



NEWSLINK

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

INSIDE

Sue Watterson: Finding Anam Cara p. 20



Ordination of Rev Edna Wakely p.22



Mid Summer Fun Cycle p.23



Bishop Trevor: Come to the party p.3

Electing a new Bishop p.5

Caring for a wounded planet p.6

Prayer Corner p.7

GFS Diocesan Camp 2014 p.8

Pope Francis & Archbishop Welby p.16

Confirmations 2014 p.19

Interfaith Relations & the Trinity p.36

Lay Reader training p.37



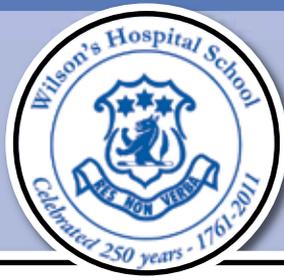
including Methodist District News p.34

Farewell to Bishop Trevor - Salters Sterling writes p.21



- At the Farewell Evensong in St Mary's Cathedral on 22nd June

photo: Herbie Knowles



WILSON'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Under the patronage of Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland



- Outstanding academic record and progression to Third Level
- Convenient yet rural location set on 200 acres, just off the M4/N4, less than 10 minutes west of Mullingar
- 450 pupils (300 boarders; 150 Day pupils)
- Pastoral Care, school nurses and doctor, 24 hour supervision including active night time care
- Bedrooms contain 3 or 4 beds
- School Chaplain, Sunday night Chapel service, Morning Assembly, Award-Winning Choir
- Lifelong friendships established
- Five day teaching week – extensive weekend recreational programme
- Choice of 20 subjects to Leaving Certificate level
- Staff supervise all study. Emphasis on career guidance. Academic focus
- New classroom block officially opened August 2013
- New sports pitches to be completed in February 2014
- Wide range of indoor and outdoor recreational activities, team and individual sports
- Seven day boarding fee: €7,767 (level of maximum SEC grant)
- Extensive programme of grants, bursaries and scholarships



For further information and prospectus, contact

**The Headmaster,
Mr Adrian G. Oughton B.A.,
HDip. Ed., D.E.M.**

www.whs.ie

WILSON'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, MULTYFARNHAM, CO. WESTMEATH

Tel: 044 - 9371115 Fax: 044 - 9371563 Email: wilsonsh@whs.ie

The Bishop Writes

THANK YOU!

Thank you for six great years! Your welcome and friendship was a precious gift and greatly appreciated. It would be unhelpful to mention any names but I have been aware of a number of people who have taken it upon themselves to 'keep an eye' on me, to make sure that Joyce and I were doing OK. That is a real expression of Christian love and I am so grateful for such people.

It has been a short time, but then I came late to being ordained Bishop. However I am pleased with what has been achieved, but aware of how much there is to do.

Thank you to all in the Diocese for the generous cheque and lovely gifts (Louis Mulcahy clock and wine cooler), and for such a good turnout at our final service at St. Mary's Cathedral on the 22nd of June. They will be reminders of six very happy years among you.

THE FUTURE

Over the next few years in this Diocese, there will be many changes to be addressed and decisions to be made. In two years time, General Synod will make proposals about the future shape of ministry throughout the Church of Ireland. It is likely that they will propose changes to our Dioceses. How we respond to those changes will be critical for the life and witness of the Church of Ireland in our part of the island. Let's not resist all change on principle even though we may find the proposals difficult. Talk together, listen carefully, use your imagination creatively, pray constantly and trust God's faithfulness, because after all the Church, its life and its mission are His business.

At the lovely farewell service in St Mary's I mentioned two ways of thinking. One is the mindset of Scarcity. The other the mindset of Abundance. Each mindset will influence the choices we make and ultimately the future of our Diocese. The reading for Evening Prayer on the 22nd was Luke 14:12-24 about someone who gave a great dinner and called the invited guests when everything was ready. The guests however all had other things to do. All had legitimate excuses, all had good reasons. But their good reason got in the way of the best choice. So how can we make the best choice? I suggest we examine our mindset.

THE SCARCITY MINDSET

We are a small Diocese. In many places we are struggling to keep things going. It seems to be getting harder and harder. It is easy to have a mindset set on scarcity. The Scarcity mindset:

- Concentrates on ourselves
- On what we can't do
- On how we must be cautious in all our decision lest we lose even more

The Scarcity mindset is off putting, energy sapping and self defeating. And profoundly Un-Christian. The Scarcity mindset warps our priorities. Just like those who were invited to a celebration, a great banquet, they were too busy keeping life as they knew it together to see the wonderful opportunity they had been offered.

