



NEWSLINK

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

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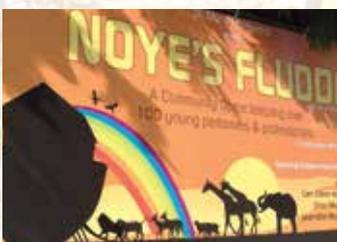
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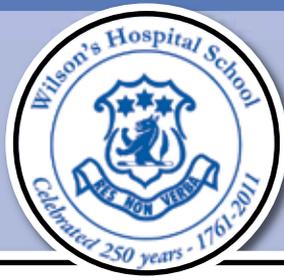


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Christ is risen indeed - Alleluia!



Image created by Nenagh Junior Church at their Good Friday workshop



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The Bishop Writes



Dear Friends

Christian Aid Week takes place from 11-17 May. You may or may not know that I am Chair of the Board of Christian Aid Ireland. I am also proud of what Christian Aid does and the way it does it. Christian Aid is the Church of Ireland Development Agency - we own it. The Church of Ireland is one of eight Church and Church-related bodies that control Christian Aid Ireland.

CHARITIES ARE UNDER ATTACK

A few large and well known charities have been criticised, quite rightly for how they use or misuse money raised by the public. So on the eve of Christian Aid week, (11-17 May) when you may be considering holding a Christian Aid Coffee morning or another fundraising event, I want to tell you about some of the work Christian Aid has been doing.

CHRISTIAN AID RESPOND TO PHILIPPINES TYPHOON

Typhoon Haiyan, hit the Philippines in the early morning of 8 November last year, with winds up to 200 mph and storm surges as high as six metres. 13.2 million people have been affected and 4.4million have been left homeless. Many thousands have died. The typhoon hit the very poorest part of the country, an area of scarce resources and no secure livelihoods.

Christian Aid and its Partner in the Philippines (CODE) have been working together for decades. When the Typhoon was first forecast, immediately the planning began, identifying who were likely to be the most vulnerable, preparing survival packs and water, and moving people to safer ground. Nobody knew at that stage that this typhoon was to be the worst ever, and that there would be no safe ground.

Christian Aid partner CODE was among the very first to reach the affected areas. They knew how and where to locate resources locally. Many other agencies had to locate vehicles and supplies and transport them to the Philippines, all of which took time. The Philippines typhoon proved the effectiveness of Christian Aid's policy to work through local partners.

IRISH AID CONGRATULATES CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Ireland's Appeal for the Philippines raised €699,000. This voluntary giving was augmented by Irish Aid to the tune of €500,000. Christian Aid will be using that money long after the Philippines have slipped from the headlines, to enable those affected rebuild their lives and communities.

One of the reasons why Christian Aid Ireland was formed was to qualify for Irish government funding through Irish Aid. Irish Aid have said they are impressed by the effectiveness and efficiency of Christian Aid work. In fact Irish Aid staff are now saying to other development agencies that they should model their work on Christian Aid! Irish Aid scrutinises the agencies it supports with exacting strictness, so the fact that they have given €1.5 million to Christian Aid so far this year for humanitarian relief is a huge vote of confidence.

CONFIDENCE IN CHARITIES DENTED

Christian Aid Ireland's income this year will be up - slightly - due to the huge response to the Philippines appeal. That is good news because giving to all charities is well down this year, especially in the Republic. I want to assure you that Christian Aid is open, transparent, constantly reviewing and improving its governance, its efficiency and effectiveness. Please don't paint all charities with the same brush. If you have questions about how Christian Aid works, how it spends its money, just ask for the details and we will be more than happy to give you the information you are asking for (including the salary of our CEO). We have nothing to hide.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU GIVE

I can understand why more and more people want their money to go directly to people in need. While these donations are important, and can achieve a lot, pause a moment and ask yourself, how can a development agency exist if it only receives project funding. When you fundraise for a particular project that is where the money must go. This is restricted funding. But unrestricted funding is vitally important too. The work to relieve the suffering of people in the Philippines was effective because of many years of work which Christian Aid and its local partner had been doing addressing the underlying causes of poverty in that area. That would have been impossible without people giving generously to Christian Aid, without strings attached, because they trusted Christian Aid to do the right thing. Supporting Christian Aid as an organisation is also necessary.

DISASTER RELIEF WILL NOT ERADICATE POVERTY

Disasters hit the headlines. Humanitarian relief is necessary. But disaster relief alone will never eradicate poverty. We need to overcome the causes of poverty. This takes careful research, long term planning, campaigning for tax justice, addressing climate change, and the list goes on. If we really want a world where each person has the opportunity to develop their God given potential, we need to be addressing the causes of poverty, not only the symptoms of poverty. Christian Aid has a proven track record as a leader in underlying reasons why poverty cripples the lives of so many. It is committed to this task and needs our support.

Look up the resources for Christian Aid Week at www.christianaid.ie

Thank you, +Trevor



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Editorial-Pilgrims Together

Reading through this month's notes, I am struck by how many of our parishes have joined with brothers and sisters from other Christian traditions during Lent and Holy Week. Among the stories I noted were these: in Limerick students from schools of all traditions came together to sing Noye's Fludde in St Mary's Cathedral; in Kenmare during Lent Roman Catholic, Methodist and CofI people came together to watch and discuss classic films; in Rathkeale on Good Friday the different traditions came together for a moving 'Way of the Cross'; and Nenagh Union parishioners joined in two ecumenical Good Friday 'Walks of Witness': the traditional walk from the CofI to the RC church in Templeberry, and a new one through the Nenagh streets.

I was part of the lay team, Roman Catholic and CofI, which organised the Good Friday walk in Nenagh. The walk itself was prayerful and well attended, but the real blessing for me was to work and share with people I do not regularly meet.

On Holy Saturday I joined a pilgrimage to Clonmacnoise organised under the 'National Pilgrim Paths' banner, where I met several old friends. In brilliant sunshine well over a hundred people from all over Ireland joined in a beautiful non-denominational service lead by Fr Turlough Baxter from Athlone, at which I was asked to read from scripture.

The common thread to all these stories is leaving where we are to meet others somewhere else – in other words, travelling as pilgrims. Jesus told his disciples that though they would be scattered like sheep he would go before them into Galilee (Matthew 26:31-32). Scattered as we are in our separate denominational folds, I do not believe we will find Jesus, and the unity he wills for us, unless we are prepared to travel together as pilgrims to seek him in Galilee.

God Bless, Joc Sanders,
Editor

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardferd, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Eml, 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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NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2014

(unchanged from 2013)

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Full Page	1193	1069	154	143
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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18



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Grace, Forbearance & LGBT

by Eric Champ, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

I was listed to conduct the service of Morning Prayer in Killarney on Sunday 23rd Feb. I found it difficult to decide on what the readings were saying to me until I read the sentence, 'Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries' 1 Cor 4, v1.

I combined it in my mind with the conference of about 100 people from Limerick, Clogher and Tuam dioceses who met on Saturday 15th Feb in Claremorris in Co Mayo to consider Human Sexuality in the context of Christian Belief. This is a topic causing a lot of worry in the Church and in the Anglican Church worldwide. The problem here is that we in the south tend to be on the side of acceptance while those in the north are less willing to accept Gays and Lesbians in the Church. The Northern province versus the Southern province, you might say, and it's not good for the Church of Ireland.

GRACE

One speaker there said that we can transform conflict by Grace. He said that many conflicts in Church life are disagreements about whether or how things should be done and how we interpret Scripture. In this debate the interpretation of scripture is the stumbling block.

He said that there are four biblical virtues that are helpful to remember in times of disagreement: Humility, Patience, Integrity and Mutual Respect:

HUMILITY

... follows from a biblical understanding of what it means to be human, which is, "we are a masterpiece of God's creativity but with all the limitations that come from being creatures and not God". We

all have limited perspectives and understanding of truth. We are fallen creatures in whom sin & pride often come out as arrogance, which leads to intensifying conflict with others who also have a limited perspective and see issues differently. Approaching conflict with Grace dictates that Humility must be part of our character. We must remind ourselves and acknowledge the limits to our own understanding.

PATIENCE

... is rooted in our human admission that the other might be more in the right than we are. We have to pursue the truth as best we can understand it and make allowances for the slow pace of human understanding of the mysteries of God and with the dissenting views of others. Patience often means that we have to suspend judgment, not make snap decisions about others or what they are thinking, until we really get to know them. 'For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.' It takes time to understand everyone.

INTEGRITY

People of integrity are those who are true to themselves and their convictions. But we also expect such people to represent both themselves and their opponents with honesty, and not to do harm by reducing them to labels, either in how we relate to them or speak about them to others. 'Do not judge and you will not be judged'.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Genesis tells us that God made us in God's image. This means that even in the presence of deep disagreement we must show respect for one another, out of respect for the image of God in each of us. One way that Christians can do this along with the

Continued on page 6

With our Christian pilgrimage in mind...

You can become a Christian in a moment, but not a mature Christian. Christ can enter, cleanse, and forgive you in a matter of seconds, but it will take much longer for your character to be transformed and moulded to his will. It takes only a few minutes for a bridegroom to be married, but in the rough-and-tumble of their home it may take many years for two strong wills to be dovetailed into one. So when we receive Christ, a moment of commitment will lead to a life-time of adjustment.

John Stott

Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's Cathedral

Free Admission (except 21st May)

Wednesday 7th May, 1.15pm - Galina Badmaeva (violin) Malcolm Green (piano/cello) music by Kreisler, Paganini, Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Debussy, Monti

Wednesday 14th May, 1.15pm - Helen Houlihan (soprano) Irina Dernova (piano) - music by Schumann and Faure.

Wednesday 21st May, 1.15pm - Mark Duley (organ) - as part of Pipeworks 20CC 2014

Wednesday 4th June - Stuart O'Sullivan (piano) - music by Chopin

Diocesan Calendar

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

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 confirmation candidates)

Saturday 14th June, 7.30-9.30 pm

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

Friday 20th - Sun 22nd June

GFS Diocesan Camp, Faith Mission, Durrow, Co. Laois

Tuesday 24th June, 8pm

Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Friday 27th June - Tue 1st July

Summer Madness (14+), Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, Co. Antrim.

corresponding virtues of humility, patience and integrity, is with a promise to LISTEN to each other, especially listen to those who disagree with us, taking the time to really hear what they believe, why they believe it and what they find mistaken or hurtful in our own convictions.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.'

FORBEARANCE

... is what we are called on to apply when we find ourselves in disagreement. Forbearance means to delay a negative reaction to another's action, inaction or presence, to tolerate or indulge another. In the Bible, forbearance sometimes depicts God's relationship with us. God does not exercise a negative reaction to our sins. Forbearance includes humility, patience & integrity along with a respect towards others whom we perceive to be in the wrong. It requires a willingness to tolerate those who claim to share our allegiance with Jesus Christ but who understand the implications of that allegiance in a very different way.

What we believe we see can look quite different through the eyes of another person who sees the same situation but from a different vantage point. You could be flying in a small single engine aircraft doing 100 knots and be quite happy up there, while a person on the ground watching you sees the aircraft is going backwards over the ground. That is simply because the wind speed is 110 knots blowing into the front of the aircraft and blowing it backwards. Once you understand that it is wind speed over the wings of the aircraft that keeps it in the air and not ground speed, then it is clear that both opinions are right. The aircraft is flying at 100knots but it is really going backwards over the ground because the wind is blowing it back.

WE NEED FORBEARANCE

The debate on Human sexuality in the context of Christian

Belief has already had a hearing in General Synod and at a conference in Adare by our diocese and in Cavan last year attended by many members of the General Synod. Those who will be faced with making decisions about it in General Synod - sometime in the next triennium, maybe - will have to apply Forbearance in it's full meaning if any agreement is to be reached.

Jesus, we are told, mixed with everybody, no matter what state they were in or what they did in life. Some of us are inclined to lose sight of that in our dealings with those we see as being different to us. But how do we know if a person is Gay or Lesbian, a thief or a murderer? It is not written on their foreheads for all to see. Why would it be ok to be a friend of someone before you find out that the person is Gay and then to shun the person afterwards? They have serious difficulty accepting what they believe they are without being turned away by the rest of us. After all it is not a contagious disease. We don't need to be afraid of it. We won't catch it.

In the past slaves were treated as things, not people. Blacks were treated as inferior to Whites - but now we have a black President in America and attitudes have changed. It took a lot of debate to allow women to be ordained as priests and bishops in the Church of Ireland but now we would be in serious trouble without them. Maybe we accepted Lay Readers with less difficulty - but it took time to get used to them as well. Now we have about ten in Kerry and only eight ordained priests, 6 men and 2 women and 3 of the men are retired.

Our attitude to Gays & Lesbians will have to change too, but in the Church of Ireland it will take a few more years, and maybe even longer in other parts of the world. But with the help of lots of forbearance, and the help of God, it will happen.

Just remember we are 'servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries'. This may be one of God's mysteries.

Máirt's Musings – Waiting for an Easter parachute

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

Breath in, Breath out....repeat as necessary. As I sit to write this it is Holy Week, the busiest time in the Church year. It is also quite some day outside - "tá an ghrian ag taithneamh agus nil scamall sa spear" - well there are one or two, but they are the high up wispy kind that are only there to help the sky to look more interesting. It could be a day in June or July. It feels sort of peaceful which adds to the strangeness of the feeling that I have.

