thought-provoking points included:

- intentionality and authenticity in our identity and recognition of who we are as disciples of Christ are key factors associated with Church growth
- his emphasis on 'voting for life' (affirming and encouraging those who are being faithful to Christ's mission, even if different from us in churchmanship or style of worship, yet still united with us in a 'generous orthodoxy')
- there will be no renewal within the Church without a renewed engagement with Holy Scripture and the reality of a deep prayer life, which will then be tested by our compassion for each other and for the world
- the calling and equipping of Church members to be 'ambassadors for Jesus Christ' in their daily lives, driven by the shocking statistic that in the Church of England 36% of Anglicans involved in their parishes have no sense of the importance and responsibility of passing on the faith, even within their own family.

REV. DR. HEATHER MORRIS

The other keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. In an inspiring and heartening address on 'what is God doing today?' drawing on 2 Kings 6:15-16, we were left under no illusion that our God is working in this island. Referencing Holman Hunt's painting 'Christ

the Light of the World', Dr. Morris illustrated a powerful image of Jesus standing at the door of His Church, knocking and inviting us out into the world where the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are already at work. She reminded us that our calling to be 'in but not of the world' (cf. John 15:19) is not a separatist manifesto, but an opportunity to 'dwell' in the world as Jesus did, in order to bless it and proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom to it. In describing what it means to 'dwell', Dr. Morris adopted a phrase used by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, that 'we cannot be just a rotary club with a pointy roof', but must always bear in mind our calling and mission under God of sharing the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to the entire world. In times of decreased resources in the Church, numerically and financially, we need to recognise the duty of being visionary and forward looking, ever looking at where God is leading us next. This is the difference between being a 'faithful remnant' and an insular tribe, stubbornly refusing to recognise the necessity of change or movement in order to be faithful to God's agenda, rather than our own.

FELLOWSHIP & UNITY

We spent fruitful time during the weekend in small group discussions and presentations on articulating the mission of the Church of God, and what role the Church of Ireland can play in that. We were privileged to have several speakers share their experiences of mission, ministry, and renewal in varied contexts – urban, rural, 'traditional' churches, new expressions of Church, and Church planting. Above all, for me personally, the highlight and abiding memory of the Conference was the fellowship and atmosphere of unity in Christ, with all present infectiously passionate about the mission of Christ in 21st century Ireland. Ultimately, the experience of the weekend can be described as the awakening of a new vision, rooted in, as Heather Morris expressed, the wrestling of God with His Church, creating a 'wonderful consistency', evident in the hearts and minds of all those present, in the recognition of the vital responsibility and privilege that has been shared with us as 'servants of Christ and stewards of the mystery of God' (1 Corinthians 4:1), to be carried out in the power of His Holy Spirit, the true agent of mission.

For more information please see the following resources:

- Link to audio files of Conference talks, PowerPoint presentations, and our diocesan representatives' pre-Conference submission: www.dropbox.com/sh/dw95gqz9k7qhokr/p-es1T05qq
- Google 'From Anecdote to Evidence' (report on Church growth recommended by the Bishop of London)



At the Conference: L-R: Rev Andrew Quill; Brigid Barrett; Bishop Harold Miller; Rev Dr Heather Morris; Bishop Richard Chartres; Rev Paul Hoey

Máirt's Musings – Whose chocolate biscuits?

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

Okay, right so... in the spirit of St. Patrick, whose day it was just prior to me sitting down to write this article, I feel I should engage in my own confession.

This is also because I feel that I have learned something very important from the great saint's life. If there is something out there that people might accuse you of, get your apology in first – then you'll wrong foot them and won't have to write big long apologies or explanations to your ecclesiastical superiors. So here goes. Having recently been in print extolling the virtues of going without, or having less, I feel that I should come clean and admit that I have not always really done Lent properly. Often I think that my giving up something was tokenistic or that the thing I took up was something that I should really be doing all the time anyway. There have even been years where I don't think I gave up or took on anything!

Now maybe that is because there is a more 'all can, some do, nobody has to' attitude to everything in the Church of Ireland. However, I suspect that the truth is a little more sinister. I think that some years I was too busy to think of something and then it just passed me by. But some years I probably thought to myself, "I do enough as it is – I'm not doing any more". It might be said that that is not necessarily a wrong statement: if I am doing all I can for God and society, well then no one should expect me to do more. The problem is that often I suspect the underlying thought in my head was something like, "I give that Jesus fellow nearly all of my time, he's not going to have my chocolate biscuits as well!"

This line of thought is of course based on the idea that if I give X amount of my time to God that I should be entitled to A,

B or C. I think that this type of thinking is quite common in the western world. We look around ourselves at all the wonders of life and start pointing at bits and saying "I'm entitled to that". Even in our giving up for Lent, there is often the subtext of 'what a fine fellow I am' for forgoing my entitlement to a cream bun for 40 days.



There was one Lent where I did actually give up something substantial. But I substituted it with something else, so I could still have something nice – because everyone deserves something nice, don't they? Well, not this Lent. This time I have done a bit of serious giving up and not just so I can gloat.

The reason I have done it properly is because I don't like the idea of a culture of entitlement running rampant, while we sit in the midst of a Garden of Eden failing to appreciate all that we do have, and all that comes to us for free. In giving up my chocolate biscuits I'm trying to remind myself that being alive is something that I want to thank God for. And at the end of the day, that chocolate biscuit, and all chocolate biscuits, are God's anyway. God can have this one so that after Easter, when I do have one of His biscuits, I will be truly thankful and hopefully appreciate the effort that went into getting that biscuit to me.

Barefoot for Holy Week

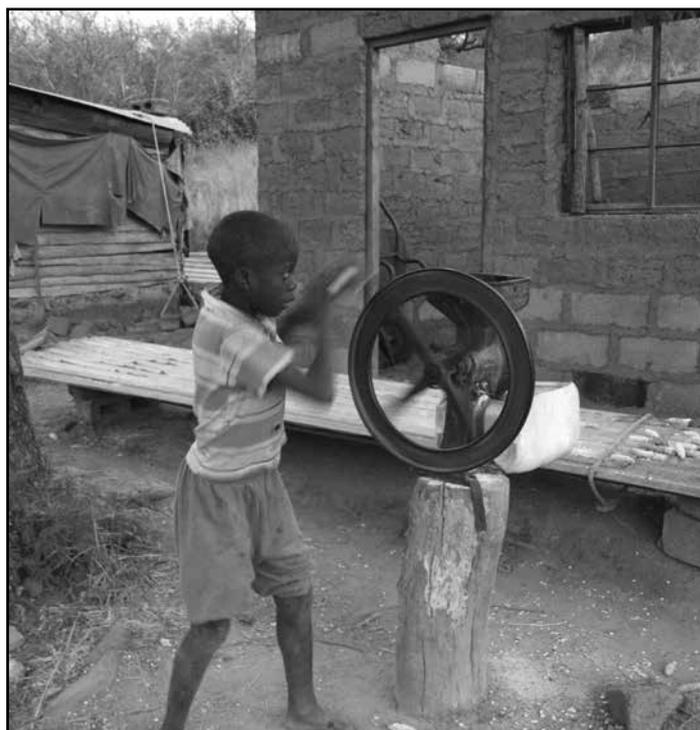
Linda Chambers of The United Society is planning to go barefoot for Holy Week.

"My feet are used to the protection of socks, slippers, shoes and boots. I am uncomfortable in bare feet, even around the house. The pupils in the primary schools of Swaziland have much tougher feet; they walk many miles barefoot, in all kinds of weather, and over all sorts of terrain. They have no socks, slippers, shoes or boots. In solidarity with them, and to raise funds for Swazi schools, I plan to go barefoot for Holy Week."

Pupils like Celi Mdluli walk many kilometres to school and back every day without shoes. Most of this walking is across country, muddy in the summer and cold and dusty in the winter. Most of the schools are situated in mountainous areas, where we would find walking difficult in good sturdy shoes – barefoot for us would be impossible. A big incentive to make the journey for many is the lack of food at home and the promise of a hot meal in school. Schools struggle to meet the cost of these meals.

Any money Linda raises will go to the Diocese of Swaziland Board of Education, which looks after the 22 Anglican primary schools and 4 Anglican high schools. The establishment of this board means that decisions regarding local priorities are taken locally and we know that those schools most in need of help receive it first.

You can help by joining her or sponsoring her. You can sponsor her on this link: www.lindaatuspg.blogspot.com or contact her on: 086 8586337 or us@ireland.anglican.org. Donations can be sent to Us, Egan House, St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7.



Celi Mdluli grinding corn on the homestead where he lives

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN NEWS

Congratulations to Michelle Armitage of Cloughjordan branch for being selected to be the Junior Delegate to World Council in Wales this year. Michelle will represent Ireland at all meetings and events at the 2 week gathering of world GFS in Wales in July. Best of luck to Michelle and all attending the World Council.

GFS Diocesan Service in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on Saturday, 5th April – followed by refreshments and Cake Sale and stalls in the adjoining hall.

GFS Diocesan Council Meeting on Thursday, 1st May.

CLOUGHJORDAN

Our Mini-Market remains popular each week and is well-supported. Our thanks go to everybody concerned.

Bible Study and Craft work was completed in March in time for judging for the Diocesan Service and Prizegiving on 5th April.

We have had great fun working for our Cookery Badge. Each girl has prepared a scrapbook of recipes. The scrapbooks have been decorated and contain recipes individually chosen and illustrated. We baked shortbread one week and we also made chocolate marshmallow biscuits using bunny marshmallows as we look forward to Easter. We also had a tea party. We used tablecloths to cover our tables and set them with china cups and saucers, cutlery and serviettes. We enjoyed a delicious spread of buns, tray bakes and biscuits. Thank you Grace and Helen for a lovely party. Happy Easter everybody.

ROSCREA BRANCH

The senior members enjoyed an evening of Hairdressing Techniques. Jean Cunningham demonstrated different styles for long hair, gave tips on hair care and answered questions. The girls couldn't wait to get home to practise on sisters and friends. The meeting finished with supper and fellowship. Feedback was encouraging and an evening on another topic is planned.

The rest of the girls are busy with crafts and bible study. They will work on badges next.

We were honoured to have Rose Langley, Diocesan President, at our enrolment service. It was great having two new Leaders and some new members. Archdeacon Carney conducted the Service.

Some of the girls and Leaders are looking forward to the All Ireland Camp in Wilson's Hospital School. A lively programme has been arranged for the camp.



Roscrea Enrolment Service

NENAGH BRANCH

Girls took part in St. Patrick's Day Service in St. Mary's Church on Sunday 16th March.

5 girls from Nenagh are looking forward to All Ireland Camp 25-27 April.

Next meeting of the branch is on Saturday 12th April in the Croft Hall, St. Mary's No.2 National School.



Birr Enrolment Service



1ST NENAGH COMPANY

Nenagh BB has turned 2 already! What did we do with ourselves before Boys' Brigade?! We have grown and developed (Leaders and boys!), we have tried different ideas for activities and crowd control and we are now most definitely getting there!!

Something that we are delighted with is the introduction of our badge system. Our first badge, "Basic Health & Fitness" was formed on the back of Kevin Murray's visit (remember our Strong Man). We

have devised a badge pack that is challenging, but achievable, with elements that include the food pyramid, running (sprint and longer distance) and general training. Each boy was presented with their pack at the end of the Winter Olympics evening and assessment evening will be in May, with badges presented in May's Family Worship (where BB will also be presenting "Joshua"). We hope they are as excited about it as we are! We will support them along the way to make sure they are ready and able for their assessment.

Kevin has offered to come along in May to do the assessment with us. The next badge will be cycling safety and then a craft badge, but let's not get too far ahead....

We'll get creative with Mothers' Day and Easter coming up – and active with the Midlands Region Fun Day! This event is open to all ages. It's a full day of fun activities so we are hoping for a huge turnout. It's a great opportunity for our boys to mix with other groups and feel part of the great, big organisation!

A big "Thank you" to those who have supported us over the last two years, with advice and encouragement, to the parents who bring their boys - despite some logistical challenges, mind other boys to help other parents, have come up with ideas, who give up their time to help us out on the "duty rota"... The biggest "THANK YOU" of course goes to the brilliant boys who challenge us, make us laugh and make us proud. Here's looking forward to the next year!

1ST TRALEE COMPANY



The 1st Tralee Company (Church of St. John the Evangelist, Tralee) took part in the St Patrick's Day Parade - their entry was called "Under the Sea"

United Diocesan Youth Council

SPRING MADNESS WEEKEND

Report by Caroline Dix (leader)



Ready for Karting in Watergrasshill on Spring Madness Weekend

Spring Madness has always been a great opportunity to explore and learn more about our relationship with God. This year, we concentrated more on how to talk to him and how he talks to us. Our guest speaker [Rev. Sarah Marry, Curate, Douglas Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross] showed us a piece of Scripture telling us about the importance of personal prayer in our daily lives. We can feel free to express ourselves, to ask for his blessing without fear of others judging us for what words we use. She used an example of Bart Simpson (from the cartoon series *The Simpsons*), who had an exam the next day that he had to pass in order to avoid repeating the fourth grade. He begged God, using his own words, talking to Him as if he were a fellow human being, asking for one more day to study. Fortunately, the school closed down due to snow and Bart studied all day, and when the exam came, he only just passed. This is a very good example of a prayer, despite Bart's reputation as a troublemaker, as he was not afraid to be himself. He was, in a sense, the lost sheep from the Parable of The Lost Sheep, which we also looked at. Like the sheep, Bart lost his way. He revelled in pulling pranks and causing chaos. But once he realised it was distracting him from what was important - his education - he gave up his wicked ways (although it was for just the one day, but that in itself is a miracle) and was saved by the Lord from being left behind. This one example of prayer shows us that no matter how far we stray from the light, God will always be there to help us in the darkness.