I feel like I am falling in slow motion, as if I have just stepped off the cliff and it is still quite a long way down. It is that feeling of inevitability combined with having quite a bit to do, where all the tasks are on a fairly strict schedule. This morning I had a bunch of things to do and I got them all done. Now, other than a few odd tasks, I have to wait till this evening, when I have another bunch of things that I have to do, that just HAVE to be done this evening. So in between points of mad panic there are these spaces of not being able to do anything whilst still having lots to do. This coupled with the lazy summer feel of the day makes it feel surreal.

So what is Life, The Universe or God, trying to teach me in this? Well I suppose that I must take my cue from the liturgical season. In Holy Week Jesus sets his face like flint in the direction of Jerusalem, He faces up to the ultimate challenge, just as Moses faced into the challenge of leading the people out of Egypt, into the desert. In both cases they could have turned back but knew that if they did then it would be the same old story. If you want change, if you want

new life, you have to face up to the challenge, whether it is starting exercise, giving up that bad habit, saying the thing that you know nobody wants to say or hear, or even just launching yourself at a really busy week. The thing is that at the other side of the challenge, whatever it is, there is new life.



As a friend of mine in theological college always said, it doesn't matter how dark Friday may be, Sunday will come. So if you are Danny Sheehy maybe you have to get in a boat and row to a different shore, if you are Moses you must walk across the desert (without asking for directions). And if you are a small town vicar you must chair the meetings, organise the things that must be done, and do them, in order to come to that point where you land on a new shore, find the Promised Land, or arrive back to the Resurrection.

Hopefully at that point you realise that it's not about how you fall, but how you land. I am still confident that Easter Sunday morning will dawn on me like the opening of a parachute, to allow me to gently touch down after a testing but exhilarating week.

More on Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke responds to Dean Gary Paulsen

It was good to read Dean Gary's thoughts on this subject in the April Newslink, for children receiving communion is a subject very close to my heart!

DIFFERENT POLICIES

In the Diocese of Oxford (and probably in many other Dioceses in the Church of England as well) there is an established programme to enable children from the age of six onwards to receive communion before confirmation. My eldest grand-daughter, Mia, (now 9), has done this (her mother, Cassa, is a curate in Beaconsfield) and I have no hesitation in offering communion to Mia when she is over here on holidays. Mia's younger sister, Roisin-Grace, will be doing this little course next year, and in the fullness of time will be followed by the youngest sister, Caitlin.

Different autonomous Anglican provinces of course have different policies, and indeed, different Dioceses within provinces may well have different policies. However, the Church of Ireland is a small province, and I understand that some years ago a motion in General Synod to permit children to receive communion before confirmation was narrowly defeated. That to my mind is a shame, and perhaps it might be time to 'have another go' at changing this mindset and bringing a new motion to General Synod?

PARENTS MAY SHARE THEIR BREAD

What can we do in the meantime, those of us who feel really strongly about this, as I do? Well, I have started a policy of inviting parents who come to the altar rail with their children to give them some of their own communion bread when they receive it, and I, as usual, give the child a blessing. After all, Christian formation starts in the family! That way I do not deliberately ignore the current regulations, yet at the same time I believe this gives a strong signal

which is understood by children (and parents) that as their parents feed them daily with good food for nourishment and growth, so also they will feed them spiritually. Of course this met with some bemusement at the beginning, but when I pointed out that we didn't refuse communion to a pregnant woman, and the bread and wine thereby became part of the baby's nourishment (spiritual and physical as I believe), then I think the penny dropped!

WHEN TO CONFIRM?

However, I would query whether the changing of the 'communion before confirmation' regulations would ease any pressure to confirm children at the stage at which it happens now, ie, Year 6 in National School. I think there are cultural reasons for this, at least in our rural Diocese. Confirmation in Year 6 seems to be a rite of passage out of the school - aka a big leaving party (and sadly often out of the church). I agree that confirming would be better at an older age, but when children in the parish leave National School and go to a wide variety of secondary schools, I think it would be very difficult to gather them together a couple of years later for a confirmation course. By then, pressure of homework and looming exams will provide convenient (and probably accurate) reasons for not attending, and we might well 'lose' even more. Of course I may be wrong in this assumption, and it would be good to hear others' experiences and views.

TIME FOR A GENERAL SYNOD MOTION?

One thing at a time! If people feel that it would be good to have another go at bringing a motion to General Synod regarding communion before confirmation - ie, communion once baptised - then that would have my full support. In my mind it is a theological nonsense not to permit it.

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZE GIVING

See report on page 18.

CONFIRMATION & EXAMS

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

CLOUGHJORDAN

We spent a most enjoyable afternoon arranging flowers and greenery to make spring bouquets and were delighted with the results. We made and decorated cards too with lots of glitter being used. We also decorated Easter bunny baskets which were very colourful.

The beautiful setting of Corbally Church was the venue for our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving on 5th April. Archdeacon Carney arranged a meaningful service which had a message for us all. The girls participated fully in the service, carrying banners, reading prayers and readings and taking up the collection. After the service, prizes were awarded for Bible Study and Crafts. We are very proud of our girls who are all winners. Congratulations to you all!

We enjoyed refreshments and a chat while some of the girls played in the stream. It was a lovely occasion.

ROSCREA

The Diocesan service and prize giving was held in Corbally. Archdeacon Carney arranged a nice service and a lot of the girls took part in it. It was a nice fine day and the girls spent a lot of time outside playing and some even managed to test the water in the stream! We wish Bishop Williams and Mrs Williams a long and happy retirement. The girls are looking forward to All Ireland Camp and will finish their crafts after the holidays.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- All Ireland Camp, Wilson's Hospital School, 25-27 April.
- Diocesan Council Meeting, Methodist Hall, Roscrea, Thursday, 1st
- Camp, Durrow, 20-22 June 2014



Craft work on display on Prize day 2014

Boys' Brigade



1st NENAGH CO.

The photos were taken at the Boys' Brigade Midland Region Activity Day at Castlecomer. Huge thanks to the organisers for their terrific work. Well done boys for your exemplary behaviour!



Mothers' Union

The EMU goal is to equip, encourage, empower and enthuse. Members of Limerick and Killaloe Diocese who attended the EMU conference in March agree that it certainly achieved its goal! Lynne Tenby, World Wide President, gave a key note address, inspiring all of us to carry on the work of MU and asking us to consider the Parable of the Sower, how the seed of God is sown in our own lives, and how that seed can be sown in others. We attended various work shops throughout the weekend and shared experiences with other members. There is wonderful work being carried out by Mothers Union members throughout Ireland and beyond and the conference was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and to become empowered and enthused to do more!



At the EMU Conference

United Diocesan Youth Council

WEST ALIVE WEEKEND WITH TUAM

Report by participant John Phair (Clonfert Group of Parishes)

From Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd March we enjoyed an action packed UDYC weekend which included more fun, faith and fellowship than one could ever imagine at Esker youth village in Athenry, Co. Galway.

We began the weekend with some icebreaker games to get to know each other along with our first session of worship of the weekend presented by Amy McCrea. Later we enjoyed a delicious meal shortly before heading down to the dormitories and getting ready for bed. I then enjoyed talking and catching up with the friends I had met at previous camps.

In the morning we woke up nice and early and received a lovely breakfast which included fry up (sausages, bacon etc.), pancakes, cereal and toast. We then prepared for our trip to City Limits in Galway city where we played laser quest, airpark,



Group at West Alive Weekend

bowling and on inflatables. We then departed for the aquarium where we encountered some amazing creatures and facts about them. Afterwards we went to the leisure centre for swimming. We finished off the day by going to Supermacs for a much appreciated meal. After a well presented worship and a disco we got ready for bed as it was quite late and we eventually drifted off to sleep.

On Sunday morning we got up nice and early for breakfast, after we enjoyed some free time talking to each other and playing around the grounds. We also enjoyed a lovely walk where we got to see the lovely country side around us. We finished off the weekend with another very well prepared worship and a lovely dinner.



Fun at the Aquarium on West Alive Weekend

DIOCESAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GROUP EASTER RETREAT

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, our planned Easter Retreat did not take place. We look forward to our next Fellowship Group meeting on 17th May 2014, when we will be continuing our exploration of the Lord's Prayer by looking at what it means to pray 'lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil'.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND 2014

Friday 30th May – Monday 2nd June 2014 (Bank Holiday Weekend)

Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare

Return Transport from/to Roscrea- Moneygall - Nenagh- Limerick- Tralee – Farranfore - Newcastlewest – Adare

Who can come?

Anyone who was confirmed during 2013 or 2014 as well as anyone awaiting Confirmation this year. This will be an ideal chance to get to meet other Confirmation Candidates from throughout United Diocese!

Why come?

Confirmation is a time to stand up and be counted; a time to make a clear statement about who you are and whose you are; a time to make a serious commitment about your place in the Family of God. To help you make your commitment, an exciting, dynamic and enjoyable worship programme will be on going throughout the weekend led by Bishop Trevor Williams, Archdeacon Wayne Carney and Canon Robert Hanna.

What is on offer?

As with all UDYC events, this weekend also includes a splendid line up of other activities, and much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine...

How Much & How can I get there?

The weekend will cost €80 per person and this will include all transport during weekend, food, activities and accommodation. Return transport is available for an additional €20 to and from event serving Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh, Limerick, Tralee, Farranfore, Newcastlewest & Adare.

More Information?

For further information please contact Edward at 087/2907553. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 23rd May 2014.

YOUTH MINISTRY

I would also like to mention that anyone who would like to know about opportunities for themselves, or young people they know, to share more fully in the life of their local Church, or indeed, who would just like to ask some questions or who need some encouragement, do not hesitate to contact me at the below address.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward 087 290 7553 or myself, or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Damian

Mobile: 087 227 4663

Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org

[Please note new email address!]



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...?'"

Church of Ireland

LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

THURSDAY 15TH . MAY 2014

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL ,ADARE

AT: 8.00 P.M.

- **SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS IN ZIMBABWE BY:- Jackie McNair, Chaplain in Villiers School, Limerick.**
- **Carrot Washer for Luyengo Farm, a progress report.**
- **Fun Cycle, 21st June, a progress report.**
- **Reports by Parish Mission representatives.**
- **A.O.B.**
- **Everyone** (irrespective of Christian denomination) with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas, is very welcome to attend.
- Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

We begin this month by wishing Bishop Trevor, our Patron, good health and happiness in his retirement.

Our Lenten Project raised €423 for North Tipperary Children's Services. Well done to 6th class who organised Fundraising Friday.

The pupils from the Senior Room enjoyed taking part in a Rugby Blitz organised by Alan Tynan. Alan also organised for all our pupils to see the Silverware won by Leinster in 2013.

Congratulations to Hollie who won a family ticket to the Leinster v. Treviso Match on Good Friday. She was selected as one of ten finalists in the Leinster Rugby Art competition.

Congratulations to Gary Wallace who won 2nd place in the Supervalu Colouring competition.

Congratulations to Rebecca Reid who won the Bernie Colclough shield in the Tidy Town's Poster Competition. Kate, Hannah, Ben, Jessica and Ruby also collected awards in this competition.

Congratulations to Kate who plays the lead role in Roscrea Musical Society's Production of Annie.

What a term it has been. "WINNER ALRIGHT!" We have a lot to celebrate.



Villiers School

HEADMISTRESS JILL STOREY WRITES

By the time this goes to print, our Easter holiday time will be a memory, fading fast into the tumult and hubbub of summer exam season. The new term is one of the shortest possible with only four weeks until the 2013-2014 School Year comes to a close.

This year the two week Easter 'break' has been decidedly busy. Exam season looms, not only School House exams, but of course the demarcation of the State Examinations. In preparation for this, School corridors haven't had the usual calmness of holiday times - instead the School has been filled with our students opting for Easter Study, over eight days of the holiday period. It's great to see this maturity and self-motivation and discipline in our students and we are confident that they will reap the rewards of their labours when results are given out.

Interspersed with academic endeavour we have had a strong international element to the holiday period. Firstly we have had the wonderful news of Transition Year student Andrew Tutty scoring goals in Scotland as he represents Ireland on the Under 16 hockey team. Other Form IV and V students have represented Villiers as delegates in the Model United Nations Conference held in Budapest where the theme was Sustainable Development Goals and our delegates did us proud.

In addition to this we have been host to a ruby delegation from Italy. Managed by one of our Italian parents, Marco Rangone, the School has housed over 100 young Italian rugby players who have come to Limerick, the home of Munster rugby, on an international development tour. They have benefited from some time with Munster coaches as well as playing School and club teams. It's been wonderful to see these enthusiastic young people in the School. The kitchen staff have been particularly inspiring with their modified menu choices to promote Italian cuisine! In time to come we expect to see some of the players return to represent Italy as senior international players. We wish them every success on their journey.

GIRLS HOCKEY CUP SUCCESS

The Senior B girls won their recent Cup Final by beating Regina Mundi 2-1 in Cork. The girls had a nervous start to the game but looked to be the stronger side when the half time whistle blew at 0-0. Kate Healy made some excellent saves in the 1st half to keep us in the game. Regina Mundi made it 1-0 five minutes into the second half. Villiers fought back with Holly Reddan scoring a powerful shot from the top of the circle. With 15 minutes to go a well executed short corner saw Villiers take the lead through Grace Tutty. A great overall team performance secured a well deserved win for Villiers.