WEST ALIVE WEEKEND

Report in next Newslink!

DIOCESAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GROUP EASTER RETREAT

U.D.Y.C Diocesan Youth Fellowship Group Easter Vigil Event is taking place overnight from 5 pm on Good Friday (18th April) to 11.00 pm Easter Saturday (19th April 2014) at Clairvaux House, Roscrea. As this is the most significant weekend in the Christian year, this retreat offers the opportunity to journey together with fellow young Christian disciples, through the darkness of Good Friday to the glory of the Resurrection celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Throughout the weekend there will be times of prayer, worship, reflection, silence, learning and discussion. We also hope to climb the hill of Knockshegowna on Saturday afternoon. It is hoped to join with the congregations of Birr Union of Parishes for their worship celebrating these most important days in our Faith. Free transport is available from Roscrea to venue on Friday evening and back to Roscrea again on Saturday night. The total cost is €30. All participants must be in 5th year in secondary school.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert will take place on Saturday 26th April 2014 in Kilmurry Church Community & Arts Centre, Castletroy, Limerick, commencing with a time of worship and thanksgiving at 3 p.m. All are very welcome and it would be great to see many people from throughout the United Dioceses attend to support the Youth Council and our young people.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will take place this year at Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare from Friday 30th May to Monday 2nd June 2014. The weekend is specifically for all those confirmed from throughout United Diocese during 2013 and in 2014. We hope Bishop Trevor and Archdeacon Wayne Carney will lead our worship times and that Canon Bob Hanna will lead a pilgrimage walk in the Burren.

As always the usual mix of UDYC activities will take place during the weekend including outdoor watersport activities, surfing at Lahinch Surf School, trip to Doolin Cave, icebreaker games, walks, good food, disco and much more besides.

There will be transport to/from from the following pick up points: Roscrea, Nenagh, Limerick, Tralee, Killorglin, Adare. The weekend

will cost €80 plus €20 for return transport. Please note that booking forms will be available shortly from all Rectors in United Diocese or from Edward Hardy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Anyone who would like to know about opportunities to share more fully in the life of their local Church for themselves or young people they know, or who would just like to ask some questions or need some encouragement, do not hesitate to contact me.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or myself, or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

DIARY DATES

See Diocesan Calendar page 3.

Until next month, Damian

Mobile: 087 227 4663,

Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org Please note new email address!

Children's Ministry Network

Report on the website launch by Lydia Monds, Children's Ministry Development Officer

Rev Jane Galbraith, our diocesan Children's Ministry Network representative, will provide regular notes in future issues. She hopes to organise a training day shortly, and would like to hear from anyone interested in children's ministry generally, or training for it in particular. You can contact her on 085 145 0804, email galbraithjane@gmail.com.

On 24th February a new Church of Ireland Children's Ministry website was launched (www.cm.ireland.anglican.org) that is bursting full of ideas to support and encourage children's ministry leaders. The site is being hosted by the Sunday School Society for Ireland and the Children's Ministry Network. As time goes on more ideas will be added and people will be updated as well as welcomed to share ideas through the Facebook forum: www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry

Alongside the website, there is the opportunity to avail of training. Derry and Raphoe and Cork, Cloyne and Ross Children's Ministry Network Representatives organised Training Days recently, both to equip leaders in guiding children through Lent and Easter. The wealth of concepts, creative prayers, crafts, reflections, dramas, songs, activities and Bible verses and stories certainly gave all who attended the tools and the support needed to send children home each week with something in their hearts and a reminder of what they have learnt in their hands.

People completed both trainings with a renewed sense of vigour and a fresh perspective on how children can participate and grow in understanding during this vital time in the Church's calendar. Children's leaders also left feeling encouraged about the vital yet often unassuming role they play in the church when providing children not just with learning but with a sense of belonging and of being loved. 'A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way'. Through example and by following the example of Jesus, Children's Ministry workers can provide the space for children to explore faith.

The website coupled with training will continue to provide this encouragement to leaders in a practical way and on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

For more information on availing of any of the above contact Lydia at sss@ireland.anglican.org.



At the launch of the CofI Children's Ministry website

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

We were delighted to welcome Róisín Meaney, who is a local writer, to school in February. She visited all the classrooms and read from one of her books. She also answered lots of questions about her own experience as a writer. We learned that it is quite common to have books rejected by publishers and her advice was to keep on trying. Good advice!

The highlight in February was our fashion show organised by the Parents' Association. Congratulations to the organising committee on a wonderful evening's entertainment with present and past pupils modelling accessories from local shops. A number of our dads were brave enough to walk down the catwalk and they all got a great round of applause. Models from the Celia Holman Lee Agency modelled the latest Spring collection from many boutiques in the Limerick and Clare area. Not only was the evening most enjoyable but it also raised a considerable amount of money for the school and for the Alzheimer's Association.

Our Parents' Association has also been busy collecting old clothes, shoes and bags for recycling so well done to all concerned in this venture.

A team from the Health Promoting Schools Initiative held a parents' evening in the school in early March to explain what this initiative is all about and we look forward to working together in the coming months and years to achieve this status.

The school was delighted to welcome back two past-pupils as part of their work experience in Transition year. James Walker and Laura Cooke both attend Villiers School and they had a busy couple of weeks helping out in all the classrooms. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils and it was lovely to have them back in St. Nicholas'.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was packed full of activities which included some cluichí as Gaeilge, Céilí mór and Tráth na gCeist (quiz). The pupils and teachers added lots of green, white and gold to their attire on our Lá Gaeilge which was held on the 14th March. Tá súil againn gur bhain gach duine taitneamh as an seachtain.

The senior pupils are working away on the next edition of the school magazine. They hope to have it ready by Easter.

The senior pupils took part in a 5-a-side soccer tournament on a very wet Friday 21st March. Despite the heavy showers they had an enjoyable day and had some good success on the soccer pitch. Thanks to Ms. Brown and Mrs. Keane who looked after them on that expedition.



Tráth na gCeist in St. Nicholas'



Presentation of Fashion Show proceeds to Alzheimers Association

St Mary's No.2 National School, Nenagh

See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices;
Fields and gardens hail the spring;
Shaughs and woodlands ring with voices,
While the wild birds build and sing.
Charles Kingsley, Easter Week

Now that St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, we return to our books with renewed energy, marvelling at how the terms have flown, and how much work there is yet to do.

We continue with our Lenten focus and students will be

supporting Christian Aid with our School Sale on April 9th. Christian Aid works to overcome poverty in some of the world's poorest communities in over fifty countries.

It has been a busy term for our students and teachers. French Classes continue with Ms Healy-Bernard. Our Dance coaching programme has concluded and was greatly enjoyed. We had School Photo Day, followed by Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our Public Health Nurse did health screening for Junior Infants and Sixth Class in March.

As part of our commitments to the Green Flag programme, and to the protection of our local environment, our students will be doing their annual "Spring Clean" on April 11th. On that day, we will clean the school grounds and the surrounding environs, including St. Mary's Church grounds and part of Church Road.

We look forward to our Palm Service on 11th April, an uplifting close to the term and a wonderful preparation for reflection during the Easter break.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful Easter break. Le gach deaghú agus beannachtaí na Cáisce.

St Michael's National School, Limerick

We have had our second successful school cake sale this year. Mrs Robinson's classroom hosted it and managed to raise €250. The date had already been chosen before realizing that we were in the season of Lent! Much discussion took place as to whether we should or should not enjoy sweet things as a number of pupils had decided to abstain. It was agreed that special dispensation would be appropriate, seeing as the proceeds of this cake sale would be going towards two worthy causes. One of the causes is the purchase of a tree to donate to the People's Park to replace one of the many old, beautiful trees that fell in the storm; the other being a local charity.



At St. Michael's School Cake Sale

Our active and enthusiastic PTA organized a book fair. Thanks to the generosity of many parents €1,000 worth of books were purchased. 50% of this sum returns to the school to purchase Scholastic books for each classroom. There is such an emphasis on the importance of reading and the enjoyment of books in St Michael's NS that we are always delighted to add to our existing collection.

One of our Spikeball teams qualified for the Munster Finals in Cork and represented the school well.

We are delighted to welcome our Principal Rosalind Stevenson back to school after recuperating from an operation. In her absence, we have been privileged to have Sinéad Franklin return to teach in the Learning Support post.

Emma Fisher has been busy again with 5th and 6th Classes making a spectacular sun, moon and stars which was used in the production of Noye's Fludde in St Mary's Cathedral last month. Seán Ngue Awane, Tara Keating, Matthew Chalia and Ernest Unachukwu have been busy practising with gusto!

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

The school took part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and were awarded the Tiobraid Árann ag Labhairt prize for their entry. Congratulations to all involved.

We are delighted to have won our Staffing Appeal and will return to a three teacher school in September. We are currently enrolling for September 2014. Applications available from the school at 0505 21636.

Class grouping will have less than 20 in a classroom. Pupils have access to Learning Support and Resource.

Pupils are enjoying Hockey and Tennis and the pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th Class took part in a Rugby Blitz in Roscrea Rugby Club.

Sixth class pupils hosted our Annual Pancake Hour. They were assisted by Mrs Judy Pearson who made crepes as they were needed. They raised €260.00 for The North Tipperary Children's Services.

Kiltallagh National School

Our senior room recently had the wonderful privilege of visiting our local Art Gallery in Killorglin to view the paintings of the world renowned artist Pauline Bewick.

Pauline was born in 1935 into a family descended from the Northumbrian wood engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick. The formative influence on Pauline's early life, however, was her mother, Alice ('Harry') Graham Bewick, who, in 1938, ran away to Ireland from her husband, bringing Pauline and her older sister Hazel to Kenmare. There they fostered two orphaned children, Lucy and Michael, living together for six years on an isolated farm – this story is told in *A Wild Taste*. Harry, always, encouraged the children to paint and draw, and at the age of 2½, Pauline did her first pencil sketches progressing within a few years to oils and poster paints. These early works survive, as Harry kept them through their travels in a battered suitcase. Indeed these works are now to be seen as part of Pauline's Seven Ages Collections donated to the Irish State in 2006.

When the family moved from Kerry they lived briefly in Northern Ireland, before enrolling Pauline for progressive schooling, in England then Wales. Later living on a houseboat on the Kennet and Avon canal, Pauline painted copiously, instead of doing her homework, which was difficult due to her dyslexia. In 1949, they returned to Ireland living in Cork then Kerry. In 1950 Pauline went to the National College of Art in Dublin where she met Pat Melia, a young medical student, with whom she formed a lifelong relationship. There they enjoyed a vibrant, creative and cultural life. Pauline was commissioned to illustrate books and magazines; she sang in a nightclub and became a set designer and actor with the famous Pike Theatre.

She had her first exhibition in 1957 in the Clog Gallery, Dublin after which she moved to London where she successfully exhibited her paintings. BBC Television commissioned Pauline to illustrate and write a series of ten minute programmes called "Little Jimmy". The income from this allowed her to spend time travelling Greece and around the Mediterranean.

In 1963 Pauline moved back to Dublin and married Pat. Poppy was born in 1966 and Holly in 1970. Pauline yearned for a country up-bringing for the girls, so they moved to Kerry in 1973 where Pat was appointed as consultant psychiatrist in Killarney.

The past 35 years have seen Pauline's work develop into an internationally recognisable style, becoming an integral part of Ireland's cultural legacy. The artist herself, however, continues to follow her own path. Over the years she has created work which reflects her own philosophies, such as the Yellow Man, her ideal being. She lived with the Maurie people for over two years in the

South Pacific, painting and writing, hoping to find the perfect society.

On turning 70, Pauline donated 500 pieces of her life's work to the Irish Nation. The Seven Ages Collection represents each decade and facet of a woman's life, and is on display in Waterford and in Killorglin, Co. Kerry. A further travelling collection of 250 pieces are available to exhibit worldwide.

To this day Pauline's artistic work is central to her life. She remains rooted in the present. She is always open to new artistic challenges.

Our artist in residence, Kate Landers gave us a guided tour of the Pauline Bewick gallery. Afterwards the children were invited to sketch their favourite piece of work. We plan to invite Pauline to our school in the near future to have our very own private audience with her as her work was truly inspirational to the children. Mile bhuiochas Pauline.



Kiltallagh Students at Pauline Bewick Exhibition

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Credit Union Quiz

Eight of our pupils took part in the Credit Union Quiz in Birr, our senior team comprising Christy Keaveny, Adam Fletcher, Raymond Armitage and Lyndsey Armstrong were in third place at the end of the evening. The second team with Orey Higgins, Josh Mc Dowell, Laura Bulfin and John Phair finished in second place in their age group. Well done to them all.

Lenten Project

All the students are busy working on our Lenten project which is in aid of Swaziland and the School Building Fund this year.

Pancake Day

Thanks to Georgina Armitage and Breda Phealan O'Meara for making a huge batch of pancakes for the pupils to purchase in aid of Parents Association funds and the Children's Hospital in Tallaght. This has become something of a tradition and is a very popular day with the children.

Gymnastics

We have started a six week block of gymnastics lessons with Mrs. Feehan, the pupils really enjoy these classes using the equipment in the hall, we are so grateful to the Parents Association for funding half of the cost of this again this year.

Book Fair

We held a very successful book fair last week, earning €330 worth of free books for the class libraries.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day at school this year the pupils from Infants to Sixth Classes dressed up as their favourite character from a book, we had a lovely collection of characters from Harry Potter to Cinderella. A group of senior students represented the school at a quiz in Birr Library – Andrew Coghlan, Jennifer Bailey, Jessica Bailey and Christy Keaveny finished in third place.

Cantata

Mr. Micheal Hanna has been working with the senior pupils to prepare them to partake in singing a Cantata at the service in St. Brendan's on 6th April.

The school community are very grateful to Mr. Jack Ryan for his dedicated work with the senior classes during Mrs. Colton's absence.



World Book Day Fashion!

St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

St John's Parochial School recently welcomed two new students to our school. Miszel and Zachariasz Bielecki started in the Junior room. They recently moved, with their family, from Poland to live in Tralee and we welcome them and their family to our school community.

It is also the time of year when we look ahead to enrolment for the next school year and request that anybody looking for information would contact the school, either by calling in person or by ringing 066 7128142.

Work on our school garden was delayed due to the very wet and stormy weather. However, now that Spring has finally taken hold, the students have started work in the garden. The vegetable raised beds are looking very well – all the post winter debris and weeds have been cleared away and the students barrowed the compost from the Church Yard to the garden. We hope also to put a fence around this area to define the school garden and will put paving around the raised beds. There are also plans for a flower garden in this area.

The children in the Junior Room – including the Infants and Senior Infants Classes - will also be planting individual garden tubs. This is at the early stages of planning at the moment but with advice and help from June, Eleanor and Izabela we look forward to a very colourful garden for the late Spring and Summer. Thank you to Izabela for her long hours of work on the shrub garden – it is looking very well and to June for her work on the flower garden at the entrance. Bill from Liscahane Nursery Sue and Michael Latchford will visit to give advice and assistance.



Feeding the birds

Last autumn the children in the Junior Room, with the help and assistance of June, planted spring bulbs. The crocuses and snowdrops have bloomed already and we now have daffodils brightening up our flower garden. We continue to feed the birds while the weather is cold and have nut and seed feeders strategically placed around the school. The senior classes look after this task. On Shrove Tuesday the children had the opportunity to try out their skills in the kitchen and they made pancakes under the watchful eyes of some of the Parents' Association. Thanks to all involved for another great experience. And yes indeed, they did toss the pancakes and there was "one for everybody in the audience"!

The children in the Junior Room have been busy in their Art Classes and have produced some wonderful birds' nests and eggs – these were made from clay and painted by the children. We had some additional "Art Activity" for St. Patrick's Day and are working on our Easter art at the moment. In addition we are looking ahead to the Kingdom County Fair in May. We traditionally enter the art competitions and also the produce classes. We wish them all good luck!

Despite the bad weather, we have football training and tag rugby each week with Linda and Eddie Barnes, respectively. Hurling and cricket will start soon..

As part of our Lenten activities Rev Jane will be working on a Lenten Frieze with the students – the story of Lent and Easter from the desert/wilderness straight through to the Resurrection. We look forward to having it on display in the school.

Congratulations to:- Peace Ovbude, of 6th class who recently won 1st prize in the Free Style Dancing Competitions in Killarney. There was huge opposition with competitors from Ireland, England and Scotland; and to Christian Steinborn, a past pupil, – who won the Young Entrepreneur Award for his Cable Tidies initiative. Well done Peace and Christian!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all a very happy Easter Season!

Slan go foil.



Gardening has started

Rathkeale No 2 National School

JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR

We were delighted to take part in the first ever Junior Science Fair in Limerick. The event was held in Limerick Institute of Technology on Thursday 6th March from 7pm. Our pupils, along with the pupils from three other County Limerick schools took part. Each school had been given a selection of strands from the Science Curriculum to study and to carry out some experiments. We then partnered up our pupils and gave them responsibility for an experiment which they practised and got to know very well. Their task was to encourage people visiting the Science Fair to try out the experiments after predicting what they thought would happen. On Tuesday 26th February we had a visit from Michael and Maria, two of the co-ordinators of the event. They facilitated workshops in each of the classrooms and demonstrated how to investigate scientifically.

We hope that all of you who visited the Junior Science Fair enjoyed the event. Our pupils did us proud on the evening as they were very capable in demonstrating their experiments, not only did they know what would happen but they were also able to explain why things happened. The pupils were each awarded with a certificate of participation and a rosette. The school was presented with a plaque in recognition of this, the first Junior Science Fair in Limerick, organised by Limerick Education Centre.



Junior Scientist Award

BOOK DAY

To mark Book Day the pupils came to school dressed as a character from one of their favourite books. Congratulations to Lauren from 1st class for winning the prize as best interpretation of her character, Enid Blyton's Amelia Jane.



World Book Day Fancy Dress Show

OPEN HOUR

We held an Open Hour for new pupils and their parents on Thursday 13th March between 3pm and 4pm. This gave people the

opportunity to see the school and meet the staff. We were delighted to welcome seven families to the Open Hour and we look forward to their children joining us in September.

The closing date for applications for September 2014 is Wednesday 30th April. Application forms are available at the school office or can be downloaded from our website, www.rathkealens.ie

SYMPATHY

We pass on our sincere sympathy to the Barry family on the recent death of Mr Pat Barry. Pat had been our caretaker for the past number of years and always did a great job in keeping the school clean for us and carrying out minor repairs and maintenance work.

COFFEE AFTERNOON CAKE SALE

The pupils will be hosting a coffee afternoon and bring and buy cake sale in the school on Thursday 10th April starting at 1pm. Proceeds raised will go towards school funds and all are welcome to attend.

St. John's National School, Shannon

Pupils at St. John's love to read and, as part of World Book Day, the staff and children were delighted to welcome No 1. bestselling children's author, Maria Burke, to our school. Maria has written the 'Ark of Dun Ruah' series and our pupils are avid fans. Maria is also an accomplished artist and during her visit she discussed how her paintings inspired her stories and vice versa. She also encouraged the children's passion for writing and answered all of their questions, signed copies of her book and posed for photographs.



Author Maria Burke with St. John's students

Our winning streak continues with three pupils from Ms. Noone's classroom winning prizes in Supermac's recent colouring competition. The children were very surprised and excited to see a giant white bunny arriving at the school door, complete with a scooter for winner Rory Huynh, an "Angry Bird's" plush toy for runner-up Dean Duggan, and a meal voucher for Matthew McKinney.



A giant white bunny presented prizes



Villiers School

SENIOR BOYS HOCKEY FINAL

Congratulations to the senior boys who reached the Munster Cup Final after defeating Ashton School 3-2 away in their semi-final.

Bandon Grammar School were their opponents in the final. We started off nervously and were

1-0 down at half time but still very much in the game. The second half saw a flurry of goals from end to end. Unfortunately the final score saw us defeated 6-3 by a better side on the day. Our squad were a little deflated and felt they certainly were capable of more. Our scorers on the day were David Cardy, Roy Gleeson and Johnny Powell.

TY OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Our TYs are preparing themselves for their annual trip to the wilds of Achill Island after the Easter break. As part of their preparations they will be climbing Keeper Hill and completing the third leg of the 'Lough Derg Way' from Killaloe to The 'Look Out' near Portroe.

TY WORK EXPERIENCE

Our TYs are just back from two weeks' work experience and a taste of the real world. Many thanks to those wide and varied companies who facilitated them. They are back to us with stories abound and certainly enjoyed their experiences.

BOYS RUGBY

The season has continued to progress well.

The Junior Boys reached the final of the Mungret Shield by

defeating Bandon Grammar in a replay. They will face Newtown in the final.

Next year's Junior and Senior squads traveled up to Dublin to play Kings Hospital on the 7th March and made a weekend out of it, taking in the Ireland v Italy match.

The first, second and senior boys have continued to train hard. The 2nd years have been involved in the Cleary Cup since February.

MUSIC

On Wednesday March 19th Leaving Cert Music students performed a wonderful lunch time concert in St. Mary's Cathedral. The students were accompanied by Mr. Peter Barley and Ms. Sinead O'Sullivan. The varied programme included soloists, pianists, harpists, guitarists and traditional musicians.

SKI TRIP

Our Villiers ski trip this year brought us to Folgaria in Italy. A total of 45 students and staff traveled to the snow capped hills. The majority of the group comprised of TY students with some Form 2 and 5 also. We were blessed with plenty of snow and Folgaria, yet again, proved to be very suitable for all categories of skier, from beginner to the advanced.

The weather remained mainly overcast with some slight showers through the week. Each day comprised of ski lessons in the morning and again in the afternoon. Several students participated in some snow boarding.

Overall we had a very enjoyable trip and plans are already afoot to travel to a resort in Pinzolo, near Verona and Venice for next year's trip.

Thanks again to all the staff who traveled and gave up of their time looking after us and especially to Mr. Sutton who is the chief organiser.

Meditation

Kenmare Rector Rev Michael Cavanagh is a talented poet, among his many other qualities. He has kindly agreed to provide Newslink with a meditation in the form of a poem each issue during 2014. Read and enjoy!

Funny kind of Victory

A short battle, it was;
no flags and no trumpets,
not a fair fight.
One naked man with outstretched arms
against chain mail and spears.
They gave Him thorns,
gave Him whips,
gave Him sour wine and their spittle,
gave Him nails... but gave Him no honour.
It's over now.
He dies alone, and the quiet is hard to bear.
Even the banter of the soldiers is hushed;
only the sound of the wind and the aching world,

bound and fearful for so long,
waiting for its freedom.
Funny kind of battle, it was;
one man against legion.
Funny kind of victory
when the victor dies.
I wonder if the loser knew;
I wonder if the shaking of the earth
or the tearing of the curtain distracted him?

Or did he see, and despair to see,
the Christ-blood
washing the earth beneath the cross?
Funny when a victory's won by seeming loss.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen
The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare
Tel: 061-374 779
Mob: 085-764 0533
Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

The Cathedral in Killaloe hosted a Joint Diocesan chapter meeting on 26 February. This was the first chapter meeting with the new deans, archdeacons and canons in place. It is the plan that the joint chapter will meet at least 3 times per annum. This is also significant in the life of St Flannan's as it tries to find its place and role in the United Dioceses.

The World Day of Prayer happened on 7th March at St Flannan's Cathedral as it does in all parts of the world. This year the focus was on Egypt. It was good to have an ecumenical representation and the Nuns of the Convent also played a role in the service. St Anne's School also had about 20 girls present and 4 of them took part by playing the roles of some of the characters in the liturgy. It was a sad end to the service when the school chaplain's telephone rang literally just before the last hymn to receive the news that Benjamin, one of the school boys who was ill for a while, had died. We continue to hold the school and the family in our prayers.

Ash Wednesday arrived and services were held in the 3 churches of Stradbally, Mountshannon and Killaloe. The palms of last year were burnt the day before and we had the imposition of ashes on people's foreheads. A vivid reminder of death as the words 'dust you are and to dust you shall return' are said. The words echo language from the funeral liturgy, 'Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.' This significantly emphasised our mortality, that each of us will die and the second primary theme of Lent that being of repentance. So we are marked for death, dying to an old way of seeing, being and living and being born and raised and into a new identity and a new way of seeing being and living.



New flower pots for St. Flannan's

The Sacred reading group meet in Stradbally and that has been a wonderful experience for all who are partaking. There are so many people however that are hesitant and will not put off their own agendas, and commit to 5 weeks which is so sad. People say they want to change and what a wonderful season of Lent to start, yet will not sacrifice their own agendas. This is significantly harder to do than giving up chocolate.

The Friends of the Cathedral have given the church two lovely new flower pots to go at the entrance to the Cathedral. Thank you.

St Patrick's Day started with Eucharist at St Flannan's and thank you to those who highlighted this day and its Christian ethos.

On Mothering Sunday St Flannan's invited all to come to the Mother Church of this Diocese. This was an old tradition which we hope to do each year, and to ask people to make the pilgrimage to the Mother Church of the Diocese. We see how in scripture the pilgrimage to Jerusalem was important to the people. It is hoped that as this is done each year people in the parishes of the Diocese of Killaloe will make the effort to visit the Mother Church. If you didn't make it this year – please put it into your diary for next year at 3.30 pm.

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

There was a great Egyptian atmosphere created at the service held in Birr Methodist Church last month! Girls from the Mercy Primary School had done artwork which transported us to the warmer climate of North Africa. Many thanks to the Celtic Cantata Choir for singing pieces from their upcoming concert in April and to those who took the various roles illustrating life in Egypt for women today. The Revd Rosemary Lindsay gave a thoughtful meditation based on her knowledge of the country.

BEREAVEMENTS

Mr Eric Kenny, Kilcarron, Lorrha, passed away in Bushy Park Nursing Home, Borrisokane, on the 5th March after a long illness. Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Maureen and family, Suzanne, Nicholas, and James; Trevor and Lavinia; Des Corcoran, and many friends and neighbours. His funeral service was held in St Ruadhan's Church, Lorrha, where he was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard.

Another family has suffered bereavement on the death of Ms Jackie Laurie, Crinkle, Birr, who died on the 10th March in the Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore. Jackie had been in ill health for quite some time in hospital and in Elmgrove Nursing Home. Sincere sympathy is offered to her sisters Pat (Alexander) and Jean (Romeo) and brothers Douglas and Winston, to Robert and Karen Alexander and Rachel, Richard, and Isobel, and the extended family and friends. Her funeral service was held in St. Brendan's Church, Birr followed by cremation at Newlands Cross Crematorium.

Andrew Gill, son of Whitten and Linda, and his wife Deirdre, in Australia, were expecting triplets, and recently lost all three babies. Whitten had just undergone hip replacement surgery, so they were unable to travel to Australia. We keep them and their family in our prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 6th April, at 7:30 pm: "The Fingerprint of God". A Cantata for choir and soloists performed by the Birr Choral Society and friends, in our church in Birr.

On Midsummer Day, Saturday June 21st, Fancroft Mill, Roscrea will be the venue for a fundraising concert towards the cost of restoring the three stained-glass windows in Lockeen Church. Tickets are available from Irene Sweeney at 0505-31484 or millgardens@gmail.com.