BOYS RUGBY

Villiers junior boys recently overcame Newtown School to lift the Mungret Shield. Our senior boys reached the final of the Section B Munster 10-a-side tournament. A mixed tag rugby squad won out their section at a recent Munster tag tournament.

Our 1st Yr boys also beat also Ard Scoil Ris 17-0 in a recent friendly.

INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

We look forward to at least ten primary schools visiting us on Wednesday 14th May to participate in tag-rugby, basketball, soccer, orienteering, fun games and fun science. Our TY's are currently busy preparing for the day.

PAST PUPILS MATCH

Congratulations to our senior side who overcame the past pupils 4-2 in a thrilling match. The 'old boys' took the lead but both the fitness and the skill of the senior boys saw them take control in the latter stages. A special mention to Roy Gleeson who scored twice for the senior boys. Dinner and speeches followed in the dining hall. Many thanks to Kieron Brislane who takes charge of organising the past pupils and does an excellent job in keeping this historic fixture alive.

TY – OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Our TY's have been busy getting themselves fit for their Gaisce adventure and annual jaunt to Achill Island after the Easter break. They have recently reached the summit of Keeper Hill and also completed the third leg of the Lough Derg Way by hiking from Killaloe to the 'Look Out' in Castletown near Portroe village.

While passing through Killaloe Brian Brislane kindly gave us a guided tour of St Flannan's Cathedral and up the bell tower.

CHRISTIAN AID MISSION – ZIMBABWE

We welcome back both our Villiers Chaplain and Diocesan Lay reader Jackie McNair and Karen Gillespie from their recent Christian Aid mission to Zimbabwe. They both travelled as part of a group of twelve volunteers – four from Northern Ireland, four from the South and two Christian Aid workers. Their ten day trip took them to Harare, Bulawayo and the Biinga District in Matabeleland where they visited garden projects and the 'Open Schools Worldwide' project. They visited disadvantaged children in open air schools. These schools had little or no basic facilities and were run by voluntary teaching staff. The aim of their expedition was to highlight and promote basic literacy and numeracy skills. A life changing trip for all concerned. A more comprehensive review will feature in the near future.

Rathkeale No 2 National School

The pupils took part in a safer cycling workshop recently with Angela, our Green School co-ordinator from Limerick County Council. The pupils brought in their helmets to be shown how to adjust them and wear them correctly. We're hoping to include some sort of cycling event in our action day during term three.

Our cake sale and coffee afternoon was a great success. There was a good turn out and the pupils raised €412 for school funds. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

Our swimming lessons have now come to an end for another year. Once again the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the lessons and made good progress. Congratulations to Lizzie who was invited to join Askeaton Swimming Club. The highlight for many of the pupils is being sprayed by the fire hose for the last few minutes.

We were delighted to welcome Noel and Liza from the Postal Bible School for the annual prize giving. Well done to all the pupils for their hard work in completing the lessons.

The pupils of St Ann's Girls' National School in Rathkeale invited us to their performance of The Wizards of Oz. It was a wonderful performance, enjoyed by us all.

We took part in the annual April Spring Clean recently. The senior pupils took to Church Street with gloves, litter pickers and bags. The junior pupils spent the afternoon tidying the playground and weeding the garden. Everywhere looks much brighter after the afternoon.

School closed for Easter on 11th April following our now annual Easter Egg hunt.



April Spring Cleaning



Bags of rubbish!

Cloughjordan No 1 National School

Last term came to a close with its usual haste amid a hive of activity in school.

Our pupils participated in many sporting events last term, including the All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals in Beech Hill Table Tennis Club in Cork. Congratulations to our boys' team of Jonathan Mooney, Jake Adler, Tom Larke and Ross Austin and to our girls' team of Ellen Austin, Hannah Austin, Lucy Warmington and Olivia Grant who represented the school at the Munster section. Congratulations to both teams and especially to the boys who came 3rd in their section on the day. We are very proud of both teams for doing so well on their first time to participate at this level, and for representing the school so admirably, and thank their coach, Jimmy Hayes, assisted by Des Larke, for their ongoing dedication and encouragement to our players.

Congratulations to our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils who took part in a Rugby Blitz at Roscrea Club. We are very grateful to Mr. Alan Tynan and the Leinster branch of the IRFU for organizing this event for primary schools and to Alan for coaching our pupils so well at school. The children participated very successfully on the day.

It was a great pleasure to host a basketball blitz again this year and to welcome teams from Aglis, Borrisokane, Ballinree and Corville National Schools on 28th March. Congratulations to our Fifth and Sixth Class players who won all of their matches and go

through to the semi-finals of the competition. We are very grateful to Patsy Farrell, and to Mrs. Grace, for preparing our pupils so well for this competition.

Teams from Fifth and Sixth Class represented the school at the FAI Primary Soccer Schools 5 a-side competition at Newhill Park. The boys and girls enjoyed their separate days out and while neither team progressed through to the next stage they both enjoyed participating.

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Gilbert Williams on behalf of Kilruane MacDonaghs GAA and Mr. David Needham, Tipperary GAA Schools' Development Officer who commenced a six week coaching session with our First, Second, Third and Fourth Class pupils. We are very grateful to both men and to the GAA for generously making this training available to the school.

Our hurling enthusiasts are enjoying training with St. Michael's N.S. and once again we appreciate the kind invitation from Mr. Dooley and Mr. Hassett from St. St. Michael's to join with them again this year.

We are extremely grateful to Pearl and George Whiteford for organizing a very successful fundraising Social Dance in Cloughjordanin March, supported by our very industrious PTA, which raised very considerable funds for the school. Thank you very much to everybody who generously supported the dance, to those who donated raffle prizes, those who baked and those who helped in the kitchen on the night. It is very encouraging to receive support from so many in this way.

Together, our pupils, parents and staff raised €56 during Lent, in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation. Congratulations to all involved, and especially to our pupils, who did a huge amount of the work organizing a Bring and Buy Sale and Easter Egg Raffle to raise this money. Thank you very much to everybody who supported this event. We also supported the NCBI "Fill the Van" Appeal last term and appreciate the many donations of much needed unwanted clothing which we were able to donate to a local charity. Congratulations and all the best from all at our school to Emma Whiteford and Mark Crawford who were married at Clifden on 5th April. We wish Emma and Mark every happiness together.

Our School Garden Committee continues its very industrious work progressing our school garden and organizing combined events with our friends in St. Michael's N.S. We are very grateful to the committee for all that it is doing on our behalf and look forward to officially launching our School garden later this term.

Our PTA is organizing, by popular demand, what we hope will be another very successful Road Race and Family Walk. This year's event will take place on Sun 18th May beginning and finishing at St. Kieran's Hall. The race/walk will commence at 3pm, with registration from 1.30pm onwards. Entry fee on the day. The prize giving and refreshments will be held afterwards in St. Kieran's Hall. All are welcome.



Easter visitor at Cloughjordan No.1 National School



Tom, Jake, Jonathan and Ross came 3rd in the Munster section of the All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

After a very busy term the pupils celebrated the last day of term with an Easter bonnet display. Everyone had been busy designing and making these colourful hats for the previous few weeks and their efforts were very well received by their fellow pupils and teachers. We had an Easter bonnet fashion show in the hall and the standard was so high everyone got a prize.

The Active School committee is active again with plans for another active week next term. We also plan to purchase new P.E. equipment and re-organise the school's P.E. shed in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Millie Halpin who took part in Noyes Fludde in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. This was a wonderful production and we were all very proud of Millie's performance.

We always take part in An Taisce's Spring Clean every year and once again we put on our wellies and gardening gloves and headed out around the school and church grounds for a tidy-up. We also used the opportunity to do some planting in the school garden under the watchful eye of our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne Benson. The potatoes and onions are planted and we will add to these next term.



Hard at work on spring clean day



We welcomed Noel and Liza McMeekin to school recently and pupils were presented with their prizes for completing their bible sheets.

We all had a very active morning on April 6th when Noreen took us through our dance steps with Zumba dancing in the school hall. Everyone participated with great enthusiasm and it is a wonderful way to keep fit.

Goodness is, so to speak, itself; badness is only spoiled goodness. And there must be something good first before it can be spoiled.

CS Lewis

Kiltallagh National School

We are all looking forward with anticipation here in Kiltallagh to our Easter Holidays. We are all very grateful for a wonderful second term and we would like to share some of our most memorable moments of our last few busy months in school with you all.

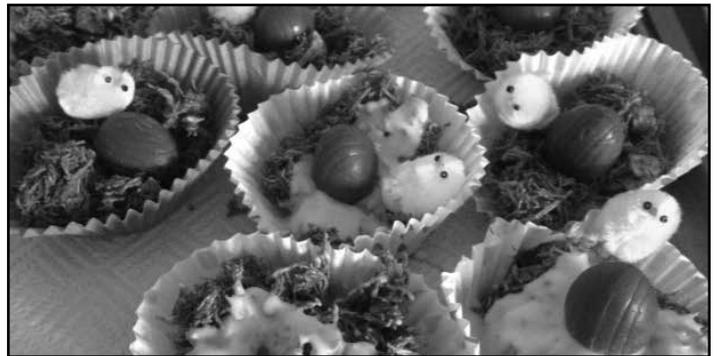
Happy Easter from all in Kiltallagh!



And in that tree there was a hole...!



Knockreer



Neadanna Seacláide ...yum yum!



Our Fire Fighting Crew

Invitation to a Fundraising Celebration

Maureen Moss, Portumna, asks for your help to deliver computers to Swaziland

As some of you may remember I was packing to go to Swaziland this time last year, I left Ireland in May and started at the school on my birthday, it was a lonely time for the first few weeks. During the 3 months I was working in the Usuthu Mission School, I was able to get a small insight into the Swazi education system. I spent a lot of time talking and working with teachers who have to deal with over crowded classrooms, poor quality text books and inadequate resources.



Maureen with pupils at Usuthu Mission School



Usuthu pupils will learn computer skills

There are many needs in the schools, some as basic as food and shoes. So you may be surprised when I say that I am working with the school to install a computer room.

Whilst I was there last year my son's company offered to buy computers for the school and of course they were delighted. However we soon discovered it would not be an easy project. As this is not being done through the Diocese of Swaziland, US Ireland is not able to help with costs, so I have taken it on as a personal project along with my son and the school.

COMPUTERS ARE SO IMPORTANT

Let me tell you why we feel it is so important for these children and teachers to have access to computers and the internet.

The first reason the school gave was that they need to attract fee paying pupils and a lot of the parents feel the school is not progressive enough and are looking to other schools.

Secondly the resources available to the teachers are few, so the internet would give them access to a wider field enabling them to create more interesting and visual lessons. Also computers would give the school prestige.

But ultimately it is the pupils who would benefit. They are leaving after 7th grade to go to senior school with a huge disadvantage. Most senior schools have computers and these children are left way behind.



Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE CHILDREN

Above all they need to be employable, to be able to apply for good well paid jobs. There are so many opportunities out there but few jobs where computer skills are not needed.

They are being given food and shoes now but we want them to leave school with skills that will enable them to buy food and shoes for themselves and their families. They need to be able to work their way out of poverty and have a good chance for a better life. This is something I'm very passionate about and I hope you will support us as we try to give these children the chance of a brighter future. They deserve nothing less.

If you agree with us and would like to help these children, then please come along and celebrate with me.

70th Birthday Bash and Fund-Raiser

Saturday 7th June,
Portumna Golf Club

Buffet, entertainment and great prizes to be won
Tickets are €15 to cover costs
- after that it's up to you

Very little to pay for a good night out!!

Many thanks, Maureen
Mobile: 086 262 7069
Email: mossmaureen@gmail.com



**DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION
&
UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL
ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



**MID-SUMMER FUN CYCLE
SATURDAY JUNE 21
IN AID OF LUYENGO FARM SWAZILAND**

Starting with a short service of worship at 9.30.a.m. in St Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert
Cycle starts at 11.00a.m. from St Brendan's Cathedral
Registration at Clonfert Community Centre

TWO ROUTES

Long route 107 km. Banagher-Birr-Roscrea-Moneygall-Cloughjordan(rest stop)-Borrisokane-Portumna-Eyrecourt-Clonfert.
Short route 60km. Banagher-Taylor's Cross-Portumna (rest stop)-Eyrecourt-Clonfert.

After all that you are invited to a BBQ in the Clonfert Community Centre.

This is our diocesan last big push to honour our mission commitment to the Swaziland Project. Your help is crucial. Help out by sponsoring a cyclist from your parish or by filling a sponsorship card in aid of the Fun Cycle.

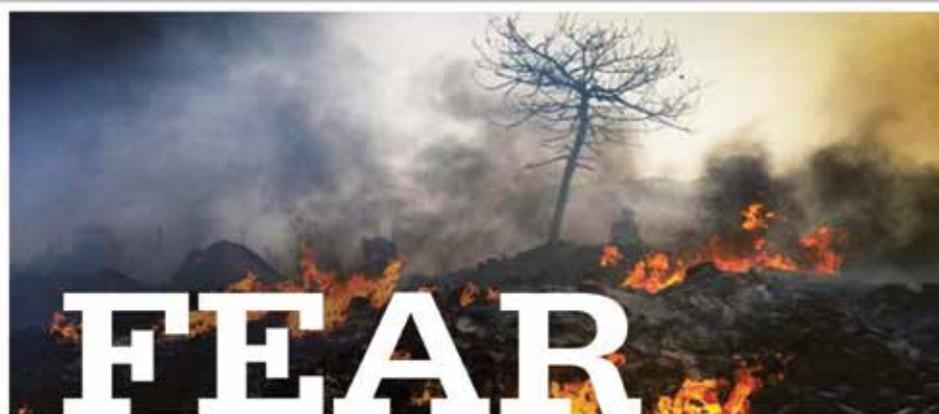
And of course come to the BBQ anyway from (3.30.p.m).