2014 HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, 13th April, Palm Sunday: Birr 11:00 am Group Family Service of Holy Communion

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week – to be announced

Thursday, 17th April: Maundy Thursday: Birr Methodist, 7:30 pm Holy Communion (Church of Ireland Liturgy)

Friday, 18th April Good Friday: Birr 12 noon The Lord's Passion

Saturday, 19th April, Easter Vigil: Lorrha 9:00 pm Easter Vigil and HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 20th April, Easter Day: Lockeen 9:30 am Holy Communion, Lorrha 10:00 am Holy Communion, Birr 11:00 am Holy Communion.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Ven. Wayne Carney

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Tel: 057 – 9120021 Mob: 087 – 7865234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

HOLY BAPTISM

March 9th, 2014 in Bourney Church – Rhea Jo, infant daughter of Trevor and Michelle Austin, Clonakenny with the Archdeacon officiating and Victor Austin and Linda Crampton as godparents. We welcome Rhea into 'the household of faith', and wish her and her family well.

BURIAL

March 5th, 2014 in Clonaghill Cemetery, Birr following funeral service in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea. George Stanley, Springhill, Borris-in-ossary.

George's 'homecall' at Clover Lodge, Shinrone came as a happy release from his earthly sufferings after a long and trying illness. A man who served his church well, serving on three different select vestries, Borris-in-Ossary, Eglisk and Roscrea, his life of Service to family and church was recalled in thanksgiving at his funeral. We extend our prayerful sympathy to Violet, Hazel and Jean at this time and to all the family circle in their second bereavement since Christmas, George's brother Bob having passed away in January.

THE SICK

It is good to report a measure of improvement in Eddie Clare's condition as he continues his hospital stay in The Mater. Sadly, Nevin Alton's hospital stay has been prolonged in Tullamore, but he remains in good spirits, while Peter Read continues in Bushy Park Nursing Home, Borrisokane. We miss these people from our worship and community life and wish them well. They are in our thoughts and prayers. Happily, Wilfred Moloney is home again and doing well. We also remember Alice Harvey at this time who is convalescing from a fall and wish our most senior parishioners well.

BEREAVEMENTS

Two families in Corbally have been bereaved in recent weeks. We sympathise with Joan Wallace on the sudden passing of her sister-in-law while on holidays overseas and with Doreen Roe

on the passing of her niece at a very early age after an illness in Edinburgh. We hold both families in our prayers.

LENTEN OBSERVANCES

It was a pleasure to have Rev. Ruth Gill with us to conduct the Ash Wednesday Penitential Service and she returned again to celebrate Holy Communion on St. Patrick's Day. The ecumenical Lenten series is progressing well on Wednesday evenings in Roscrea Methodist Church and concludes on April 2nd when our Bishop will be the guest speaker. We thank Rev. Brian Griffin for allowing us all the opportunity to observe Lent together.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Pat Drought on celebrating a special birthday which was full of surprises for her!

To Ken Henderson on receiving the award for contribution to Sport at the recent Sports Stars Awards where our Bishop and his wife were guests.

And to St. Cronan's N.S. on winning an award in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and also on their excellent 'Pancake Morning'.

GFS/BB Enrolment

Members of both organizations looked well as they filled the top pews of St. Cronan's together with their leaders for their enrolment service. It was good to hear and see so many young people present and taking part in the service. Set in the context of Holy Communion, the Service was conducted by the Archdeacon and it was a pleasure to have the Diocesan President of GFS with us. Our thanks to all who helped organise the service and to the participants and also to Madeleine Hodgins who was not only enrolled as a leader but who also led the music.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templeberry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.

Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

Holly Cottage, Sallypark, Lateragh, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 085-147 4792

Email: canonmarie@me.com

EASTER DAY EUCHARISTS

9.30 am Templeberry; 11.00 am St Mary's; 12.15 pm Killodiernan

We began Lent with our usual service of communion and ashing on Ash Wednesday, preceded by a School Service on Shrove Tuesday. Lent is well under way now, and we are valuing and appreciating our Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina) sessions, and welcoming some of our neighbours from St Mary of the Rosary who have joined with us for this.

Our March Family Worship fell on the Eve of St Patrick, so we were able to focus on and celebrate our national Saint. Our little people made Bishop's mitres (see picture), and Junior Choir, main choir, GFS and Boys Brigade all contributed to a joyful and lively service, followed, as always by yummy refreshments!



Little Bishops on St Patrick's Eve

What Christ's Passion means to me

by Canon Stephen Neill, Rector of Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group

'We are Easter people' goes the familiar refrain, and certainly as Christians we look at all of life in the light of the Resurrection. However it is not the whole story and I have always had a certain discomfort with the tendency, particularly in Protestantism, to rush past the painful events of Holy Week with indecent haste in order to get to the Good News of the Resurrection. It seems to me that we cannot fully enter into the joy of Resurrection if we do not experience first the desolation and pain of the Cross.

For that same reason I find the crucifix a much more helpful symbol than the empty cross, because in itself the empty cross tells us nothing. If anything the empty tomb is the more meaningful symbol of the Resurrection and the cross without a suffering Christ is robbed of its essential message, which is that God in Jesus entered into our suffering and death in the most extreme and personal way that is possible. The Cross is significant because it is there that Christ suffered and died. The Cross then is an expression of God's complete solidarity with humanity and that is surely symbolised by his presence there rather than his absence.



National Cathedral, Washington DC

Only a few weeks ago I had a fresh experience of this sense of solidarity which the Cross evokes so powerfully. I was in Washington DC and on my to do list was to visit Washington National Cathedral. Unfortunately, due to a snowstorm, when I arrived at the cathedral it was locked, but undeterred I wandered around the grounds and took some photos. One thing intrigued me and that was a collection of makeshift crosses outside the West door of the cathedral, each one adorned with a t-shirt bearing a name and a date. A memorial I presumed, but to what I was none the wiser, until on my arrival home I rang the cathedral office and was told that they were part of the Cathedral's participation in 'DC Homicide Watch', where all the local churches displayed a cross for recent victims of murder in Washington. It was the Church through the Cross acting in solidarity with the community it served and while the circumstances were tragic it was a deeply moving gesture.

Sadly the Cross has become a tool in the war within our church and even between the churches. I still recall with a mixture of amusement and sadness one of the strange practices that went on in Theological College when I was a student. There was a small stone celtic cross which sat on the altar. On one side was a depiction of the crucified Christ and on the other it was relatively plain. According to the churchmanship (high or low church) of those leading worship the cross would be turned to face the appropriate direction. For

some it seemed the figure of Christ on the Cross was anathema and I suspect perhaps even perceived as being something more appropriate to Roman Catholicism. In the often unhealthy synthesis of politics and religion on this island the Cross itself had become a casualty!

On a personal level the Passion events leading up to their culmination on the Cross are what make being a follower of Jesus possible for me. I say that in the context of a world where there is so much unnecessary and heart-breaking suffering, a world where some people seem to bear the most impossible burdens through life. It is only because God has mined the very depths of human suffering and taken that upon himself on the Cross that I can acknowledge that this is a God who loves each one of us infinitely and a God who will never abandon us.



Memorial crosses for Washington DC murder victims

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I like all Christians celebrate the miracle of Resurrection but I do so looking through the Cross, not around it, not past it, not above it but through it!

Last year on a previous US visit I came across a beautiful cross in the gift shop of the famous Riverside Church near Harlem in New York. It wasn't in fact a crucifix but it was a traditional cross with a cross shape cut out of the centre so that you could look through it and see beyond it. It was for me a perfect statement of the centrality of the Cross (and therefore the passion and death of Jesus) in the life of the Church and that as we look at everything in the light of the Resurrection we also look through the Cross, for the Resurrection is itself dependent on the Cross for its significance. For me it is the lens through which I see the light.



This cross is a lens through which to see the light

Shinrone Group Notes

KINNITTY PARISH FUNDRAISING DREAM AUCTION

The present Kinnitty church was built in 1847 on the site of a former church built by St Finan, who also founded a monastery in Clonard in 500 AD. It is a listed building. The storms this year caused a number of slates to come off the roof, and when these were being replaced we were told that the nails holding the slates were rusted and that the whole roof should be replaced. To pay for this work the parish is undertaking a fundraising event. A Dream Auction in aid of Kinnitty church is to be held on Sunday 27 April at Kinnitty Community Centre at 2.30pm. All donations for auction gratefully received – goods or services, household appliances, furniture, timber, animal feed, fertiliser, holiday vouchers, etc. All support on the day and donations would be very much appreciated and all sponsors will be listed in the sale catalogue.

SHINRONE PARISH FUNDRAISING PLAY

A play called 'Drinking Habits' is being performed in aid of St Mary's, Shinrone on the evenings of Easter Sunday and Monday (20 & 21 April) in Shinrone Community Centre. The play is a very funny farce and will be a wonderful night's entertainment. All proceeds are being kindly donated toward the redecoration of Shinrone Church of Ireland. Tickets will be €10 adults and €5 children. A raffle will also be held on the night and all donations toward this would be very gratefully received. Please do come and support!

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What Easter means to me

by Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell, Dean of Limerick



View of Jerusalem – the gold dome is the Dome of the Rock, the grey dome to the left is the Holy Sepulchre

Years ago there was a chocolate that was advertised as 'full of Eastern promise.' In response to the editor's request for an Easter article, this ad came back to me. Why? Because for me, Easter reminds me year on year of the most wonderful promise that Jesus gives us, peace and life with him in God's kingdom. And the Eastern part – well, I have been fortunate to travel east, and to be able to visit the Holy Land and Jerusalem in particular, on many occasions since my first visit in 1985.

Every pilgrim to Jerusalem wants to visit the Holy Sepulchre, the place of Jesus' burial, but the reality now is that the place is always crowded, with very long queues, and lots of noise. Certainly not the serene experience one might wish for. But in 1985 when I was there for the first time, there were far fewer visitors, perhaps because of the Intifada (uprising). The previous day I had been told that on Sunday morning there would be a Latin Mass sung in the Holy Sepulchre at 6am, which I decided to go and hear. But I had been given the time wrong, and set off in the dark too early, and in the souk (covered market) it was pitch black with the result that I completely lost my way and found myself in a narrow blind alleyway. It can only be prayer that kept me safe in that troubled city that morning, and brought me to the door of the imposing shrine that is the Holy Sepulchre, a site revered by the early Jerusalem church up until 66AD.



The main door of the Holy Sepulchre

I entered the dark space and discovered that the Latin Mass was half an hour later, but a Franciscan priest was on his way into the central part of the little shrine, where Our Lord's tomb is used

as an altar – and the priest simply invited me, and a nun who was there, to join him (there is barely room for 4 inside). This invitation was the most extraordinary demonstration of inclusion at the Holy Table, and a powerful spiritual gift that I will never forget. And on the way out later, I realised that this was now dawn, early on the first day of the week, and I had been led there by Jesus, and received his Body and Blood – quite simply, the most wonderful and unexpected spiritual gift. And whenever I am in Jerusalem with a group, I do try to take some of them with me to the Sepulchre very early in the morning, to share something of the awesome presence in that most holy place.

I have had years since to ponder on that unforgettable Sunday morning. The sheer reality of Jesus' presence, of His Spirit with me, there in the dark souk, then at the tomb, and at His table, with a new dawn, a new day, a new week, led me to start reflecting, and to a whole new understanding of the scriptural accounts – of the stark fact of the Risen Lord.

So Easter for me is far more important than Christmas (much as I love the celebrations and tree and decorations). I always have an Easter tree in the house at Eastertide, with painted wooden eggs, the age-old symbol of promise and of new life. We will hear again this Easter, those so familiar readings – the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene's tears, the other women whose story was not believed by the men. Such an unlikely tale, after all. Yet the resurrection did happen.



Dean Sandra's Easter Tree

So let us hear the Easter anthems, and sing Alleluia, Christ is risen! Because Jesus lives. He lives in you and in me, and in every single child of God. That Easter gift of new life, of peace and hope, of pardon and love, and of pure welcome can never be limited to a chosen few, because it is for all of God's people. The barriers we place between ourselves and others, for whatever reason, have no place in this post-Easter kingdom that God offers us in Christ, and which we pray for daily – 'thy kingdom come on earth as in heaven.' When are we going to learn that this wonderful Eastern promise, this glorious gift of the resurrection of Our Lord is for all time and for all people?

God shows no partiality – our churchmanship, our denomination, our prejudices, our pride, our achievements – these have no place in the kingdom. We cannot wave our baptism certificate and think we are justified. We are to walk humbly, recognising that we will fall again and again; yet again and again we are given new life – at Easter, each Sunday, and each day. Because He is risen, He is risen indeed, and He is with us. As God promised through his prophets, Emmanuel – God with us.

Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

Very Revd Gary Paulsen calls for baptized children to be allowed receive Communion

In our Anglican Tradition two sacraments are given to the Church – Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. As we all learn in our catechism the sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace given by Christ and a means by which we receive that grace. If through the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist we receive these wonderful gifts of grace from Christ, then surely it is a gift that we would want all to share in?



The beautiful words attributed to Jesus by Matthew at the end of his gospel are a commission to us as God's Church:
"Go therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." Matthew 28:19-20

It is through our baptism that we are initiated into the body of Christ and therefore belong and are fully members of that holy fellowship. It is always a joyful moment to me when the gathered community at the end of baptism say these words to the newly baptized:

*"We welcome you into the Lord's family.
We are members together of the Body of Christ;
We are children of the same heavenly Father;
We are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.
We welcome you".*

This welcome is usually accompanied by applause as a sign of love and affection and welcome.

It's through our Baptism therefore that we belong; and as a member of that holy fellowship we partake in that other great means of grace the Holy Eucharist. Yet there are many children in

parishes that are denied this right to partake in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We gather around the table as Christ instructed us – and then children are not allowed to participate in this holy meal around the Lord's Table!

The Church's understanding about many things has changed as we are continually led to new understanding through God's ever present Spirit. The Spirit leads us into all truth. (John 16:13) We need to be open to discern how God is leading the Church. This has seen the Church change its mind regarding slavery and in recent times the ordination of women (some still struggle with this issue). The debate and discernment regarding our human sexuality is ongoing and we trust God will guide the church in this matter as well.

Some time ago the church in Southern Africa came to the conclusion that through our baptism children should be admitted to receive Holy Communion. (Resolution 1 Christian Initiation, Provincial Synod 1979). So too in many parts of the Anglican Communion it is perfectly normal for all children to receive communion once they are baptised.

In his book 'Doing Theology in Altab Ali Park', Kenneth Leech says:

"To baptize small children and then tell their parents and sponsors that they are members of the Body of Christ and inheritors of the Kingdom of God, then to deny them Holy Communion until twelve or more years later is theologically indefensible and pastorally disastrous".



Communion, Community, is inclusive and not exclusive. No one has the right to exclude the baptised from participating in communion.

"We are one body for we all partake in one bread" is our refrain. Through our baptism we belong to the body of Christ and we become partakers. "We receive what we are and we become what we receive." (St Augustine)

The sacrament of Holy Communion is so central every week in many parishes. Please do not exclude our wonderful children. "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs". Luke 18:16

- Nenagh Union notes continued from page 16

The Rector enjoyed her time on the Reviewing Stand at the Nenagh St Patrick's Day Parade, spying parishioners on many of the floats, including Hilary and Clive Moynan both driving handsome cars in the Vintage Car procession, and members of the Nenagh Country Market, this year celebrating its 50th anniversary.



Nenagh Country Market float at the St Patrick's Day Parade

Our Junior Choir members are looking forward to a 'jolly' - a visit to the Cathedral to see Noyes Fludde, and the main choir are looking forward to taking part in the RSCM event in the Cathedral on 5th April - the singing of Stainer's Crucifixion.

Killodiernan Church will welcome Peter and Natasha Clarke when they bring baby Daphne Jane Eve for baptism into the Christian family on 13th April.

Holy Week events will include both choirs singing in the RSCM service 'The Way of the Cross' on Maundy Thursday at 8.00 pm; a workshop on Good Friday for members of our Junior Church; the regular Walk of Witness in Templederry, starting at 7.30 pm, and, a new venture for us, a similar Walk of Witness by Christian folk in Nenagh, starting at 5.00 pm.

It's good to report that both Clodagh Allman-Smith and Joan Hodgins are doing well. However, at the time of writing Doreen Galbraith, Sadie Moynan, and Elspeth Randall are all in hospital - please remember them in your prayers.

Congratulations to...Mary Ryan who had a Big Birthday in March, and Albert Lewis who has a Big Birthday in April.....and to James Hodgins, son of Jean Hodgins of Ballymackey, on his engagement to Laura Conlon-McKenna.

We wish all in our Diocesan family a joyful and blessed Easter.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Canon Stephen Neill

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Parish website: www.modreeny.com

Stephen's blog: www.paddyanglican.com

It is my opinion that when children are allowed communion, there won't be a pressure to confirm children when they are so young and not ready for confirmation. It has always been my opinion that no one younger than 13 is ready for confirmation. This will allow time for proper and thorough preparation of confirmation candidates over a longer period. Time to engage and develop a spirituality within these young people so that they can make an 'adult' commitment at their confirmation.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Tuesday in Holy Week: Borrisnafarney 8pm

Wednesday in Holy Week: Borrisokane 8pm (Cloughjordan Ecumenical Community Choir will sing at the service)

Maundy Thursday: 8pm Joint Service in Cloughjordan Methodist Church

Good Friday: Ecumenical Way of the Cross 6.30pm (Starting at Townsfields Estate, Cloughjordan)

Easter Eve: Ballingarry 8.30pm

Easter Day: Borrisnafarney 9am, Borrisokane 10.15am & Cloughjordan 11.30am

CONFIRMATION 2014

Please pray for the following young people from our parish who are to be confirmed in Cloughjordan by the Bishop on June 1st: Eoin Geraghty, Mark Stanley, Kevin Harding, Olivia Grant, Ellen Austin, Richard Donaldson, Rebecca Mooney, William Mooney, Jonathan Mooney, Ben Chadwick, Megan Humphreys, Keith O'Meara, Shane Whelan.

BORRISOKANE PARISH HOSTS STYLE EVENING

10th APRIL, 2014 @ 8pm Church of Ireland Hall, Borrisokane
TIPS on dressing for body shape, shopping for a capsule wardrobe, wardrobe decluttering and maintenance and much more.
As seen on TV3's EXPOSE, Delilah is also the resident Personal Stylist at the Athlone Town Centre and Style Columnist for the Galway Advertiser and Sligo Champion. www.delilahfashionstylist.com

Tickets €10 at the door

Enquiries: Jennifer 087-6271652 / Angel 087-6819599

CLOUGHJORDAN ARMCHAIR CHRISTMAS QUIZ RESULTS

Many thanks to Very Rev'd Denis Sandes who ran this quiz in aid of the Philippines Disaster Appeal.

The quiz raised a very impressive €670 towards this worth cause. The winners were:

1st Myra Kidd, Tullow, Co. Carlow

2nd David Baker, Bantry, Co. Cork

3rd Ann Coulter, Sutton, Dublin 13

Had a good shot: Douglas Reid, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, Hazel Burgess, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow

The answers were as follows:

ANSWERS: Found around the house

Example: not heavy - LIGHT

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Could be a knight of this | BATH |
| 2. This C could be hurt | COUCH |
| 3. Sounds like someone putting on clothes | DRESSER |
| 4. Aladdin's genie lived here | LAMP |
| 5. Do this, or swim | SINK |
| 6. Treasureof bloomers | CHEST OF DRAWERS |
| 7. Kojak's actor | TELLY |
| 8. Be quiet, owned by both of you, sounds like! | SHOWER |
| 9. Your wheels and your dog! | CARPET |
| 10. Bord Gais or ESB might be here! | UTILITY ROOM |
| 11. Sounds like pussy's lower jaw! | KITCHEN |
| 12. Hospital Dress? | WARDROBE |

13. J EdgarUS President
14. For night or flowers.
15. Southern implement!
16. Found Australia, er
17. Short saint with nice tunes!
18. A drink can do!
19. Sounds like its far away
20. Not wax, but overhead!
21. Students should do this!
22. Fox's tail
23. Could cool the car engine
24. Shoot this location
25. This change is not heavy

HOOVER
BED
STOOL
-COOKER
STAIRS
TABLE
SOFA
CEILING
STUDY
BRUSH
RADIATOR
FIRE PLACE
LIGHT SWITCH

AMAZING DOT



Mrs Dot Bolster, longstanding churchwarden and stalwart of Christ Church, Spanish Point, amazingly celebrated the big 90 birthday with her family and friends around her, including her son Mort (and daughter-in-law Mary) who travelled from Vancouver, Canada, daughters Karen and Valerie, son-in-law Ivan and her grandchildren, and brother, a retired cleric from Kent. Amazingly she was still managing an occasional round of golf until recently and until his death a few years ago enjoyed fly fishing with husband Robin in Galway-Connemara. Bridge and gardening now keep her forever young along with following Munster rugby. Dot looks after the recorded hymn music at Christ Church and shares in the maintenance of the building. A fully engaged and proud great grandmother and grandmother, it would be the view of all that she truly belies her years ! Praise and Gloria !

ST PATRICK

Bishop Trevor's visit to us over the Festival weekend gave fresh impetus to worship and gathering for the combined congregations of Drumcliffe and Kilnasoolagh. We thank him for his ministry among us once again. Well done organist Nigel Bridge and the choral group who bravely and successfully attempted the famous St Patrick's Breastplate hymn-setting including recent choir recruit, Mary Kahill, one of our asylum friends from Egypt. Ps. Mrs Anna McCrum, 98, who turned up to sing it in St Columba's last year, had her own little recital of the Breastplate at her bedside in Cahercalla Community Hospital along with her choral-keen son Sammy (from Blessed Trinity Cathedral, Waterford) and community friend Pascal Sage. Thanks to Mrs Anharad Harding and the ladies team who provided a lovely soup lunch after the St Patrick Tide Eucharist. Also thanks to Fr Joe Ryan who read the Gospel in Irish as well as English! The Rector represented the joint congregations at the last St Patrick's Day Parade in Ennis to be sponsored by the Urban District Council which goes out of existence with the local elections in May. We thank the UDC for their support and encouragement of the congregation of St Columba's over the years and for a substantial cheque towards the maintenance of St Columba's. This will help greatly with the ongoing work to refurbish the pew cushions in the main nave of the Church, half of which have been treated. With increasing calls for the use of the beautiful neo-Gothic building for cultural events it is recognised all around that the St Columba's Community is responding generously in the cause of local art and culture. An audio visual evening presented by Edwin Bailey from his collection of well-received films of recent times happened in Kilnasoolagh Church on Friday April 4 in aid of the Post Polio Support Group of which he is Chairperson. The Parish are pleased to sponsor this event and to allow his widespread talents to be shared with the public once again.

WORLD WAR 1

A booklet, financed by the Clare Roots Society encompassing the names of the Clare War Dead of World War 1 was launched during the now celebrated Ennis Book Festival in St Columba's Church amidst our own war memorials. Compiler was local dentist Ger Browne. The launch was set in a lecture event when the author Neil Richardson gave an illustrated talk entitled—"World War 1-How

CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Claire Donaldson of Borrisokane parish who got engaged to Roy Gill on 20th January. We wish Claire and Roy every blessing in their plans for the future.

Also to Deborah Kenny of Ballingarry and Adrian Shine who recently announced their engagement and are to be wed in Ballingarry Church on 21st June next. We wish Deborah and Adrian every blessing.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

NOTES WERE SUPPLIED LATE, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 18

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

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Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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HOLY WEEK

With Lenten Wednesday gatherings on "Prayer and Contemplation" behind us, Holy Week arrives with daily lunchtime prayer (and soup) worship sessions (Monday-Thursday, 1.00pm), traditionally open to the wider public and involving figures from community life as readers of the Passion Narrative.

Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm Kilnasoolagh is the remembrance of the Last Supper and the Foot Washing.

Good Friday, Noon, has Words from the Cross with a moment of reflection led by Ms Maureen Kelly, Pastoral Leader in West Clare Cluster of Parishes, Diocese of Killaloe, former missionary to Chile and a key figure in the Clare Pilgrim Way development group.

EASTER DAY

10.00am Spanish Pt. HC Celebrant Rev P Hanna. Preacher Mr Steve Fletcher, Diocese of St Alban's, England;

10.00am Kilnasoolagh HC Rev Canon B Hanna;

11.30am Drumcliffe Ennis HC Rev Canon B Hanna.

Easter Monday : Clare Pilgrim Way three day camino in East Clare (Greater Scariff area, Aughty Hills by East Clare Way to Mountshannon, near Holy Island, Iniscaltra) All welcome, one day or three !) See Rector, 086 2167040.

EASTER VESTRIES (AGM)

Drumcliffe Union, Wednesday 30th April, 7.30pm. Kilnasoolagh Thursday 1st May 7.30pm.

to Research your Ancestors in the British Army." Mr Richardson's published works include "A Coward if I return, a hero if I fall" and "Dark times, Decent Men."

STORMS

The now infamous storms of February 2014 could have been worse from the point of view of property damage. Thankfully, no significant tree falls were registered. St Columba's Church main roof has had some slate loss repaired swiftly and similar damage on the higher tower roof will be fixed when a high hoist is procured, hopefully soon.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Canon George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

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It is time again to extend greetings to all readers from Co. Galway.

As we journey with Christ along the road to Calvary we do our best to recall what He undertook on Our behalf all these years ago. Each week we have a service or a time devoted to the Bishop's Lenten study programme with each of our churches hosting at least one service from Ash Wednesday up to Good Friday.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

The World Day of Prayer Service was held in Creagh Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday 11th February with a good attendance enjoying the liturgy. A number of St. John's Parishioners joined with their sisters in Christ of Ballinasloe preparing over a number of weeks to read parts of the service that had been prepared by the Christians of Egypt.

The children of The Glebe School Aughrim under the direction of Jackie Eastwood created a 'collage' depicting the Pyramids of Egypt which was displayed and well received by all on the night.

As we progress towards Easter please see our Web site for details and note the addition of a Facebook Link for your comments. On Good Friday there will be a special Service reading of the Passion story with parishioners reading the different parts along with appropriate Holy Week hymns. This service will take place in St. John's at 8.00 p.m. In the morning of Good Friday parishioners join with the community of St. Michael's in the Annual Cross walk around the town.

Saturday afternoon it is the turn of the 'young people' to come to the Rectory for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This starts at 2.00 p.m.

WEDDING DAYS

St John's Ballinasloe was the location for 'happy occasions' in both February and March.

Damien Sheppard of Clontuskert and Naimh Riddle of Ballinasloe met in days gone by!!! On a past Valentine's Day, they got engaged and this 14th February celebrated their wedding day with their families, relatives and friends.

Dermot Morrissey of Ahascragh and June Seale of Woodlawn along with their family and friends celebrated their wedding day on 15th March.

To both couples we extend God's Blessings wishing them a long life of health and happiness together.

Happy Easter to all.



Damien Shephard & Niamh Riddle



June Seale & Dermot Morrissey

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

PATRICK WRITES

I would like to thank all those who have assisted in leading the various liturgies and Lenten bible studies over the past month. Special thanks to Rev. Ruth Gill and to Mr Jerome Phair. Thank you to Mrs Freda Kenny and her team for the splendid World Day of Prayer.

A broad sweep of our Holy Week and Easter Services are listed below but if you are coming from out of the parish and might like to check the time with me by a call, a text or an email.

In turn I will text our regular parishioners ahead of the service and any special events.

Holy Week Wednesday; Banagher 11am; Maundy Thursday 11am Eliza Lodge Chapel; Good Friday 11am Eyrecourt; Saturday Easter Vigil Eyrecourt at 7pm; Easter Day 10:30am Portumna, 12noon Banagher.