Too far away? One of the insights from 'Gathering to Go' surely was ... No-one in our dioceses is too far away!
Make a day of it and bring the family.

Registration and Sponsorship Forms from
David Frizelle 087-6855251 davidfrizelle@eircom.net or
John Chadwick 086-2112985 john.chadwick@live.ie

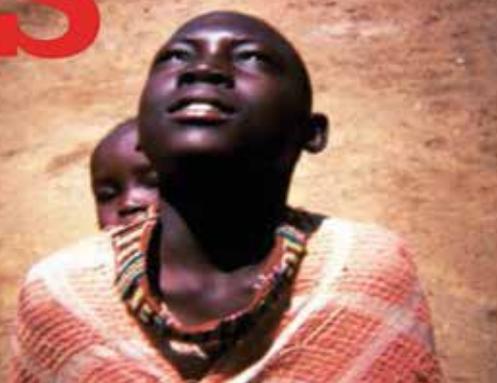


Support your cyclist, your parish, your dioceses, and most of all ... Swaziland!



**FEAR
LESS**

**War tears
lives apart.
You can help
piece them
back together.**



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New Curate for Limerick City Parish

Rev Edna Clare Wakely, M.Th. (TCD), B. Music, Hons. (Rhodes University, South Africa), L.R.S.M., R.U.L.M., Professional Certificate in Ministry (St. John's College, Nottingham).

Born in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Edna was educated at Omagh Academy, Queen's University Belfast, Rhodes University in South Africa (where her husband was Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew) and Trinity College Dublin. She has also lived in Edinburgh and Austin, Texas while her husband was on sabbatical leave. The family relocated to Dublin in 2001.

Edna is a qualified music teacher and has taught privately and in various schools in South Africa, as well as The High School in Dublin. During her years in South Africa she was organist at Christ Church, Grahamstown, and since coming to live in Dublin, was organist at St. John's, Sandymount for eleven years.

She has two daughters, Jenny, a qualified solicitor and Joanna, who also studied law. Both daughters live in Dublin.

Edna enjoys meeting new people (while also keeping up long-standing friendships) music teaching, choral singing, attending concerts, poetry, sunshine, gardening, walking, reading, cycling, travelling, needlework (and other crafts) baking, entertaining and spending time with friends, Biblical Studies, (Masters' thesis, "It is no secret that the Old Testament is a lost treasure in the Church today," is on aspects of the Old Testament).

She is greatly looking forward to starting her curacy in Limerick City parish, working amongst the people there, and getting to know them in the coming months. She will arrive in Limerick in May, prior to her ordination to the priesthood in June.



Rev Edna Wakely

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Remembering a great Irish alpinist

– Anthony Adams-Reilly

Anthony-Adams Reilly (1836-1885) was honoured in a memorial service on 12th April 2014 in Kilbarron Church of Ireland Graveyard, Coolbawn, Co. Tipperary, where he is buried close to his sister Maria, the wife of Falkiner Minchin of nearby Annagh. Hosted by Kilodiernan Parish, part of the Nenagh Union, at the request of Mountaineering Ireland (formerly the Mountaineering Council of Ireland), the Irish governing body of the sport of mountaineering, the ceremony was attended by about 25 people, including mountaineers and local people.



Anthony Adams-Reilly, pioneering alpinist

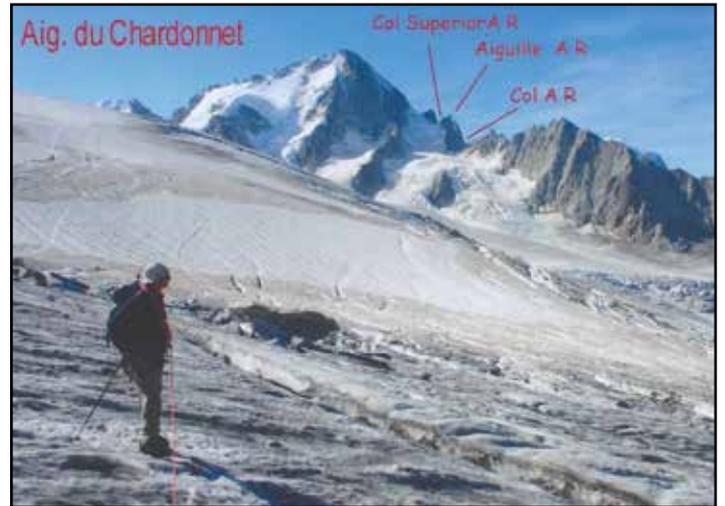
The service was led by Joc Sanders, Diocesan reader, assisted by Church Wardens Caleb Clarke and Mary Ryan, who read Matthew's account of the Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8). Representing Mountaineering Ireland, Declan O'Keefe, Frank Nugent and Michael Duffy all spoke about the achievements of Adams-Reilly and why he is remembered today. Frank Nugent spoke particularly about the place of Adams-Reilly in the 'Golden Age of Alpinism' (1854-1865) when the Alps were being explored and climbed. Pat Delaney paid tribute on behalf of Nenagh Walkers



At the ceremony, left to right: Frank Nugent (Mountaineering Ireland), Joc Sanders (Diocesan Reader, Nenagh), Pat Delaney (Nenagh Walkers Club), Declan O'Keefe (Mountaineering Ireland), Kevin Higgins (Irish Mountaineering and Exploration Historical Society) and Michael Duffy

Adams-Reilly's legacy is a number of first ascents in the company of some of the greatest climbers of the age, such as

Edward Whymper, and accurate maps of the two most popular areas in the alpine chain, the Mont Blanc massif and the Monte Rosa district. A number of topographical features in the Mont Blanc range including a peak, a couple of cols and a glacier were named in his honour by the French surveyors who wished to acknowledge his unselfish exchange of information with them – the 'A R's' in the picture below stand for Adams-Reilly.

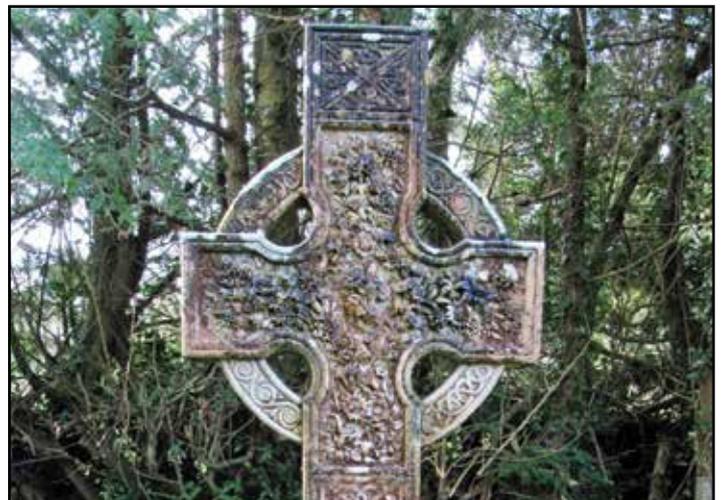


Alpine features named for Adams-Reilly: marked 'AR'

Born on 11th February 1836 at Belmont House near Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, Adams-Reilly received a classical education at Rugby College, where he developed the fine skills in drawing and sketching which shaped his achievement as a pioneering Alpine map maker, followed by Oxford, where he joined the mountaineering club. For more details of his achievements see: *In Search of Peaks, Passes & Glaciers: Irish Alpine Pioneers*, by Frank Nugent, The Collins Press, ISBN: 978-1-84889-178-4, 2013

The presence of so many at Adams-Reilly's graveside nearly 130 years after his death prove that C E Matthews spoke truly when he paid this tribute to his friend after his death:

'Few of his friends will ever see the runic cross, carved with Swiss flowers, that marks his resting place above the waters of Lough Derg; but as long as men love the Alps, his work and his name will never be forgotten.'



Adams-Reilly's white marble gravestone, carved with alpine flowers

GFS Diocesan Service & Prize Giving Day



The Killaloe & Clonfert GFS Annual Diocesan Service & Prize Giving Day was held on Saturday, 5th April in Christ Church, Corbally, Roscrea. Special guests were the Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams, Mrs Joyce Williams and Mrs Sylvia Quinn, GFS Central President. Corbally Church which is a unique and special place

was looking splendid – a very big thanks to the parishioners of Corbally for making the church available to GFS.

The service was organised by Archdeacon Wayne Carney on the theme 'New Life in Christ' but conducted completely by the girls from all the branches:

- Roscrea opened the service by lighting the GFS candle
- Cloughjordan acted out the first reading of The Valley of the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Birr performed the Rising of Lazarus' as part of the Holy Gospel, John 11:1-45
- Nenagh read the prayers.

All girls read beautifully and their help with the service was much appreciated. Thank you also to Adrian Hewson for his assistance with the service and Madeline Hodgins for providing the music.

The Prize-giving ceremony was conducted by Rose Langley, Diocesan President. Mrs Sylvia Quinn, All Ireland President, kindly

presented medals to our Bible Study prize-winners. The Diocese appreciates her attendance and support of our special day. Mrs Joyce Williams kindly presented the Craft prizes and was very busy presenting cups, plates and eggcups to a large group of worthy winners. Presentations of flowers and gifts were given to our visitors in appreciation of their attendance.

Visitors to our Service make the occasion very special and we really appreciate their support. Refreshments in the Parish Hall were provided by the parents of Roscrea Branch girls. Cloughjordan Branch organised the Corner Shop Stall, Nenagh Branch sold various items, Birr Branch had the Pot Luck stall and Roscrea Branch provided the Raffle of a large hampers with fruit and other goodies. All funds raised from these stalls go toward the running of GFS in the Diocese, with the exception of the Cake stall which goes towards the Diocesan Camp, which will take place in Durrow in June.

Mrs Florence Reid, Diocesan Secretary, had a wonderful display of all the Handcraft work and Bible Syllabus papers in the hall. The work of the talented GFS girls was enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to all the parents, girls, friends, leaders for their support in the Church the Hall.

Special thanks to Florence Reid, June Wallace and all the leaders and parents in Roscrea Branch for the tremendous work they put into preparing for this day. The day was a very joyful celebration and congratulations to everyone who took part.



Girls enjoying grounds at Corbally Church, Roscrea



Bible Study medals presented by Mrs Sylvia Quinn, All Ireland President,



Bible Study prizes,



Senior member Bible Study prize



Girls with their craft prizes, presented by Mrs Joyce Williams



More craft prize winners,

Noye's Fludde at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Report by Dean Sandra Pragnel, Peter Barley & Frank Sheahan

St Mary's Cathedral was transformed in March-April 2014, transporting us back to Biblical times with the building of an Ark in the chancel. For weeks the normally quiet space was buzzing with activity and anticipation, and with set designers, carpenters, lighting and sound experts, painters and scenic artists, cleaners, makers of costumes and animal masks, and musicians, teachers, parents, and a multitude of young people – especially the children from twenty two different schools across Limerick and the neighbouring counties.



The ark takes shape

Britten, the 100th anniversary of whose birth was in November 2013, envisaged Noye's Fludde as a community opera to involve both professional performers and young people. It was this vision which led to the idea of running outreach projects to local schools, as a contribution to the Limerick City of Culture in 2014 and that inspired Peter Barley, the Cathedral's organist and choirmaster, to embark on such a grand cultural enterprise. There were outstanding performances from celebrated local actor Liam O'Brien (the voice of God), speaking from the west window balcony, and from singers Simon Morgan as Noye, and Sarah-Ellen Murphy as Mrs Noye. The orchestra, with professionals and young musicians together, was outstanding – a particular delight was the sound of rain drops, using real coffee mugs as a musical instrument.

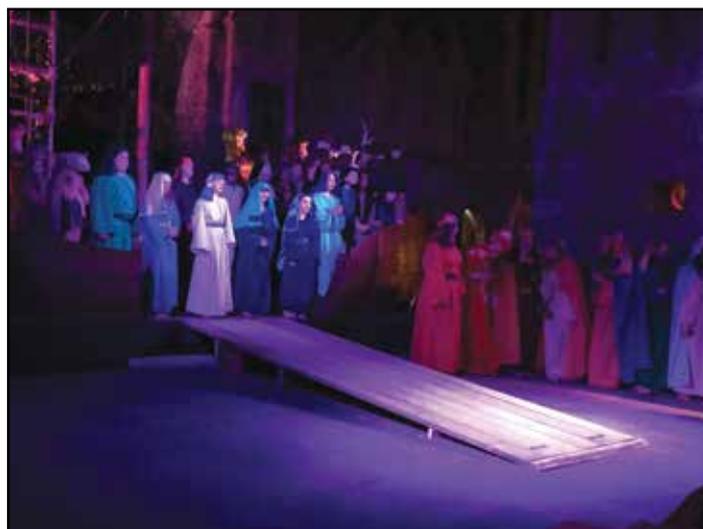
A particular word of thanks is due to all the parents of the children who took part, for their forbearance in bringing their children in and out to St Mary's for many rehearsals over the course of the four months leading up to the performances, and for their patience. Thanks also to the various teachers who engaged wholeheartedly with this project and for the assistance of the schools and their Principals who supported so fully the participation of their own students in the opera.