From time to time especially in this Lenten season some people ask me if I hear Confessions Please contact me should your practice be (or wish to be) to make your confession.

I do wish to thank very much our organists whose contributions to our liturgies put us always in their debt: Mrs Frances Delahunt, Mrs Isabel Finney, Ms Carol Underwood and Mr Kenneth Bracken.

Easter Vestries will take place after Easter in the three churches.

Thank you all for making my Sundays such a pleasurable...even joy filled...experience. I do hope I have been able to help you find joy each Sunday morning.

Patrick

EYRECOURT

The World Day of Prayer was held on Friday evening 7th March. There was a good attendance and great enthusiasm shown by all. Rev Towers gave a very thoughtful and inspiring reflection on the day. The service being from Egypt we had a cake made by Modey Bagmar, the recipe is in the book, well worth making!

SWAZILAND

The rain has been persistent making some roads impassable. Nola Nixon is working in four schools there. She is driving the little old truck that I used when I was there in the summer. Nola writes.. "Set off for school 4.. gravel road very bad. Didn't realise principle was in posh car in front, until she stopped at top of hill.. many stuck. Sent me back.. she left her car, got a lift in a 4 x 4. I got badly stuck halfway up hill, rang school and prayed.. 3 men came and lifted car and followed me on foot to the top! Home will be dull!" Nola.

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

We continue to remember Ann Menheneott in our prayers, Ann is doing well after her last stay in Hospital. She wishes to thank everyone who has visited, phoned and given lifts to the hospital.

Also our very best wishes to Val Bertram.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

ST MARK'S CHAPEL

The gates at St Mark's Chapel in St Mary's Cathedral once again take pride of place and have been reinstated. Many thanks to Mr. Mike Kersley and to all the Villiers students who took up wire brushes, sandpaper and paint brushes to bring the gates back as close as possible to their original condition. This is the first step towards restoring St Mark's Chapel which will hopefully happen in the near future. Sincere thanks also to Mr. Jackie McNair, Diocesan Reader and Chaplain to Villiers School, for all he did behind the scenes.

WHIST DRIVES – ST. MICHAEL'S

The last Whist Drive of the season took place on Saturday 8th March with six and a half tables. Very many thanks to everyone for their support and special thanks to organisers Gill Cheatley and Tracey Lyttle and their many helpers and those who baked the

scones and bracks!! We will be back in October after a well deserved break!! Villiers Square Whist Drives are also taking a break.

FAMILY SERVICE – ST. MICHAEL'S

On the third Sunday of each month St. Michael's hosts a Family Service of the Word at 10am. It is short and sweet with a themed format designed to hold the attention of the young and not so young!!! The service focuses on youth involvement with children presenting a dramatised Gospel reading and the prayers of intercession. The children gather together at the front after the dramatised Gospel reading when the minister engages them in an interactive discussion of the Gospel theme which replaces the conventional sermon. The children also take up the collection during the offertory hymn.

EASTER VESTRY – Thursday 1st May 2014 in St Michael's Hall.

This is an important event in the life and mission of Limerick City Parish – ALL are welcome. The Register of Vestrymen (that is, those who are eligible to vote at the Easter Vestry) was revised in February by the Dean and Church wardens. 103 people are on the current register which will run for 3 years, being amended annually.

The Dean's address, the elections of church and glebe wardens for the coming year, are complimented by the opportunity for you, the people of our parish, to have your say, make suggestions, and be involved in the life and ministry with us. Please do make a note of the date for your diary.

KILMURRY CHURCH

For generations the stone steeple above the tower of Kilmurry Church on the old Dublin Road was a landmark indicating that the journey to Limerick was nearly over. Although the church was closed and deconsecrated in the late 1960's it continues to be used regularly for a wide range of events for the local community and for the nearby University of Limerick. Run now by a committee of Church of Ireland parishioners and a dedicated group of local residents who form Cumann Oidreacht Chill Mhuire (Kilmurry Arts and Heritage Centre), it is much in demand as a rehearsal space for putting on music and drama – and an ideal small venue for concerts, exhibitions, etc., as well as for art classes, pilates groups and meetings. There is a piano in the hall and seating for up to seventy people together with toilet facilities and a small kitchen. There is a very reasonable charge for the use of the hall and further details may be had from Lucy Kavanagh (tel: 061 338166) or Colette O'Reilly (061 331025) who looks after bookings.

The body of the church is kept in good order by the committee, but the stone steeple is in need of repair, the cost of which, at approximately €30,000, is beyond the reach of the committee and of Limerick City Parish. To keep this treasured building available for the community and its regular users, we are appealing to those who are familiar with the church or who may have family links with it, or the surrounding graveyard, to consider whether they may be able to help us with the cost of the repairs. All donations (made payable to St. Michael's Church) will be most gratefully received by Lucy Kavanagh, 57 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon

Vacant from 12 December 2012

Priest in-charge: Rev. Maurice Sirr

Address: 17A Knock Hill, Ennis Road, Limerick

Tel: 061 277 372

Mob: 087 254 1121

Email: msirr@iol.ie

Once again, your reporter is Ann Gill. Many thanks to her for this valuable service.

This month it is good to be able to bring the good news that St Nicholas's Church is well under way to being restored. The work started on the roof on March 10th and carpet colours are being discussed for laying when the roof has been repaired. It is hoped that everything will be back in place for Easter Day. Our community is doing great work.

It was good to hear that the Board of Nomination has met. We pray for them and thank them for their time and effort with this very important task.

Each week there are forms, on line and at the back of the churches for parishioners over eighteen to sign the register of Vestrypersons. Please complete these, as this register will be the list of persons who are entitled to vote at the Easter Vestry, scheduled for Thursday, April 10. This year is a triennial year when members of Diocesan Synod and Parochial Nominators are elected along with Select Vestries. It is very important to have a representative meeting so that everyone can show their interest in the building of our Church family here in Adare.

The World Day of Prayer was very well attended in the Methodist Church and all reports of the service were very positive. Our thanks are due to the Rev. Liz Hewitt and her congregation for allowing the use of their church because of the flood damage in St. Nicholas. The service itself was spiritually uplifting, prepared by the Christian Women of Egypt, themed 'Streams in the Desert'. Thanks to all who did readings, played music and collaborated to make the service so memorable. Socially it was also a great success as we all had tea and buns afterwards. It was good to feel the friendly atmosphere of faith mixing together.

The Lenten discussions take place every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall, Adare following Lectio Divina with our Methodist partners during Lent. Jackie McNair has been leading these until he headed off to Zimbabwe on a fact finding trip on behalf of Christian Aid.

Lady Day Service was held in St. Mary's Church, Askeaton, Co. Limerick on the Feast of the Annunciation March 25th at 8pm when Dean Sandra Pragnell lead the service. There were refreshments in the Rectory after the service.

On Sunday March 30th (Lent 4) the our only service of the day was a Group Service in Kilmallock at 11am. This Sunday was also Mothering Sunday and we used using the Family Service prepared by the MU as a framework for our worship. Again we all enjoyed worshipping together as God's family in our united Parish.

Our sympathy is with the Hales family on the death last week of Dorothy Graves, Frank Hales sister. She was laid to rest in Dundrum, Co Tipperary.

We welcome a new family to the parish in Kilmallock, Paddy O'Casaide and Caroline Corrigan and their two children live in Bruree and we hope they will have many happy years among us.

Jessie Griffin was awarded Limerick Person of the Month in October during breast cancer awareness. This was awarded for fund raising in excess of €70,000 in the past 10 years for cancer related

charities. She is now nominated for the Limerick Person of the Year 2013 and this will take place in the Clarion Hotel in Limerick on April 1st

Arrangements for Holy Week and the Easter celebrations are in preparation and will be notified throughout the Parish in due course.

Service times are as usual on other Sundays



At the World Day of Prayer



An Egyptian symbol made by students from the local RC National School.

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

The highlight of our March was this year's World Day of Prayer service. Following the theme "Streams in the Desert" which was prepared by the women of Egypt. Many people put in a lot of work, preparing the dramatised readings and prayers. Many thanks to all those who contributed to an excellent service. Special thanks must go to Margaret and Mary Ibrahim, two young Christian ladies from Egypt who were truly impressive as they told us about the challenges and hopes of the much persecuted Christian community in Egypt. They also sang a Psalm in Arabic. Arabic is about the closest one gets in modern languages to Aramaic, the language of Martha and Mary as well as Jesus.

In the coming weeks and months we have some important events coming up.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Tuesday 15th April 8:00 p.m. St. Brendan's Tarbert

Wednesday 16th April 8:00 p.m. Castletown Church, Kilcornan

Thursday 17th April 8:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Eucharist St. Mary's Askeaton

Good Friday (18th) Walking the Way of the Cross. Gather at "The Grotto" (shrine to The Virgin) at 5:00 p.m.

This last will be a first for our parishes as we join with our Methodist and Roman Catholic sisters and brothers in Christ to walk the way of the cross through the town of Rathkeale. This will be followed by a short concluding service in Holy Trinity. The time of the service will depend upon when we finish our journey through the town, so you will have to join in if you want to come to the service.

Easter Day

Saturday 19th April 10:30 p.m. First Solemn Eucharist of Eastertide and Liturgy of the Light: Castletown Church Kilcornan

Sunday 20th

09:00 Holy Trinity Rathkeale

10:30 St. Mary's Askeaton

12:00 noon St. Brendan's Tarbert.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

Our Easter General Vestries will take place after Easter provisionally the schedule is:

Tuesday 29th April Askeaton & Castletown 8:00 p.m. The Rectory

Wednesday 30th April Rathkeale 8:00 p.m. The Rectory

Thursday 1st May Tarbert 8:00 p.m. St. Brendan's Church

CONFIRMATION

We have confirmations scheduled for Sunday 11th May in Rathkeale. Please make sure that you save the date!



Margaret & Mary Ibrahim

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Rector: Ven. Sue Watterson

Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe

45 Liosdara, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 689 2025 Email: smwatt1@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Galbraith

Mob: 085 145 0804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

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

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

DATES

• Wednesday 2nd & 9th April Lent Devotional Service Ballymacelligott 8pm

• Lectio Divina Camp Rectory 8pm

• Tuesday 8th April Dingle Union Easter Vestry Kilgobbin 8pm

• Thursday 10th April Tralee & Ballymacelligott Union Easter Vestry St. John's 8pm

• Saturday 12th April Plant and Cake Sale Teach an tSolais 10am

• Palm Sunday 13th at the Dominican Church Tralee an Ecumenical Service with Bishop Trevor & Bishop Ray. 7.30pm

• Mon 28th April the last Links meeting of the session, when the May outing will be arranged.

HOLY WEEK

• Mon. and Tuesday 14 and 15 April Evening Prayer Ballyseedy 8pm

• Wed. 16 April Service of the Word with the Laying on of Hands St. John's 11am

• Wed. 16 April Evening Prayer Ballyseedy 8pm

• Thur. 17 April Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service St. John's 8pm

• Fri. 18 April Good Friday 'The Last Hour' Prayers St. John's 2-3pm

• Fri. 18 April Good Friday 'The Way of the Cross' Ballymacelligott 8pm

• Sat. 19 April Easter Vigil (Family service) Ballyseedy 8pm

• Sun. 20 April Easter Family Communion Service St. John's 10.45am

• Sun. 20 April Easter Family Communion Service Ballymacelligott 12 noon.

There is a service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 11am in the West Room of St. John's

Holy Week and Easter Services for Camp and Dingle are to be announced.

ANNUAL GENERAL (EASTER) VESTRY MEETINGS:

Camp on Tuesday 8th April and St. John's Tralee (the West Room) on Thursday 10th April – both at 8pm.

BAPTISM

We welcomed Marie Blanche and John Quattara into the family of the Church when they were baptised in St. John's on 30th March, and we ask your prayers for all our confirmation candidates as they meet each Thursday for classes with Linda, Suzie and Heidi. The Confirmation Service is on 4th May at 10.45am. in St. John's Tralee.

BEST WISHES

Our prayers and good wishes are with Lizzie MacKenzie who will shortly be taking up a teaching post in South Korea. A long way from home, but she has friends and contacts there. Every blessing Lizzie.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Michael and Samuel who have miraculously transformed the West Room into a prayer space which we hope to use for Wednesday morning Communion and the monthly service with prayer for healing. It looks amazing.

A big thank you to Gerhard Maritz who has helped in the planning of our Fundraisers for the year, there are some quite exciting things lined up for the summer – so watch this space. In the meantime if you have any clothes you wish to dispose of or any sheets and blankets (no duvets or pillows), please collect a bag from the church and return it filled the following week. The items will be sold and proceeds will come to the parish.

Thanks too, to David Fitzell, who has quietly worked away repairing and maintaining things in St John's School and around the Parish Centre both before and since the storms. Your skill and hard work will be greatly missed when Joy and yourself retire to Birr.

We very much appreciate all the work which Sue Latchford and Margaret Groves have put in to arranging the plant and cake sale for Saturday 12th April with proceeds towards the floral decoration of St. John's over the weekend of June 15th when the new organ will be re-dedicated.

CHOIR

The choir enjoyed a great workshop with Canon Marie Rowley Brooke early in March, when music for Lent and Easter was arranged and rehearsed and look forward to welcoming Canon Marie back later in the year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aileen Cotter and Danny Diggins who were married on 28th March in Ballyseedy Castle and whose marriage was later blessed in Ballyseedy Church – all good wishes for the future.

NEWS FROM THE WEST

Féile na Bealtaine Music and Arts Festival takes place every May Bank Holiday in Dingle, where you can enjoy music, literature and art performances from all over the world. We welcome Canon Salter from the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross to provide our worship on Sunday May 4th. in Irish. Why not join us and make a day of it, enjoying the many other events happening later after service. www.feilenabealtaine.ie

World Day of Prayer was observed in Kilgobbin with a lively rendering of the service prepared this year by the Christian women of Egypt, we are remembering at this time the Bishop of Egypt, Bishop Mouner who is asking all Christians to pray for 'our beloved country Egypt.'