It was very good that the two schools from St Mary's Cathedral's own community, Villiers School and St Michael's National School, Barrington Street were closely involved in the project. Villiers supplied several of the young soloists as well as several of the chorus, whilst St Michael's was represented by four pupils in the chorus, including the boy who played the role of the Raven most elegantly and expressively. St Michael's also participated in art workshops with the production's Designer and Scenic Artist, Emma Fisher, contributing some wonderfully colourful fish as well as stars, sun and moon.

A special word of appreciation to Emma for her inspirational work. Thanks are also due to Villiers administration (most particularly Headmistress Jill Storey and Janet Bray in Reception) for assisting with the running of the auditions process in the earlier stages of the project.

Our immediate neighbouring schools, very near to St Mary's Cathedral, were also closely involved with the project – St Mary's National School, Bishop St, supplied two enthusiastic students for the chorus, as well as taking part in the mask making workshops, whilst nearby secondary school Ard Scoil Mhuire not only took part in art workshops too, but were represented by students in solo roles, in the orchestra and in the chorus, encouraged and helped a good deal by music teacher Cecilia Madden.

Thanks are due to all the above, and also to the many people who volunteered to help with this project. We were delighted to be able to have so many volunteers involved in various different capacities for the duration of Noye's Fludde. It would not have been possible without this superb effort and support. We express also our warm gratitude to those in the cathedral office Noreen, Andrew and Peggy for their patience and forbearance, and Churchwarden Frank Sheahan for his hard work and wisdom.



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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

There was a fair turnout at the Mothering Sunday service at Killaloe Cathedral with Archdeacon Wayne Carney as Celebrant and the Reverend Ruth Gill the preacher. It was good to have Bishop Trevor present and some of the chapter members: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke as well as Canon Michael Johnston. The presence of members of the Mothers Union highlighted the day. Flower posies made by Barbara Hartigan were handed to the women by the children. It was heart-warming that some made the effort to travel to this service from the various parts of the Diocese - we intend it to be an annual event.

Warren Symes and Victoria were married by +Trevor on 12 April at St Flannan's Cathedral. Warren was the organist here in the past.

The Kincora traditional music festival happened over the weekend 4- 6 April, kicking off in Killaloe Cathedral with a concert celebrating the publication of the songs of Killaloe singer Michael Scanlon. The Brian Boru Millennium Commemoration weekend 11- 13 April had an evening of drama and music reliving the moments of Brian Boru's departure for Clontarf. We look forward to the festival of local choirs in the Killaloe Cathedral with 8 choirs performing in two sessions the first at 3pm and the next at 8pm on 3rd May. This is being coordinated by Sadie Scanlon.

The sacred reading group met faithfully throughout Lent and it was a time of spiritual growth. Just being part of a group in this way opens so many new insights and perspectives on the scripture texts. Some participants said that the scripture had so much more meaning when it was read at the following Sunday service. The group is now keen to meet at some other times of the year for a few weeks at a time.

Holy week started off with the liturgy at the entrance to the churches and then the congregation processed into church with their palm crosses, singing the introit hymn before entering into the liturgy of the passion. Holy Week is our opportunity to immerse ourselves in this move from the false joy of Palm Sunday, a joy that is centred on expectations of power and reward, through the pain of finding, finally to the deep and profound joy of the day of Resurrection, the day of forgiveness and new life. You cannot fully understand or appreciate the light without the experience of the darkness.

This year we have had a variety of church services with Eucharist Monday, Taize Tuesday, Tenebrae Wednesday, foot washing and the Lords institution of Eucharist Thursday. The Friday we call Good' children's service at 10.30, Good Friday liturgy at 12 in Killaloe and at 3 in Mountshannon. In next months article we will give some feedback on Easter Sunday.

It was a new experience of these liturgies for some people and

there has been positive feedback from those who attended. It has now been suggested that maybe we could make space for a Taize service once a month. Having the church in darkness at the end of the Tenebrae service gives that visual experience of seeing the light disappear in preparation for Easter.

The bells have been silent, the alleluias and Gloria absent for Lent - now let the bells resound and the Gloria and alleluias fill the air, for Christ is risen indeed!



At Stradbally doing art work on Good Friday: Clara, Rowan and Hazel



At Holy Week services in Killaloe

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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

THE CANTATA

Congratulations to all who were involved in the very successful Celtic Cantata "The Fingerprint of God" on the 6th of April. The Cantata was composed by Ruth Beasley with words compiled and written by Audrey Francis. Ruth and Audrey, from Australia, are sisters, and cousins of Michael Hanna, musical director of the Birr Choral Society and of the Cantata itself.

The Choral Society formed the main part of the Celtic Cantata Choir, along with the Omna Singers from Portumna and others. Yvonne O'Toole, Anne Bermingham, and Jonathan Carter were soloists, Gary Doherty was cellist, Charles Marshall was organist, and Rosalind Fanning was narrator. Six girls from Oxmantown School also sang with the choir, and their contribution was much appreciated.

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

Our Lent and Holy Week services were well attended this year. The weekly 'Holy Reading' sessions in Lent brought new understanding to our Sunday Gospel readings. It was good to see many of the same people coming out for each of the services in Holy Week as they walked the way of the cross with our Lord.

Many thanks to all who helped with the readings and the Passion narratives, and all the other things that have to be done in order for worship to be appropriate and meaningful.

ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS

Birr: Sunday, 4th May at 1 pm in Oxmantown School. This will include a discussion of what we can do to celebrate the bicentennial of Birr Church in 2016. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Lorrha: Thursday, 8th May at 8:00 pm in Lorrha Church.

The Easter Vestry Meetings for Dorrha and Lockeen were held before Easter.

PARISH SUMMER FETE

The Birr Summer Fete will be held on Sunday, 15th June at Oxmantown School, using the new classroom and nearby entranceway, as well as the yard areas and adjacent covered space. There will be a meeting of all those interested in helping with the Fete on Wednesday, 7th May at 8:00 pm in Oxmantown School.

LOCKEEN CONCERT

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

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

As these notes are due at the Printers on Good Friday, we will leave our details of Holy Week observances until next month and just thank once again the Rev. Brian Griffin, Methodist Minister and his wife Eirene for their excellent organisation of Roscrea's Ecumenical Lenten Services - an outstanding success with excellent speakers, appropriate music, devotional prayer and silence, good supper and friendship. Well attended, one hopes it has set a Lenten precedent. The final speaker was our Bishop and all wished him well on hearing the shock news of his retirement.

THE SICK

It's so good to see Nevin Alton home again, even if it's only for a short while and we wish him well for the next stage of his recovery process. Also we are happy to report that Harry Hodgins is home and convalescing well after his stay in Port Laoise Hospital. Eddie Clare is also doing well and we wish him well, while still in The Mater, we understand a move to Dun Laoghaire for the next stage of his recovery is coming closer.

BEREAVEMENT

It was with regret we heard of the passing of Valerie Cooper, a former parishioner and mother to Leslie and sister to Marian Delahunt, both resident in this parish and also her other sister Sylvia Mahon, former teacher in St. Cronan's N.S. Our prayers and sympathy are with the entire family circle and may the Easter message comfort them.

GFS

Corbally Church was the venue for this year's Diocesan Service conducted by the Archdeacon. It was a pleasure to have our Bishop and the GFS Diocesan President with us for a successful occasion well organised by the host branch. Well done and thanks to all involved.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year it was St. Cronan's turn to organize this annual ecumenical occasion. Our thanks to Nuala Dudley from Raphoe Diocese for an excellent sermon and to Heather Evans whose attractive Egyptian themed display provided an appropriate setting for the service.

MOTHERS' UNION

The closing service was held on the Feast of The Annunciation and was followed by a Bring and Buy Sale and a tasty lunch. Another successful occasion and well done to the organizers. Heather Evans works hard and she and Leslie have been recently rewarded with the arrival of baby Samuel which makes them first time grandparents!

CONFIRMATION

Pentecost Sunday afternoon, June 8th has been fixed as the date. Classes will commence soon after the school reopens after Easter. Anyone else wishing to be confirmed, who has not already given in their name, is asked to give it to Adrian Hewson as soon as possible (085 1108659).



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Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, 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

The Nenagh Union's Sacred Reading Sessions for Lent were well attended, and much appreciated. It was lovely to be joined by parishioners of St Mary of the Rosary for the five sessions, all of which were meaningful and spiritual.

Mothering Sunday - aka Refreshment Sunday - falling as it did on a 5th Sunday this year, meant we had a big United Service of Morning Prayer. As well as the main choir singing an anthem, singing the Benedictus and singing the psalm, Junior Choir sang one of their favourites: "Always remember, never forget, never forget to say 'Thank you'", with an extra verse composed especially for Mums! Refreshments included rice krispie 'baskets' with a jelly baby in each - to remind us of the Old Testament reading of the story of Moses in the bulrushes. Mothering Sunday tradition was also celebrated by Patrick Rowley-Brooke baking a wonderful Simnel cake, with the relevant 11 marzipan balls on top, representing the 11 disciples (Judas of course is always left out of this tradition). Many thanks also to Rae Croft who provided beautiful little pots of violas for Mums on the day.



Junior Choir after seeing Noye's Fludde in Limerick Cathedral

Our Junior Choir had a special trip on Monday 31st March to see Noyes Fludde in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. What a wonderful experience this was, and many congratulations to all who were involved in its production. It was a fitting contribution towards Limerick City of Culture year. It was great to see an ex-member of Junior Choir, Emma Gordon, singing in the production - an inspiration for current members for the future!

The main choir also had their own 'jolly' to St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick on 5th April to join in with an RSCM sponsored Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion.



Members of Nenagh Union Choir attending Stainer's Crucifixion in Limerick Cathedral

Then on to the busyness of Holy Week, beginning with the solemn reading of the Passion Narrative in all three churches on Palm Sunday, with Killodiernan also welcoming Eve Daphne Jane Clarke, daughter of Peter and Natasha Clarke, into the Christian family. Maundy Thursday saw both choirs, with readers, participating in The Way of the Cross service compiled by the RSCM. Many thanks to Sylvia Crawford who accompanied us so well. This is the third year we have engaged in this meaningful liturgy, which reminds us strongly that there is no authentic way to the celebrations of Easter Sunday without first having journeyed on the way of the Cross.

Some 38 children, toddlers, babies and adults took part in our Junior Church Good Friday Workshop, where the events of Good Friday were read out, interspersed with activities including making hot-cross buns, crowns of thorns, wooden crosses, Easter Garden, and finally a vibrant poster to celebrate Easter Day.



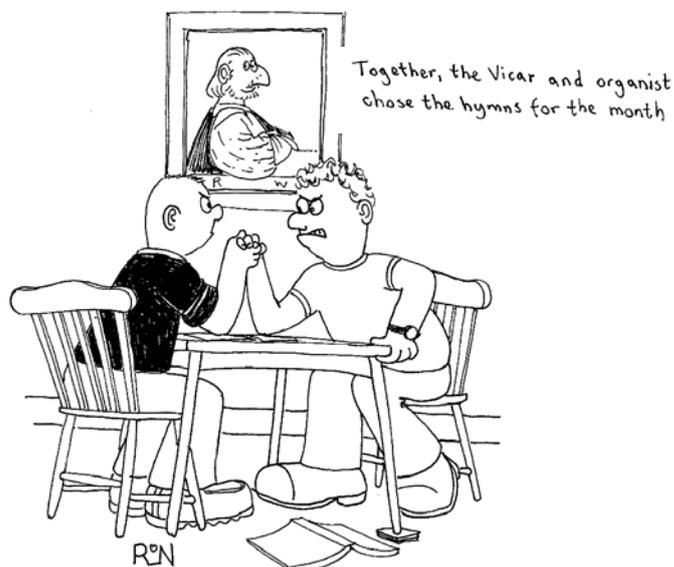
Junior Church Workshop Good Friday

The Union had two Walks of Witness this year on Good Friday - our regular walk with our Christian friends in Templederry, as always very well attended - and for the first time, joining in an ecumenical walk in Nenagh Town. Many thanks to Joc Sanders and Dennis Croft who represented the Union in the planning of this.

All our Easter services were very well attended, and Junior Choir sang a lovely and jolly carol called 'Easter Eggs!' during the St Mary's communion. Many thanks to them, and our main choir for all their hard work, not just at Easter, but throughout the year.

Many thanks are also due to our Diocesan Reader, Joc Sanders, and Parish Reader, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, whose ministries were extra-appreciated by the Rector as her voice steadily gave out during the week! Also many thanks to all who cleaned and decorated our churches and made them beautiful places in which to celebrate the Resurrection.

We're delighted to report that all parishioners who were in hospital are now home and recovering.



Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Canon Stephen Neill

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

Tel/Fax: 0505 – 42183 Mob: 087 – 2328172

Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

Parish website: www.modreeny.com

Stephen's blog: www.paddyanglican.com

BAPTISM

Welcome into the fellowship of the Church Danielle Elizabeth Harding, daughter of Gordon and Linda of Milford, Borrisokane who was baptised on the 22nd March in Borrisokane Church.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Emma Whiteford from Cloughjordan & Mark Crawford from Roscrea who were married on Saturday 5th April in Clifden, Co. Galway

... to Donald McLean of Borrisokane parish and Anita Toohey of Borrisokane who were married in Shinrone on Saturday 15th March. We wish both couples every blessing and happiness in their lives together.

SUCCESSFUL STYLE NIGHT

Thanks to Jennifer Carter & Angel Donovan who arranged a very enjoyable evening for the ladies of the parish in Borrisokane Hall with Delilah, Fashion stylist and personal shopper.

The rector was the only man present and was listening with great interest as Delilah explained body shapes and was pondering whether he was an apple or a pear when suddenly the conversation moved on to appropriate underwear. He decided (prompted by a dig in the ribs from his wife) that it was time to beat a hasty exit, returning when the coast was clear to inspect the tray bakes and other less risqué items. As well as being a most enjoyable evening the event raised in excess of €500 for parish funds. Well done and thanks to all concerned.

POKER CLASSIC:

Thanks again to Aussie Dennison for arranging his annual Poker Classic which raised almost €2000 for the Church Fabric Maintenance Fund. Also thanks to those who gave prizes and bought tickets for the event.



Marriage of Emma Whiteford & Mark Crawford on 5th April in Clifden

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston

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

Tel: 0505-47164 Mob: 086-6086567

Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

'DRINKING HABITS'

Many thanks to all who made the Shinrone fundraising play 'Drinking Habits' such a success. Great numbers turned out for the performances, so much so that the Group offered to add a third performance. The donation for the church is very gratefully received and we look forward to the Shinrone Drama Group's next performance.

AGHANCON SUNDAY LUNCH

A fundraising Sunday Lunch in aid of Aghancon church will be held on Sunday 11th May in Aghancon Community Hall. Tickets will be €20. Please do support (and get a wonderful meal cooked for you!). Tickets can be obtained from Blackwells at 057 9131253

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Trevor will be confirming five candidates from the Group this year. On May 25th in Shinrone he will confirm David Auld, Jake Dunne and Rebecca Reid, and on June 1st in Roscrea he will confirm Naombh Nettleship and Lyndsey Armstrong. Our prayers are with all the candidates as they prepare for this step in their Christian journey.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Laura Handstock and Patrick Bryan who had their Civil Marriage blessed in Kinnitty church. We wish them a long and happy life together.

MOTHERS' UNION OUTING

On 5th June to Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare. All Welcome. Contact Liz Edge or Ruth Stanley for more details.

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Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome into the church family fold baby Jack Manley, from Clooney near Quinn, son of Edward and Michelle. Jack who has two older sisters was baptised in St Columba's Church Ennis on the Sunday after Easter by the Rector.

EASTER VESTRIES

As we approach the Easter elections a word of thanks to all who have served our parishes so thoughtfully and faithfully in the past year. Among the regular stalwarts we might mention folk who have joined us in recent years from outside the Anglican tradition – I mention Pascal Sage, Churchwarden at Kilnasoolagh, and John Donovan, Glebewarden in Drumcliffe. Both men have in a short time become towering figures of support within our Group. The Easter sunshine showed up immaculately John Donovan's beautiful landscaping around St Columba's where daffodils had merged so colourfully into beds of tulips.

EASTER

Talking of Easter—inside Christ Church Spanish Point Caroline Burgoyne's best yet contribution of an Easter Tomb, and Judith Ironside's beautiful flower arrangements, gave much inspiration for the holiday congregation at the early Eucharist, including no doubt our guest preacher Mr Stephen Fletcher, to whom we are also grateful. Londoner Steve attended and often helped lead worship over Passiontide. Thanks also to Ecki Wurm, Canon Trevor Sullivan and the Rev Patricia McKee Hanna for leadership at Kilnasoolagh and Spanish Point on Easter Day. Nigel Bridge's music over Holy Week and Easter brought the worship to another plane.

BILL O'CONNOR

We remember in their loss Maeve Lait O'Connor, her children Jessica and William, and Bill's other older daughter Caroline in New York, following his death at the end of March in St Joseph's Hospital, following a long illness. Bill was buried in Templemaley Graveyard near Ennis with the flag of his native America and a bugle salute from US Army Veterans.

An ecumenical funeral service at St Joseph's was shared between Fr John McGovern and the Rector.

POST POLIO

Congratulations to Edwin Bailey on raising over 600 euros for the above charity from his very own audio visual material in Kilnasoolagh Church on April 4th.

WEDDING

We look forward to welcoming Kerry bride Janet Slye from Tralee Parish and her husband-to-be Maurice Whelan to Christ Church, Spanish Point for the big day on Friday 9th May.

YOUTH WORKSHOP- CONCERT

An interesting cultural phenomenon is this music event involving Ennis town's youth from the Clare Youth Service. Involving modern instruments we look forward to offering the facility of our neo-gothic building and sound effects for these young people entranced with a new place to "gig". In the best possible taste, of course !

KILFENORA

In addition to recommencing for another Summer the Kilfenora Timeline Exhibition on local history in St Fachnan's Church – which raised a fair few thousand Euros for local charities and cultural

needs – Galway organist Mark Duley will use the building as part of his programme of recital in four area Cathedrals, as a fundraiser.

On Friday June 6th, the US Madrigal Singers will perform in St Columba's Church, while local soprano Helen Houlihan performs the first of her summer lunchtime recitals, also in Drumcliffe.

A Beltaine Celtic Vespers will take place in St Fachnan's on Sunday 4th May at 4.30pm led by the Rector. All are welcome.

FUN DAY

We thank the Rev Vicki Lynch for an invitation to the Family Fun Day at McCauley House, Spanish Point on Sunday May 4th which includes surfing among its activities. Details and cost from Rev Vicki 086 8292073.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Canon George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9673735 Mob: 087 20 74739

Email: georgeandgwyn@eircom.net

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

Easter greetings from Co. Galway even though the celebrations will be well past by the time you read these notes. Hope you all had an enjoyable time with family and friends. I'll see many of you at the Synod in Dublin in early May.

Bishop's retirement announcement came as a surprise to many and we in this part of the Diocese had the pleasure of Joyce and the Bishop for confirmation in Ardahan (see below) and the surprise celebrant at Clontuskert's Holy Communion on Saturday 5th April. A good congregation was in attendance. We wish them both all best wishes, filled with God's continuous blessings, enriched with health and happiness for the years to come. His time with us has been reasonably short, yet in that time he has given wonderful commitment to this northern Parish, shown leadership and given great encouragement to so many.

ARDRAHAN CONFIRMATION

Charlotte, Erica, Hugh, James, and Georgia were confirmed by Bishop Trevor on Sunday 6th April. A large number of family and friends with parishioners totalling in excess of one hundred made this occasion a wonderful day of fellowship. Thanks to the Bishop for his contribution and to the candidates leading various parts of the service, the families preparing the church and Doreen Walker providing the music.



Those confirmed in Ardahan with Bishop Trevor and Canon George following their special service

LENTEN SERVICES

Attendances with the exception of Holy Week were disappointing. The two services in Holy Week, Wednesday HC Aughrim, and Friday Passion reading with hymns Ballinasloe, brought our journey to Calvary to a fitting climax. It is not appropriate to mention anything about our forthcoming Easter services as they take place after the closing deadline for May notes. However I expect these to be well supported and hope yours will be also.

TIMES OF SADNESS

... have come to our extended parishes with the sudden demise of Kathleen Newton (nee Deane), the loving wife of Arthur, mother of George Ivan Violet their spouses Beatrice Ruth, James, and Keith and partner Michelle. Kathleen is also survived by six adoring grandchildren, siblings, relatives and many friends and was laid to rest on Mother's Day 29th March in Creagh Cemetery following the service of thanksgiving for her life and witness in St John's Church. This was attended by a huge congregation who paid their respects and supported the family in their sudden grief and loss. May she rest in peace.

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

CLONFERT

The Mothering Sunday service was held in Clonfert Cathedral. It was a delight to see families there with young children.

Alex Kenny and Emma Phair distributed posies of flowers to all the Ladies whilst John Phair gave out Mothering Sunday Cards.

BANAGHER

The Diocesan Programme for Lent was a well attended series of discussions and prayers based on the Sacred Readings pamphlet produced by the Church of Ireland. This Bible study method led by our own Parish Reader Jerome Phair met for five Wednesdays during Lent at St Paul's Hall, Banagher. It was educational and we had some very interesting reflections on how the chosen passages touch our lives today.

On 9th April, once again we met at Eliza Lodge for Holy Communion, including residents and visitors. We had 14 for the service - the residents really appreciate Rev. Patrick Towers making the journey to Banagher once a month to be with them.

Our Maundy Thursday Liturgy brought many people to our special service. We started the Liturgy with the Reception of The Three Holy Oils. The three vessels of the oil of the sick, the oil of Baptism and the oil of Chrism were brought forward by three young people. Rev. Patrick explained the meaning and history of the holy oils. We then included the Washing of Feet and again Rev. Patrick explained that the ceremony is one of those times when we do absolutely what Jesus told his friends and followers to do. We celebrated Holy Communion recalling the Passover, and finally we "stripped" the holy table and sanctuary as we prepared ourselves for the hours of Christ's passion. We were grateful for the Organ playing of Mrs Delahunt and the many readers. It was a deeply spiritual and moving evening and we shall always recall the central message that in the Christian world any kind of power given to anyone is there for one thing only - that is to serve others.

EYRECOURT

We wish John Howard and Dorothy Patison a speedy recovery after their stays in hospital.

Congratulations to Mark Finney (son of Isobel and Noel) and Ruth on their recent marriage in Scotland and we welcome Ruth to the parish.

PORTUMNA

A new speaker system has been installed in Christ Church Portumna. This is of great benefit to the Rector, Readers and the congregation.

PATRICK WRITES

I would like to thank the Rev Ruth Gill for her kind and constant assistance within the Parishes. I also thank Jerome Phair for his leadership in the Lenten Bible study meetings. I would like to wish Bishop Trevor a very happy retirement and thank him for his warm kindness and leadership. It should also be noted that we have been well served by the Archdeacon of Killaloe, and we look forward to the ministry of the new Dean of Killaloe for more warm welcomes to "his" lovely Cathedral. You see how impossible it is for any heresy to get a footing in these parishes of Clonfert! For that protection we are extremely grateful.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Mabel Hayes-O'Toole who celebrated her 99th birthday on the 7th March, and to Margaret and Peter Schutz who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 4th of April.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

... to Dean Sandra on the death in the UK on 4th April of her uncle Wyndham Tardivel aged 91, the eldest brother of Sandra's Mum, and to Sandra's Mum, her sisters and brother, their families and relatives.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

On 17th April 2013 at St Mary's Cathedral: Barbara Christiane Irrgang-Buckley, of Kilcolman Parish. Barbara is undergoing Readership Training, so it was especially fitting that her confirmation took place in the context of the Maundy Thursday Chrism Eucharist, which celebrates all Christian ministry, lay and ordained, which is our calling through our baptism.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2014

Grateful thanks to Andrea McNair who led the series of Sacred Reading in Lent with great sensitivity. Thanks to the Dean for the addresses at the Evening Prayer in Holy Week. And thanks to Jackie McNair for the prayer and reflection on St John's Gospel on Good Friday. It was lovely to have the Bishop with us in the Cathedral on Easter morning. Also thanks to Peter Barley and the Choir for their contribution.

STAFFING

The Rev'd Denis Sandes has been helping us out during the curacy-vacancy. His last Sunday with us was Easter Day, when he celebrated at Abington Church. We offer our sincere thanks to the Rev'd Denis for all his help over the last six months. We are delighted that the Rev'd Edna Wakely has accepted the offer of the post of Curate-Assistant in LCP and look forward very much to her arrival in Limerick in May. Edna's Ordination to the priesthood will take place in June. For more information about Rev'd Edna, see the article on page 16.

LCP CONFIRMATION 2014

The Dean and Jackie McNair will be preparing our young people for Confirmation which commenced on Tuesday 29th April at Villiers School. The Confirmation Service will be in St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 29th June (St Peter's Day) at 11.15am.

THANKS

The Dean is grateful to the clergy who have been taking services in LCP during her indisposition and inability to drive, and to the many parishioners who have supported her in prayer, and provided in a range of practical ways, such as transport, and shopping needs.

NOYE'S FLUDDE

Many readers will know about the recent production of Noye's Fludde in St Mary's Cathedral, staged with financial support and grants from Limerick City of Culture and Limerick Regeneration, the Allchurches Trust, the Trench Trust and the Buckley Foundation. There is a full report elsewhere, but suffice it to say here that we were delighted with how the whole project went and are very grateful for the huge support we received from so many people.

A particular word of thanks to all the children who took part - their parents, teachers and schools. Around 125 children performed in the opera, and at least that number again took part in workshops in various schools across the city. A vote of gratitude to our sponsors and donors, and a special word of thanks to our sizeable group of volunteers, both from within the parish and further afield who really did us proud and worked very hard, ably led and co-ordinated by Mary Howes and Frank Sheahan (People's Churchwarden, St Mary's Cathedral).

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to Emily Howes who was awarded the Silver Medal in the Corn Ó Ceallacháin for Operatic Solo at the recent Feile Luimni Vocal Competition; to her brother David Howes, former choir member, on his achievements in Feis Ceoil in Dublin recently. David was awarded a Very Highly Commended in both the Lieder and Oratorio Competitions; he was commended for his performance in the Dramatic Cup and in The Count John McCormack Vocal Bursary Competition David won the first prize of €5,000. Very best wishes for a future enriched by God's blessing to past choristers: Vikki Martin and Warren Symes who were married in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe 12th April and to Dorothy O'Sullivan and William Dawson who were married in The Dordogne, France on 19th April.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL TOWER NEWS

Many congratulations to the Cathedral Bell Ringing Team - Gerry O'Shea, Alan Hegarty, Mike Pomeroy, Adrienne Baron, and Stephen Jordan - on their achievement in the RR Cherry Cup Competition held in Skibbereen on 6 April 2014.