'A Wake in the West' a comedy, was performed by the Camp Drama Group. Karen Blennerhassett played the lovelorn, all too obedient, young woman. It was great to see Hazel Evans directing front of house operations too.

Our sympathy and prayerful good wishes are with Tom Blennerhassett on the death of Hazel, and we remember also Cara and Darcy, Neil and Danielle, Mark and Lisa, and James and Lynn, as well as grandchildren Abby, Amy and Maria. Hazel was originally from Ballseedy where the Peevers, Slye, Mason and Giles families also mourn her loss. May Hazel rest in peace and rise in glory

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckcross

(Vacant)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

St Mary's was packed to absolute capacity on February 28th as the congregation and her many friends and neighbours said goodbye to Hazel Blennerhassett, who passed away on February 26th. Hazel's gentleness of spirit lent itself so quietly to each and every one of us in many different, unassuming ways. In his homily, Hazel's son Neil, synthesised all that was good and kind about her and how difficult it was going to be to for the extended family to come to terms with their loss. To her husband Tom; to Lynn and her partner James, Cara and her husband Darcy, Neil and his wife Danielle and Mark and his partner Lisa, her grandchildren Abby, Amy and Maria, her sister Gill, brothers Colin and Neal, and extended family, we extend our deepest sympathies.

We also extend our sympathies to Richard Hilliard and family on the death of Richard's sister Valerie Dring, of Currabinny, Cork, who passed away on Friday March 14th. Both the Blennerhassett and Hilliard families are in our thoughts and prayers..

...Take time, be gentle
as you walk with grief.
May they rest in peace.

LENT

On Sunday March 9th, Rev. Máirt led a Lenten Reflection walk from the Muckcross Adventure Centre to Torc. This followed the first in a series of "Lecto Divinia" scripture readings which began after service on Ash Wednesday. These evenings will continue on Wednesday evenings (8pm) in the Aghadoe Room, throughout Lent. Participant responses are positive as discussions are proving quite thought provoking and theologically challenging, The series seems to be a very worthwhile exercise in exploring the following Sunday's Gospel. Thanks to Rev. Máirt and Canon Brian for facilitating these evenings.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING WALK

Although snow is falling heavily outside as I write these notes, the last stanza of Shelley's Ode to the West Wind come to mind – "If winter comes, can spring be far behind". With that in mind Lynda O'Connor has agreed that we should once more take the Sunday School children out and about in the National Park to show them the living wonder of the Creator as the first buds and blossoms of 2014 awaken. A few years back we got the children to photograph different aspects of this awakening and subsequently put their photographs on display at the back of the church. The exhibition proved very popular and our Sunday School facilitators may consider this again for 2014.

WILDLIFE WALK

Following on from a recent Gospel reading some of the adults have been challenged to go into the wilderness they claim is absent in Killarney. We hope to do this after Sunday Service in the next few weeks and the walk will last for about two hours. We hope to see plants which can blind at a touch, the fastest living thing on the planet (ok; it's the peregrine falcon) and the jewel amongst Killarney's hidden waterfalls. All that's required is a flask, a sandwich, walking boots and the will to go where few have gone before – and it's less than 5 miles from town!

CONCERTS

Our concert season has begun in earnest and the PR campaign seems to have worked for the first of our evenings as the Church was filled to capacity to hear the Kelly Walsh and Laramie A Cappella Choir and Blue Gras Musicians from Wyoming on March 14th. Our Concerts for April include The Dartmouth Strings (Tumlare) on April 23rd. All concerts start at 8pm and last approximately one hour. For details please contact Andrew Eadie at: andrew@kerrywoollenmills.ie or scrahanmf@eircom.net. All welcome.

THE VACANCY

Having submitted a parish profile the advertisement for a resident, part-time priest for St. Mary's has gone live and anticipation is high.

RAILINGS

The stonework has been completed on the damaged section of cast iron railing and we hope to shortly commence maintenance work elsewhere along the remaining sections. Given the church's pivotal positioning in the town, having this work underway is fantastic. Work on the south transept will hopefully be completed during the year as well.

EASTER SERVICES

April 17th: Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae. 8pm

April 18th: Good Friday, The Last Hour. 2pm

April 20th: Easter Day, H. C. 11am

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

Spring is definitely here and there are signs of growth all around us. We hope that these are spiritual as well as botanical with the Lenten Lectio sessions. Attendance has been lower than hoped but they have been very rewarding to be involved with.

Another sign has been the growth in the ministry team in the parish. We have had one new Sunday school teacher join the team and there are more on the way. We have also had Barbara starting the transition from Reader to Preacher and it is great to hear such positive feedback from people on her sermons.

The garden is also back on the grow and there is some repair work to do after the storms. We have started planting again but we also need to think about what we want to plant. As part of our response to the Killorglin Greening Towns project we have appointed Ron as the parish environmental officer. He has been talking to another member of the Greening Towns Committee who suggested that we carry out a biodiversity audit. So as we celebrate the new life and richness of God's creation in spring, we can do something to support its variety and richness.

The improvement in the weather also brings to mind the approach of the cricket season. Ron will be umpiring this year as he continues to recover from his hip op and by the time this is being read a new captain will be appointed, as the AGM is on the 1st of April.

The Easter General Vestry will be taking place as you read this, although if you're a parishioner I hope you're listening instead.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

After that we are into the run up to Easter. Our reflective walk this year will be run jointly with St James' RC parish and will take place on Saturday the 12th of April starting at 10 am at St James' and finishing at lunch time in St Michael's. The Holy Week schedule is as last year - 8pm every night in St Michael's, with Eucharist on Holy Thursday and Tenebrae on Good Friday. There will be a period of quiet reflection before the service starts on Good Friday, so readings will start at about 20 past and the service will probably end at about 9.20. Easter Sunday services as usual.

On Saturday the 3rd of May there will be a service of commemoration at the grave side of Mr and Mrs Ruth to celebrate the centenary of their founding of Cumann Gealach. This service at 5pm will be largely in Irish with Mrs Ruth's close friend Cannon George Salter coming down from Cork to help take the service.

I think that is it for now so I hope the rest of your Lent is productive and your Easter brings all the joy and freedom.

Rev. Máirt

Smile!

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the minister is going to lose his place, and he will have to start *all over again.*"

It worked!

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2014

Christians Together in Kenmare gathered in Holy Cross Church on Friday 7th March to celebrate World Day of Prayer for the second year running. This year's service was prepared by Christian women in Egypt - the theme was 'Streams in the Desert'. As we reflected upon scripture a group from Holy Cross (RC), Gateway Methodist and St Patrick's (C of I) took part in a dramatisation of the Gospel (John 4:3-42) - where Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well and asks her for a drink. Jesus tells the woman that whoever drinks of the 'living water' will never be thirsty again - the water he gives will become a spring of water welling up into eternal life. A spiritual reflection of the theme of living waters was led by Sister Helen.

We were joined by the recently-formed Kenmare Girl Guides who led the congregation in lively singing - 'Down by the Riverside' and 'Give me joy in my heart...' The Guides are now working on their world religion badge. This second World Day of Prayer Service in Kenmare was a great experience bringing us together as family, not just in Kenmare, but binding us closer with so many in a world-wide celebration of God's provision and the promise of eternal life, through faith in Christ Jesus.

World Day of Prayer 2015 is scheduled to take place in Gateway Methodist Church - the service is to be prepared by Christian women in The Bahamas. See www.wdopi.org



Service of Hope, Prayer & Thanksgiving

On Saturday 22nd March at 15:00 in St Patrick's, we held a Service of Hope, Prayer and Thanksgiving for all parents/ grandparents/ relatives who have lost a child. The service was very simple, with Scripture and poetry readings and some music, plus the opportunity for people to bring a memento, a candle, spring flowers or an individual prayer; services such as these provide a remarkable setting for mutual support, remembrance and healing. It was particularly significant that our Methodist and Roman Catholic friends joined us - and that we felt part of one single family as we ministered to each other and received ministry in return.



At the World Day of Prayer in Holy Cross Church, Kenmare

Methodist Midlands & Southern District Spring Synod

Report by Rev. Laurence Graham

The Synod took place in Carlow Methodist Church on Saturday 8th March. The geographical spread of this District means that a number of the representatives drove for three hours to be there for 10.30 am. However, to be welcomed on arrival by both coffee and friends immediately made the journey worthwhile.

The Ministerial session began with an address from our outgoing District Superintendent Rev. Brian Griffin based on Hebrews 13. He pointed out that several phrases in this passage show us that the original readers of Hebrews lived in times of stress and difficulty and so they were urged to "keep on loving each other...." and to "not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings...." Brian then reflected on his travelling with many of us through good times and sometimes tough times over the years. He referred us to a book which he had found helpful called "Clergy Killers" by Lloyd Rediger.

This passage in Hebrews also speaks of welcoming the stranger and together we celebrate the numerical increase in many of the congregations in this District due to large numbers of people from other countries coming to live in Ireland.

The other highlight of the Ministerial session was to warmly recommend Rev. Vicky Lynch to be received into Full Connexion at this year's Conference. We pray that her ministry will continue to demonstrate the "great commitment and imagination" that it was reported has been evident in Limerick up to now.

After several committees and then lunch the Representative session began with a service of Holy Communion in which all of the ministers from our District who are due to retire this year took part. Rev. John Parkin preached to us from Luke 17:10, "we are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." John reminded us that we are all called to be faithful servants wherever we are and whatever our lot. We recognize that in the Western world we are often part of a declining Church and that the strength of world Christianity is now in the Global South. Nevertheless, even when we seem to be weak, we must constantly ask what we must do if we are to be faithful servants.

There are certainly signs around the District that Churches and individuals are doing this. In our work of God conversation we heard of growing ecumenical initiatives in Clonakilty, Birr and Kenmare. We prayed for a joint Churches group in Rathkeale seeking to foster better relationships between settled Travellers and others who live in the area. We celebrated new fellowships/outreach groups in Kerry and the Golden Vale. It was noted that "The Lighthouse" is now open in Millstreet. We also rejoiced to

hear of a renewed community focus in Central Buildings, Limerick making space available to local organisations, projects and people at an affordable rate while the completely redeveloped St. Patrick's building in Waterford is due to re-open very soon as a resource to the city centre community.

There was a very encouraging report from the District Youth committee which remains very active and several of the District's children's youth events which have been organized have been oversubscribed. Elsie McDonnell our District MWI President gave a report of varied activities and initiatives in groups around the District but also informed us that MWI is in a period of self-examination as to how best to shape themselves into the future. The report for MMS(I) spoke of a review being embarked on and a team visit being planned to Haiti.

Towards the end of the meeting we agreed to send two memorials to Conference. One of these urges Conference to be aware of the minimum number of ordained ministers which we feel is necessary for the viability of the District. The second memorial relates to the fact that a number of Circuits on this District seem to pay much more per member in comprehensive assessment than Circuits in other Districts. We hope that this apparent inequality can be addressed.

In light of Rev. Brian Griffin's retirement, Rev. Bill Mullally was elected to be the new District Superintendent, while Rev. Daphne Twinem was re-elected as our Stationer. So at the end of a long, stimulating and productive day there was plenty to think about on the three hour drive home again.

Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God that he does not exist?

The Methodist District Superintendent writes



A man was recently convicted in Athlone for the raping of two girls aged six and nine in September of last year. He enticed them away from a garden where they were attending a birthday party. During the trial it was revealed that he had been drinking heavily and that he had 88 other convictions going back to 2001 nearly all of which were alcohol related.

In 2011 the Council on Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Methodist Church in Ireland submitted a response to a consultation on the minimum price of alcohol in Northern Ireland. Methodists have been concerned about the abuse of alcohol from the time of their founder, John Wesley, when alcohol was so cheap it was possible to get drunk on a penny.

Alcohol is still not normally allowed on Methodist property and ministers in training have to give an undertaking to abstain from using alcohol and that after ordination it be used responsibly. Whilst the Methodist Church commends total abstinence, it does recognise the right of conscience on this matter.

The CSR response raises a number of real concerns about the results of alcohol abuse in Ireland. The Report reminds us that Irish people are among the heaviest drinkers in the world, 81% exceeding the recommended daily limits.

Alcohol related admissions to hospitals are increasing. Off-licence sales are soaring. Liver disease is about to overtake heart disease as the main cause of death. Cirrhosis of the liver has increased ten-fold since 1981. In Northern Ireland, 43% of those who have committed suicide have abused alcohol which may have contributed to their suicidal state. Alcohol abuse all too often leads

to domestic violence and serious crime. The CSR calls for the reduction of drinking scenes in TV dramas and soaps.

Many Newslink readers are rugby enthusiasts. The CSR asks whether alcohol sponsorship be banned from sporting events. It supports a social responsibility levy on those companies involved in the production, distribution and sale of alcohol to offset the costs to Health Service treatment of alcohol related admissions. It further supports legislation which blocks access to cheap alcohol to which young people are particularly vulnerable.

Of course, underlying these concerns is the larger and deeper question which demands our attention: why are so many people dependant on cigarettes, alcohol, gambling, prescribed drugs like tranquilisers, even the plug-in-drugs – television and the internet – and over-eating?

What are we, as the local Church, doing about it? Youth and children's programmes should include a focus on these issues. Who are their role models? Do we, as parents, unwittingly reinforce what television and advertising is pouring into every avenue of communication and therefore, into the life of the family? Through ministry – adult, youth and children – are we offering worthwhile activities that lead to personal well-being?

Rev Brian D Griffin
Superintendent of the Midlands & Southern District

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396236
Email: mliz.hewitt7@gmail.com

SERVICE TIMES

Adare: 10.15 am

Ballingrane: 11.45 am

Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School during morning services

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

In March we were involved in two services for the World Day of Prayer. The women of St Nicholas' Parish were responsible for arranging the service in Adare on the Friday morning but, as the Church is still recovering from the storm damage, the service was held in the Methodist Church. The second service, on Friday evening, was held in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland in Rathkeale. The service, prepared by Christian women in Egypt, was inspiring and

most enjoyable. Several women from the congregations involved took part in the services. Rev Liz Hewitt gave the address at the service in Adare. At Rathkeale it was a pleasure to have two young Egyptian women, who are sisters, taking part in the service.

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

As I write, preparations are being made for the visit of Rev Dr Heather Morris, the President of the Methodist Church, to the Circuit Thursday 27th March. Her visit had to be postponed as she was due to come to Adare when the fateful storm swept through the country and left us without electricity! There will be a report of the occasion in the May issue of Newslink.

PASSION SUNDAY

Holy Communion, using an order for Lent, will take place in both churches on Passion Sunday 6 April.

LENTE STUDIES

This year we are joining with friends from St Nicholas' Church of Ireland to engage in Holy Reading and Reflection on Scripture, or Lectio Divina. The scripture passages used each week are the Gospel readings for the following Sunday. We made a good start to our reading as seventeen people met on the first Wednesday evening. We are grateful to Jackie McNair, who is experienced in this method of prayerfully reading the Bible, for leading the group in the first few weeks. The Lectio Divina continues each Wednesday evening, until Holy Week, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall.

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday 16th April:

Reflection at 8.00pm in Adare Methodist Church

Good Friday 18th April:

5.00pm A Prayer Walk around Rathkeale – this will be led by the clergy from the three denominations in the area

8.00pm Readings and prayers for Good Friday in Ballingrane Methodist Church

The Prayer Walk on Good Friday is a new venture for the churches in Rathkeale and Ballingrane. There will be several prayer points, or Stations, set up in the streets of the town where we will halt for readings and prayers. These points or stations will be identified with art work prepared by Patrick Lynch, a graphic designer, who is a member of Christ Church, Limerick.

Easter Day:

Celebration and Holy Communion on Sunday 20th April

10.15am Adare Methodist Church

11.00am Ballingrane Methodist Church

LOCAL PREACHERS' SUNDAY

Sunday 27th April. There has been a long tradition in the Methodist Church for the Sunday after Easter to be a time for ministers to take a break and an opportunity for local preachers to conduct worship in all our churches. Local preachers are women and men who have trained and been accredited to conduct worship and preach. They provide valued and faithful service to the Church. Our services in both Churches will be conducted this year by Tom Davis from North Tipperary.

UNITED FELLOWSHIP IN CHARLEVILLE

The monthly meeting in April falls on Easter Sunday this year and the Fellowship Group will meet for a celebration of Easter praise at 7.30pm in McAuley House.

MWI (METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND)

MWI will meet at 8.00pm on Monday 7 April in Adare Church. The speaker will be Rhoda Nixon who served with her husband, Rev David Nixon, as Methodist Mission Partners in the United Church of Zambia, from 1999 – 2012.

We wish all Newslink readers a very Happy and Blessed Easter!

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

On Saturday March 15th Christ Church hosted Genealogy Day for the second time. This St Patrick's weekend event is proving to be very popular, with people travelling quite some distance to come and look through church records and speak to experts who can help guide the process of tracing family back through generations. This year we were very glad to welcome Fr Noel Kirwan who brought along St Michael's RC parish records and the 1916 Letters project which added a new dimension to the day. Lorna Shier came along from Ballingrane to explain the local Palatine history and connections. All in all it was a fascinating mix of both family and Irish history. For more information and an excellent account of the day and the preparations leading up to it go to Facebook - Genealogy day 2014. A huge thank you to Emma Gilleece who organised it so efficiently for the second year running.



Examining Christ Church records on Genealogy Day

The Limerick City Archives City of Churches Exhibition was opened in Christ Church on March 20th by Mayor Kathleen Leddin and Mike Fitzpatrick acting artistic director of Limerick City of Culture and officially launched by Peter Carroll of SAUL. This fascinating exhibition is showing in CB1, 51a O'Connell Street until April 24th – Tuesday to Saturday, 12 noon till 5pm. It gives a wonderful and extensive experience of Limerick as a city packed full of religious architecture and history. It is a must not miss opportunity. A beautifully produced and illustrated catalogue is available at an amazing €5 giving detailed information of the research and exhibition.



Limerick City of Churches, as seen by Jacob Stack

It may be different if you're born and brought up in Limerick but as a 'blow in' like me the sheer volume of religious building in the city is really very striking.

It looks like a city held together by churches – really beautiful and varied buildings linking the city not only through their visible presence but through their connections with people – through family, life events, schools, music and more – and through their fascinating and intricate stories as part of the fabric of the city over so many years.

And those stories are still going on. Buildings are finding new uses, so they remain significant places, and their identity as places for and with people still continues and grows.

So congratulations to all who imagined, devised and built this project – including, of course Emma Gilleece, City Archivist Jaqui Hayes and Jacob Stack whose cartoon images add a brilliant quirky feel to the exhibition.

We're looking forward to welcoming St Munchin's Photography Club who will be holding their annual exhibition in CB1 from April 28th to Sunday May 4th.

Christ Church is looking forward to a family day in Spanish Point for our May Bank Holiday weekend Sunday Worship.

There will be surfing, eating, singing and games not necessarily in that order. Jonathan and Beth Griffin of The Surf Project will be joining us at McCauley House. Do drop in if you're around or give us a call if you want to join us. You'd be most welcome.

LIMERICK

Sunday Service 11.30 am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

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

Youth Group Mondays 7.30 – 9pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch

SHANNON

Fellowship group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details

Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday 6pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details

KILKEE

Sunday Service 11am

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 11 a.m. (inc. Children's' programme at 11 a.m.)

Prayer meetings: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 a.m. –

9.00 a. m.; Wednesday 9.15–10 a. m.

Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8.00 p. m. and Friday 10.00 a.m.

Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 a. m. – 12.00 p.m.

Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Impact Youth Club (13+) 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays 8–10 p.m.

Kingdom Krew Junior Youth Club (9–13) 2nd Friday 7–8.30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship 2nd Monday of the month 10.30 a.m.

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

Sunday Service. 11a.m. (preceded by coffee), (inc. Children's' programme)

Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.

Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p. m. Meeting in Drishane Castle.

Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in "The Lighthouse" 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

Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group is moving to Wednesday nights instead of Thursdays. They will now meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8pm.

Dingle is also adjusting their schedule of the meetings from April we will meet three times each month as follows. Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the last Sunday of each month at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispolo on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Cragreens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our April meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th Please pray for this new initiative.

"The Lighthouse" is now open. Our Tuesday "Step by Step" Bible group meets there at 8pm and we have an open house for coffee, conversation and prayer on Tuesdays from 6.30–8.30pm and on Thursdays from 9.30am–12.30pm. We're also partnering with "Unbound" Christian bookshop to have Christian literature etc. on sale. Please continue to pray for this initiative. We also continue Sunday night services in Drishane Castle Asylum Seeker Hostel at 6.30pm each Sunday night. This meeting also incorporates a children's programme which many children attend.

Men's Breakfast in Killarney is scheduled for Saturday 12th April from 8.30 – 10.00 a. m.

Some ladies in Killarney have begun a ladies lifestyle club called "No Biscuits". This is an opportunity for women to fellowship together while also sharing ideas for healthy lifestyle choices. They now meet on the last Monday of each month. Next meeting 28th April at 11.00am.

Killarney Women's Fellowship group continue their "Christianity Rediscovered" at 10.30am on Monday 14th April.

Kingdom Krew (the children's club in Killarney) for 8–13 year olds meets again on Friday 11th April from 7.8.30pm.

As well as our usual Holy Week services we are hoping to set aside some of the building in Killarney as a prayer room for the whole of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This will give everyone an opportunity to drop in and out and spend some time in interactive prayer, day or night.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Brian Griffin

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755

Email: beg08@eircom.net

The Annual Circuit meeting will take place on Thursday 10 April at 8.00 pm in Cloughjordan Methodist Church. "The purpose of the meeting is to:

- (a) provide mutual support and fellowship
- (b) elect Circuit Officers
- (c) share stories of the work of God thereby enabling churches to learn from each other
- (d) pass on information from the Circuit, District or Connexion."

There will be a United Service of Holy Communion with the C of I on Maundy Thursday 17th April at 8.00 pm in Cloughjordan Methodist Church. Special music by the Cloughjordan Community Choir.

Methodists will participate in ecumenical processions on Good Friday 18th April:

- In Roscrea, beginning in St. Cronans' Church Street, at 11.00 am
- In Cloughjordan from Townsfield Estate, at 6.30 pm
- There will be a service in Shinrone Methodist Church at 8.00 pm

The Easter Day Services of Holy Communion:

- Borrisokane: 10.15 am Rev. Brian D Griffin
 - Cloughjordan: 10.15 am Rev. Tom Kingston
 - Roscrea: 11.45 am Rev. Brian D Griffin
 - Easter Carol Service in Shinrone at 7.00 pm led by Mr John Armitage
-

On Sunday 27th April, the Rev B. Griffin will preach at services on the Roscrea Group of Parishes. The Annual St. Cronans' Walk will take place, grouping at 3.00 pm at the Roscrea Post Office; then to the Methodist Church in the Mall for a short act of worship; on to St. Cronans' National School and terminating at The Men's Shed, Gaol Road.

The Eucharist: Part 8 – The Dismissal

The last in a series of articles on the the Eucharist Service by Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

In the 1662 Holy Communion service (Holy Communion One in our Prayer Book), there is a long wait between receiving communion and going home (as some of us may remember from our childhood!). Because Archbishop Cranmer moved the receiving of Communion to the middle of the Prayer of Consecration, there is the Lord's Prayer, another long prayer, the Gloria in Excelsis, and the Blessing before the service is over. Our contemporary service, Holy Communion Two, goes back to the more ancient practice of getting people out the door very quickly after they receive Communion. This was not introduced to prevent the roast from burning, but rather to get us out to the real world as soon as possible. In the Early Church, receiving Communion was seen as a prelude to going out and living one's faith. That word 'Mass' that most Anglicans are uncomfortable with comes from the closing words of the Eucharist in Latin, "Ite, missa est" ("Go; it is the dismissal"). At first glance, it seems strange to call the entire service after the last words spoken in it, but that word 'dismissal' has the sense of 'mission' – not just about leaving, but about being sent out to build God's Kingdom by our words and deeds. Our modern Anglican dismissal, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" serves the same purpose.

BLESSING

But before the Dismissal comes the Blessing. In the earliest days of the Church, receiving Communion was itself seen as a blessing from God, and so it is believed that there was generally no blessing at the end of the service. Only those who didn't receive Communion got a blessing – a practice we've revived in modern times as children

or others who aren't receiving are given a blessing at the Communion rail. In the Middle Ages, lay people began receiving Communion less and less, and eventually in some places never received it at all, so blessings at the end of the service became normative. This practice continued even after the Reformation brought lay people back into regular reception of Communion.

FREQUENT CELEBRATION & SACRAMENT

We have been examining what the Holy Eucharist is all about. It is not just something we do from time to time because we have always done it. Neither is it something that is so important that we should do it very seldom. It is precisely because it is so important that we should take part in it more frequently. We must also remember that it is a celebration in which we should participate with joy and gladness. It is the family meal of the People of God, as we gather around the Table as families do for any important celebration. And, lastly, it is a Sacrament, given by Christ, in which he shares himself with us, to make us holy. How we celebrate it – formally or informally, standing or kneeling, in a large gathering or a small group, in a church building or in someone's sitting room – is not important. Being there and taking part is what Jesus commanded us to do.

May God's Holy Spirit keep us in Communion with Christ and with each other in this life, as a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet we will share with him and with all our heavenly family in the life to come.

Partners in Prayer – April 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Down & Dromore and Bishop Harold Miller

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

6th April, 5th Sunday in Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan) and The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido

Diocese: Members of our Diocese attending Central Church meetings in Dublin on Tuesday

13th April, 6th Sunday in Lent /Palm Sunday, Red or Purple

*All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Jerusalem, the Bishop of Jerusalem The Rt Revd Suheil Dawani and the peace of Jerusalem

Diocese: UDYC Youth Fellowship Group meeting in Kilmurray next Saturday

20th April, Easter Sunday, White or Gold

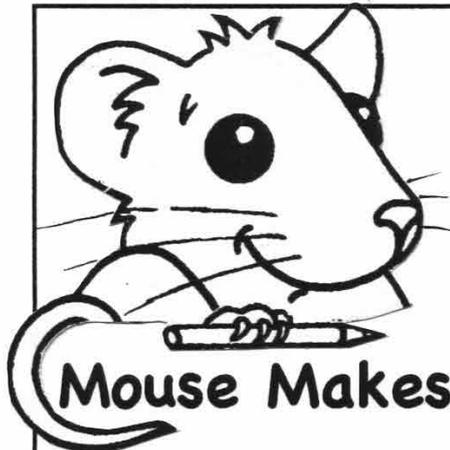
*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

Diocese: The GFS All Ireland Camp at Wilson's Hospital next weekend

27th April, 2nd Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis President Bishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop in Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Diocese: We continue to pray for all parishes whose incumbencies are vacant at this time and we give thanks for the ministry of lay and clergy who are providing extra support to them at this time.



Mouse Makes

Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.

HE IS RISEN

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to Jesus' tomb. They found the stone rolled away but when they went in they did not find Jesus' body...



Jesus is risen

The angel said;
"Jesus...is not here, for he has risen, just as he said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said;
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again

Jesus said;
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3

...Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and said,
"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



READ the Resurrection story in **Luke 24** and **John 20** and **21**.
How many people saw the risen Jesus?

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