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 for this valuable service.

Lent is over at last - Easter Day was glorious both with the sunshine and the celebration of the Resurrection. In Adare the organ played all the beautiful hymns, for which playing we thank you Mr. Bryan Brislane. The perfume of the flowers mingled with the voices of the people to fill the Church with praise for our Risen Lord. Thank you Ms. Joan Hunt for all the flowers that support our

services so beautifully, not just on this occasion but over the years.

Holy Week was indeed a busy time for us in the four churches. We had a variety of services - on Monday of Holy Week the service was in Croom, the beautiful Tenebrae service started Holy Week and started our journey through the story of the passion. On Tuesday in Kilmallock we had a Taizé Service in a beautiful candlelit church bringing us further into the passion story with meditation. Then on Wednesday, Kilpeacon invited us to an Agape meal, an informal, moving and beautiful service celebrating the Eucharist in the context of a meal. In Adare on Maundy Thursday we again celebrated the Eucharist, the last Eucharist before Easter. During the service we had the washing of the feet, and remembered the Passover and the last supper. We left the church in silence, preparing for the solemnity of Good Friday. These services, held in Croom and Adare were quietly contemplative and solemn, while Kilpeacon hosted a beautiful service for the children of the Group.

In Kilmallock on Easter Saturday evening, the Easter Fire was lit and a beautiful Easter Vigil service with baptism and first Eucharist of Easter was celebrated. A warm welcome into God's family for Caireann Aoibh Corrigan.

A wonderful week bringing all the churches of the Group together and we thank all those who worked so hard to bring us these services, by cleaning churches, by reading, by being present, by supplying flowers - by these actions we praise the Lord also. To everyone who helped, thank you.

Just a little update on the repairs taking place in St Nicholas Church, Adare - the roof is still under repair, but the carpet is ready to be laid as soon as this is finished and the painting done. It will be good to get this completed - as they say, it's an ill wind!!!

Our conjoint Easter Vestry was well attended and we welcome new members and thank those retiring. Your service is truly valued.

Changes are again coming down the line for us - we understand a new Rector has been appointed and will be with us, God willing, in July,

While we are saying hello to our new Rector we will be saying goodbye to Bishop Trevor - our best wishes go with him and Joyce,

Also we will be bidding farewell to Rev Maurice in May. Thank you for your care and love for the time you have been with us. We will miss your smile and your gentle persuasion in getting us all to work and pray together. Be sure you will be welcome back to us anytime.



Good conversation at the Agape meal



Children's Service at Kilpeacon



Stanley Wallace inviting hand prints on the Cross – and not on himself!

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087 2885169

E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Holy Week and Easter are always a joy, but also always busy. This year has been no exception, and our Holy Week had the added extra ingredient of sharing with our Methodist and Roman Catholic sisters and brothers in Christ in walking the Way of The Cross through Rathkeale. The weather for the event was what can only be described as spectacular, with warm summer sunshine. A large crowd gathered for the walk together with the clergy of all the Churches in Rathkeale, joined by Bishop Trevor. We journeyed through the town stopping at various points for prayer and reflection, including the Church of Ireland Church, the site of the original Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The walk ended with a sharing of the peace at the old Abbey. Just for one moment we found ourselves "together in Christ" joined by the Cross despite all the differences between us.



Good Friday in Rathkeale

Next month we still have things to do which bear witness to Christ, especially our confirmation service in Rathkeale on 11th May at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Trevor. Everyone is welcome to come and support our candidate. Maybe we will get the photos of that one in.

While we are thinking about our confirmation service we would like to join with everyone else in the diocese in wishing Bishop Trevor and Joyce every blessing as Bishop Trevor prepares for his retirement. We hope that they will enjoy many happy and active years to come.

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

Tel: 066 719 3416 Mob: 087 689 2025 Email: smwatt1@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Galbraith

Tel: 066 713 0780 Mob: 085 145 0804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Parish Office: St. John's Parish Centre, Teach an tSolais,

Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry

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

BAPTISM

On Saturday 26th April we welcomed Shona Mai into the family of the Church, as parents John and Maureen O'Neill brought her for baptism in Ballyseedy Church. On the next day 27th April Kaplan and Ronan Carter O'Flynn were also baptised in St. John's Tralee. Please remember the families in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION

On May 1st the Confirmation Class will be held in St John's Church Tralee in order to rehearse for the Confirmation itself which is on May 4th at 10.45am. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Trevor to the Unions of Parishes, as this may be one of the last times we see him before his retirement. We wish Bishop Trevor and Joyce every blessing in their retirement, they will be greatly missed.

THANKS

Thank you to our Readers for all they have contributed to our worship and devotions during Holy Week and Easter particularly when so much else has been going on during April. Thank you.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is offered to Janet and Rory Giles on the loss of Janet's father Dennis, may he rest in peace and rise in glory. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

CAKE & PLANT SALE

Thank you to Margaret Groves, Sue Latchford and their team of helpers who made the Cake and Plant Sale such a roaring success on 12th April. Funds are still coming in and have topped €1,000 which will provide funding for the flowers to decorate the church over the weekend of June 15th, when the organ will be re-dedicated. Our target for the new organ was (in total) €100,000 and to date we have raised €97,000 – another big thank you to our sponsors and contributors.

EASTER VESTRY

Election results from the Tralee & Ballymacelligott Union Easter General Vestry held in St. John's Church, Tralee, at 8pm on Thursday 10th April 2014:

Select Vestry Members: David Blennerhassett, Godfrey Blennerhassett, Maraquita Blennerhassett, Mona Butler, Olive Flynn, Danny Giles, Lorna Gleasure, Margaret Groves, Michael Latchford, George Poff, Ann Shanahan, John Slye.

Glebe Wardens: Robert Groves, Colin Peevers

Rector's Wardens: Tralee - Susan Keating, Ballymacelligott - Winnie Knightly, Ballyseedy - Phyllis Mason

Peoples Wardens: Tralee - Niall Groves, Ballymacelligott - Trevor West, Ballyseedy - Gill Slye

Diocesan Synod Members: Maraquita Blennerhassett, Daniel Giles, Lorna Gleasure, Margaret Groves, Niall Groves, Phyllis Mason (Supplementalists: David Blennerhassett, Mona Butler, Olive Flynn, Robert Groves, Susan Keating, David Tough)

Parochial Nominators: Tralee: Daniel Giles (Supplementalist: Mona Butler), Ballymacelligott: David Blennerhassett (Supplementalist: Ann Shanahan), Ballyseedy: Yvonne Blennerhassett (Supplementalist: Colin Peevers)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Holy Communion in the West Room, St. John's Wednesdays at 11am
Fri. 2nd May, Boys' Brigade meetings resume, Teach an tSolais, 7.15pm

Sun. 4th May, Confirmation Service, St. John's, 10.45am

Tue. 6th May, Healer Prayer, Teach an tSolais, 8pm

Wed. 21st May, Healing Service with laying-on of hands, St. John's, 11am

Sat. 24th May, LINKS away-day to Sneem.

NOTES FROM THE WEST

It was good to have Richard and Belinda Southwell with us for a few weeks and to enjoy their hospitality after church; lemon cake was very tasty after the last of our Lectio Divina meetings. The Lectio meetings were rich in focus though we still have room for improvement with the process. In number we ranged from three to eight over Lent weeks 2-5.

Our prayers continue for Mark Fitzgerald who is preparing for Confirmation on May 4th in St. John's.

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

Editor: Thanks are due to Mike O'Sullivan for faithfully continuing the flow of news from Killarney during the interregnum.

EASTER

So many people made a very special effort in the preparations for Easter celebrations this year. Tom Blennerhassett and Mike O'Sullivan were at the church bright and early on Easter Saturday morning, armed with, not one, but two power hoses, full of good intent and determination. While the grime busters were busy outside, Hilda and Lynda were equally busy inside and gave us an especially exquisite flower arrangement. Thanks to all who helped make the church look so well, especially all involved in the annual Spring Clean.

RAILINGS

Replacement of the external church ground railings has been completed and this has worked out very well. We will need to focus on how best to tackle the remaining older section and it is hoped that this work will be completed before the summer visitor season commences.

VACANCY

The closing date for applications for a resident, part-time Rector for St. Mary's was passed on April 18th and there has been significant interest in the post. The fact that St. Mary's is still awaiting a new

incumbent makes it all the more important for the congregation and visitors alike that we maintain a continuing sense of ministry. It is very heartening then to see that so many are committed to carrying out many extra duties during the vacancy. Indeed, it was wonderful to see such a packed church on Easter Sunday with many visitors joining a much larger than usual congregation.

READERS

A very special thank you must go to Andrew Eadie who has prepared and taken services so regularly this Lent and Easter, conducting a beautiful, thought provoking Tenebrae service in the Lady Chapel. A special thanks also to both Reverend Máirt and Rev. Jim Stephens for their continued support. Lastly, thanks also to the many performers and readers

SUNDAY SCHOOL WALKS

As promised in the last notes, Sunday School children ventured out and about earlier this month and enjoyed some time identifying many of our wild flowers in the Friary Garden, under the careful supervision and instruction of Lynda and Mike. Needless to say, some of the children were gently quizzed over lemonade and biscuits as to what flowers they had seen. They will be donning their photography gear for the next outing and that promises to be great fun again.

CONCERTS

Thankfully, our PR campaign regarding the Church concerts is paying dividends and certainly we are very grateful to the local press for covering each of the events. It is wonderful to see the local interest in community events when photographers are at the door eager to cover the concerts advertised in their publications. Huge crowds are enjoying the music. Our next concert on April 23rd will have come and gone by the time you read this, but please make every effort to support the May concerts. Watch this space next month also for an interesting line up in June over two weekends.

May 7th Roanoke College Choir with Kerry Choral Union
May 10th Capital University Prior
May 15th Lebanon Valley College Symphony
May 17th Davidson College Chancel Choir
May 22nd Killarney Golf Club Choir

All concerts start at 8pm and last approximately one hour. For further details please contact Andrew Eadie at andrew@kerrywoollenmills.ie, or scrahanmf@eircom.net. All welcome.

EASTER VESTRY

The annual Easter Vestry which took place on Monday, April 28th will be given space in next month's issue.

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

The overriding feeling in writing these notes is "Well there it is done"! We have had a really good Lent and our Lectio went very well. Holy Week services also went well and numbers were up. However, now that Christ has risen does not mean we can hand it all back to Him, and not think about it again until Harvest or even Advent. The risen Lord is there to spur us on to greater things!

That is certainly my hope for the new Select Vestry, onto which we welcome Nicole Boyle, Christine Poff and Lesley West, none of whom have been on vestry before! Having our Easter Vestry meeting on a Sunday at the end of a church service seems to have yielded a

record attendance, and it is good to see such a balance of experience and fresh thinking in Select Vestry's make up.

So onward into May. Firstly we have our service of Compline as Geailge at the grave side of Mr. And Mrs. Ruth in Milltown, to commemorate the Centenary of the founding of Cumman Gealach at 5:30 on 3rd of May. Our IDAHO Day service in conjunction with the Kerry Pride festival is on Tuesday 20th May at 8pm in St. Micheal's. On Sunday the 25th we are having a Puck v. K-Fest cricket match with members of the parish team on both sides This should warm us up for the county league starting in June where we are hoping to improve on last years 5th place.

Cricket training on the VEC practice pitch will be on Tuesdays and possibly Thursdays.

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

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN KENMARE

During Lent, together with our friends from Holy Cross and the Gateway Methodist, we have been looking at Biblical metaphor and message in some classic films.

BABETTE'S FEAST

... (much, much more than the ultimate foodie film – although

it certainly is the ultimate foodie film) concentrated on choices and consequences and the need for us to use the gifts God has given us to the full – perhaps, though, not in the way we imagine. A quote from Nelson Mandela reinforced the message:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us.

We ask ourselves: 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God! Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

... a harrowing depiction of prison life, portrays the power of the human spirit, the need for perseverance (ref. Hebrews 10) and the triumph of hope. Perhaps 'Redemptions' would be better – for there are many. The prison yard scene with accompaniment by W. A. Mozart is simply glorious.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

... set in North Lancashire in the sixties, is about false Christs, the (enviable) simple faith and trust of children, and the promise of Jesus' return – with some of the most natural child acting ever seen.

It is interesting that the producers/directors of these films have all expressly stated that they did not intentionally introduce a Christian message, although this comes through strongly in all of them. A slight health warning – clergy don't come out too well!

If anyone would like the study notes accompanying these films (50% home grown, 50% derived from the excellent writing of Hilary Brand), please email michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

The Methodist District Superintendent writes



AND, WHAT ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS?

There would appear to be a defective gene in our Christian faith which justifies the exploitation of other people through the Crusades, Auschwitz and the destruction of the Aztec and Inca civilisations. The Great Commission "therefore go and make disciples of all nations" Matthew 28. v 18 was used in the Colonial period to conquer and plunder rather than to love and serve.

IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

Jesus said "no-one comes to the Father except through me" John 14. v 6. We believe there is a uniqueness about Jesus whom we worship as God. Unique in His resurrection and by his living presence. He said "remember I am with you always to the end of the age." Matthew 28. v20 Buddha is a teacher, Mohammed a prophet - but Jesus saves us from the power of sin.

WHAT THEN DO WE SAY ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS?

John Wesley spoke of 'prevenient grace' whereby God began to work in our lives through revealing Himself in the natural world – Romans 1. v20; through conscience – Romans 2. v14-15. There is a hunger for God in every human being – Ecclesiastes 3. v11. The prophet Malachi commended other religions – Malachi 1. v11. John speaks of the true light, which enlightens everyone, coming into the world – John 1. v9. Peter said "anyone who fears God and does what is right, is acceptable to Him" – Acts 10. v35.

Paul spent three months in dialogue with the Jews in Ephesus and then continued for another two years there in dialogue with the Greeks – Acts 19. v8-10. Speaking on inter-faith dialogue, the Rev Dr Stephen Skuce recently said "we are not going to add on something to our faith that is not already present in Christianity, but we can

find part of our Christian understanding enhanced by a different perspective".

Another Methodist Minister, the Rev Inderjit Bhogal, presently Director of Corrymeela, Co. Antrim, has said "I believe that the existence of people of many faiths is within God's purposes ... each tradition of faith enjoys special distinctive and unique gifts, riches and insights. Christians have the life-giving, life-transforming story of Jesus as a special gift to share and live by without arrogance."

Part of our mission is to make friends with the many people of other faiths who have come live in Ireland. Hans Kung, that dissident Catholic theologian said "there would be no peace in the world until there is peace between the religions of the world."

The World Methodist Council offers some guidelines when engaging with people of other faiths:

- Be sensitive and courteous at all times
- Recognise that listening is a necessary component for genuine conversation
- Recognise other people's freedom to express their beliefs and convictions by learning to understand what others actually believe and value
- Do not misrepresent or disparage another persons belief or practice
- Respect the right of the other to disagree

The following is an African Proverb:

*Through other people's wisdom we learn ourselves
A single person's understanding amounts to nothing*

Methodist News

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

The Limerick City Archives City of Churches Exhibition launched in Christ Church and hosted in CB1 has been a great success. There was a steady flow of visitors of all shapes and sizes and great demand for the lovely book which further explained Limerick's passion for religious building. The exhibition also provided our new intern, Tara, with an enjoyable and informative start to working with Central Buildings Community Project.



At the City of Churches exhibition

Christ Church also hosted an evening with Christian Aid. Andrew Coleman, Jackie McNair and Karen Gillespie each shared stories of how their recent trip to Zimbabwe had affected them. Jackie was obviously moved by his visits to schools where children and young people endure very stark 'classroom' conditions in order to engage in the education they need to improve their adult lives. Bishop Trevor Williams brought the evening to a close with an opportunity to ask questions and share thoughts about the speakers' experiences.



At the launch of the AntiRumours Campaign

In April Limerick became an official member of the Intercultural Cities Network, an international group of cities which works to develop new ideas and practices concerning migrant integration. We joined with Doras Luimni, the initiators of the bid which led to inclusion in this programme, to hold a workshop in CB2 launching the AntiRumours Campaign which helps communities to examine

the rumours they spread not only about the migrant population but about themselves too. I think we need to be a bit more positive about the way we talk about ourselves in Limerick! Actually it seems to be a really great way of uncovering how we sometimes think about each other.

Good Friday in Rathkeale was marked by a community Stations of the Cross walk around the town. It was a beautifully sunny day and was very well attended. Led by Fr 'Phonsie' Cullinan, who some will remember for his Café Theology in Limerick City, the walk brought a fresh and accessible approach to this traditional Christian ritual. The striking modern images for the fourteen stations were designed by our very own Patrick Lynch.

We have just begun a Mothers' and Kids' group in the church hall on Tuesday mornings. It runs from 10am – 12.30pm on a drop in basis and gives mothers whose first language is not English an opportunity to engage in conversations and practise their language skills in a relaxed atmosphere. English classes both formal and informal already run in the hall but this particular initiative means that mums don't have to find or pay for child care to attend. The group is for mums with babies and preschool children and is open to women who can speak English fluently and to women who can't yet. We need both! If you're interested just give us a call on 061 325325.

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 11am

(inc. Children's' programme at 11)

Prayer meetings: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8–9am, Wednesday 9.15–10am.

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

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

Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesdays 10am–12 noon.

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

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

Women's Fellowship: 2nd Monday of the month 10.30 am.

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare
Sunday Service: 11a.m. (preceded by coffee, inc. Children's programme)

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

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

MILLSTREET

Services: every Sunday evening at 6.30 pm. 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 meet on the 7th and 21st May at 8pm.

Dingle has adjusted 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 25th May at 7.30pm, at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole on the 29th May at 7.30pm, and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 8th May 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 May meeting is scheduled for Monday 26th. Please pray for this new initiative.

Men's Breakfast in Killarney is scheduled for Saturday 10th May from 8.30 – 10.00 a. m. We look forward to Willy and Stephen sharing with us their expertise of trees and plants. This will follow nicely from Brin's fascinating insights into the life of the birds of the air last month. We're really growing in our appreciation of God's magnificent creation.

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 26th May at 11.00am.

Killarney Women's Fellowship group continue their "Christianity Rediscovered" at 10.30am on Monday 12th May.

Kingdom Krew (the children's club in Killarney) for 8-13 year

olds has its last meeting before the summer on Friday 9th May from 7-8.30pm.

During Holy Week we had some really special times of prayer. Killarney building was transformed into an interactive prayer room for the whole week and it was a blessing to many people to spend time there. Kenmare also had a special day of prayer on the Wednesday of Holy Week. These are all related to a discernment process which the Methodist Church in Ireland has asked each congregation to undertake this spring as we assess before God the "reasons for our existence". This is really helping us to get back to the first principals of what we are really called to be as the body of Christ.

It's now confirmed that we will be joined by a team from California during the last two weeks of June and the first two weeks of July. Plans are beginning to be drawn up for children's holiday Bible clubs as well as men's and women's fellowship meetings and worship celebrations/outreach services. Please pray that God would guide all of the planning and that this would be a time of much blessing.

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

Friday 9 May from 10.15 a.m. Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Roscrea Methodist Hall. In the evening, the Golden Vale Group meets at 7.30 pm in the Bateman home, Ballylooby near Cahir. This is a group which meets to eat, sing, share in discussion, and which also includes children. Anyone seeking new fellowship, welcome. Congratulations to:

- Michelle Armitage, Cloughjordan, who has been selected as the Junior Delegate to the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society which meets in Wales this year;
- Donal and Bernard Mackey who are serving briefly with 24/7 Prayer in Ibiza, working among young people;
- Gillian Kingston on being appointed as Vice President of the World Methodist Council, and who leads young people and friends

The Annual MWI Service will be held in Shinrone Methodist Church on Sunday 18th May at 7.00 pm ... Speaker is Mrs Elsie McDonnell, District MWI President.

European Elections 2014: it's about Europe, about you

The Church of Ireland Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue seek to draw your attention before the May European elections to the 'Call from Christians in Europe' available at www.ecumenicalvoices2014.eu. The Chairman of the Commission, the Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, writes:

'European Elections 2014: it's about Europe, about you' has been circulated by a number of Christian organisations in Europe, including the Conference of European Churches, in order to alert their members to the importance of casting their vote in the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament.

'The MEPs to be elected in both Northern Ireland and the Republic in May will have considerable influence on the framing of EU laws and budgets over the next five years. A constant criticism of the EU is that there is insufficient contact between the Union and its citizens, and the election of MEPs to an increasingly important Parliament is one way in which Church members can express their views.

'Our Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue commends the leaflet to your attention.'

EXTRACT FROM THE LEAFLET

In May 2014 elections for the European Parliament will take place. Representatives from the 28 Member States of the European

Union will be elected to decide the policies of the EU for the next five years. Due to changes in EU law, the next European Parliament will have stronger legislative powers than before. As a result, the opportunity for voters to influence EU policy has never been greater. This election is an opportunity to voice our visions and aspirations for the future.

We, as a group of churches and Christian NGOs, aspire towards:

- A European Union based on the combination of a social market economy and high levels of social standards and protection
- A European Union of values which upholds and cherishes diversity, caring for its most vulnerable people
- A European Union that welcomes migrants and refugees
- A European Union which always stands up for and protects Human Rights
- A European Union that cares for God's creation, effectively addressing climate change and implementing effective environmental policies
- A European Union that works on the eradication of poverty in a globalised world.

Saldanha Bay Bishop makes good strides on 800km pilgrimage

Bishop Raphael Hess, of Southern Africa's Saldanha Bay Diocese has made good strides on his 800km pilgrimage from one end of the diocese to the other. The journey, starting on Ash Wednesday in Malmesbury and ending on Easter Sunday at an early morning service in the coastal village of Port Nolloth just south of the South African - Namibian border, touches each of the six Archdeaconries that make up the diocese. He has been sleeping in villages along the way, listening to and engaging with parishioners as he journeys. The Bishop said:

"I want to communicate to all within our Diocese along its length and breadth, walking through the dust, that this Pilgrimage invites us to strip ourselves of all that divides us, to be able to walk on the earth and in this instance one of the oldest parts of our planet, recalling the ancient Khoi and San people, having lived in these parts from time immemorial. This Pilgrimage of possibilities offers me and indeed all of us keeping the Holy Season of Lent, a time to walk, listen, pray and reflect in the silence of the land, the sea and the wind."

Hundreds of the estimated 150,000 Anglicans living in the region have participated in the pilgrimage, accompanying the Bishop on a leg of the journey or simply by raising funds through sponsoring the 800km walk. Any sponsorship money raised by the Bishop or others on the walk will go towards the development of people in rural areas of the diocese, as well as towards the work of theological education for future generations of laity, deacons and priests.



A happy band of pilgrims and supporters en route (photo: Diocese of Saldanha Bay)

PRAYER CORNER

Meditation for May by Rev Michael Cavanagh

How many times?

I held the hammer. I hit the nails squarely.
The hands that made me, I slammed iron through.
I am sorry, Lord. Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I condemned Him. I lied so they would convict Him
I perjured myself in His Presence.
I am sorry, Lord. Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I broke His law. I ate, and watched other starve.
I drank while I saw them die of thirst.
I am sorry, Lord. Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I was atheist. I searched; I weighed the evidence.
I could not (perhaps would not?) believe. I denied you.
I am sorry, Lord, Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I stole. I saw what the rich had, and I envied them.
What was theirs, I took.
I am sorry, Lord. Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I killed. In cold blood, I slew a man.
I thought my prosperity more important than his life.
I am sorry, Lord. Lord, what of me?

I forgive you.

I was the prostitute.
There was nothing I would not do...
... did not do, for money.
I am sorry, Lord. Don't worry about me,
but Lord, what of my child?

I forgive **you**.

I heard what you said, but of course, I don't actually need you.
I never hurt anyone. I'm much better than all those other people.
I didn't do anything nearly as bad.
I don't really know much about you, but you can't blame me for that.
I never had time to think about you, you see. Perhaps when I'm older.
Religion's really only for children and old people, isn't it?
And if you're true, you'll make sure I'm alright anyway.
So what about me?
I said, what about me?

WHAT ABOUT ME???

ANSWER ME!

HOW DARE YOU IGNORE ME!

JESUS CHRIST, MAN, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Partners in Prayer – May 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop Alan Abernethy
Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldanha Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

4th May, Easter 3, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Kenya and The Most Revd Dr Eliud Wabukala, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya

Diocese: Delegates from our diocese attending General Synod this week

11th May, Easter 4, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea and The Most Revd Paul Kim, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea and Bishop of Seoul

Diocese: UDYC Youth Fellowship Group meeting in Limerick on Saturday

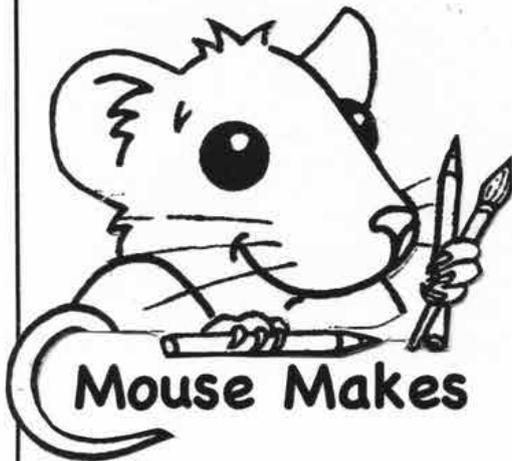
18th May, Easter 5, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Melanesia and The Most Revd David Vunagi, Archbishop of Melanesia and Bishop of Central Melanesia

Diocese: Clergy and Readers providing support to parishes in a vacancy situation at this time and all diocesan and parochial nominators

25th May, Easter 6: Rogation Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome
Diocese: Candidates for Confirmation throughout the Diocese and the Diocesan Confirmation Weekend starting on Friday



THE ASCENSION

Forty days after his resurrection JESUS led his disciples out to Bethany and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. As he blessed them he was taken up into heaven.

"Christ Jesus is the one who died for us and was raised to life again for us and is sitting in the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us there in heaven" Romans 8:34

"For there is only one God and there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus"
1 Timothy 2:5



THE LORD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS



Write your prayers to GOD in the prayer hands above knowing that JESUS is in heaven at God's right hand speaking to God for us



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