Our Christian faith tells us that we have nothing to fear. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, we heard in our Psalm 46 earlier. In the Old Testament reading from Isaiah 58 we read,

"The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong: and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail."

THE ABUNDANCE MINDSET

To live with God's blessing is to live in the light of God's extravagant generosity. It is the opposite of the Scarcity mindset. It is the Abundance mindset, where life is lived in knowledge and experience of God's provision and His extravagant generosity. The Abundance mindset is:

- More willing to take risks
- More open to others
- Because we are cared for, we can care for others
- Because we are loved, we can love others
- Abundant living is Attractive, Positive, Energizing

I am not suggesting that you just accept whatever comes. That would be foolhardy.

But what I am asking is that you remember that our Church is first and foremost God's Church, and we must discern God's will for the future of our Diocese in the knowledge of God's extravagant generosity to us, and to all people.

COME TO THE PARTY

I leave you with an invitation like that set out in the parable in Luke 14. Come to the party, by trusting God's faithfulness and complete provision for all our needs. As Jesus said in another place, Matthew 6:31-33,

"So don't worry and don't keep saying, 'What shall we eat, what shall we drink or what shall we wear?! That is what pagans are always looking for; your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Set your heart on the kingdom and his goodness, and all these things will come to you as a matter of course."

May God continue to bless you richly in the years ahead

+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams
Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
Rien Roe, Adare, Co Limerick
Tel: +353 (0)61 396244
Mobile: +353 (0)87 9772125
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org



Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Villiers School, Limerick, on Saturday 4th October 2014.

Yvonne Blennerhassett
Diocesan Secretary

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sun 6th July, 2.30pm
Aghancon Parish Fete & Sale, Aghancon Hall

Fri 18th July, 7.30pm
Introduction of Rev Simon Lumby as Priest-in-Charge, St Mary's Church, Killarney

Tue 22nd July, 8-9.30pm
Installation of Rev Liz Beasley as Rector of Adare, St Nicholas' Church

Tue 22nd July, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Tue 26th August, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Thu 28th August, 7.30-10.30pm – Diocesan Council

Wed 10th September, 8-10pm
Board of Mission

Editorial - Better Together

I was away in Denmark over Pentecost, on a bus tour to view specimen trees in botanical gardens and grand estates. We saw magnificent trees. To my surprise familiar species seem to grow better than they do with us - Copenhagen is on the same latitude as Belfast, but with colder winters and hotter summers than ours, which may explain it. I was also surprised by how the original families continue to maintain their grand estates, castles, manor houses and pleasure grounds - landed families seem better off in egalitarian Denmark than in Ireland.

When abroad I like to attend other churches to experience how they worship. On Pentecost Sunday the tour schedule prevented me attending a church in Copenhagen. But the next day Erik Vind, the owner of the lovely Sanderumgaard estate on the island of Fyn, excused himself from showing us around - as host, he said, he must attend an open air Danish Lutheran service to be held in the grounds. He told me I would be welcome to attend, and I grabbed the opportunity.

I was made very welcome at the lovely service. A summer house veranda was used as a chancel, with a table for an altar. The clergy, all women, wore long black cassocks with white Tudor-style ruffs. The people sat in the sunshine in chairs or on the ground. Accompanied by a brass band we sang Danish hymns, some to familiar tunes, which I attempted to follow on the hymn sheet. A female soloist sang 'Happy' in English as we clapped along. I recognised the familiar structure of the Communion service - we received bread broken from a large flat loaf and wine from a chalice.

It was a privilege to bring greetings from the Church of Ireland to the Church of Denmark, a Lutheran church with which we are joined in the Porvoo Communion since 2010.

God bless, Joc



Pact is an accredited agency under the 2010 Adoption Act to provide the following services:

Intercountry Adoption Assessment Service
Post Placement Report Service
for Intercountry Adoption
Domestic Adoption Assessment Service
Post Adoption Service for domestic Adoption
A Pre-Adoption Foster-Care Service

Phone: 01 2962200
Fax: 01 2964049
Email: info@pact.ie
Web: www.pact.ie

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

Contact details:

Joc Sanders
Turragavaun, Dromineer,
Nenagh, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987 Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

Newslink is printed by **Davis Printers**,
Unit 6, Crossagala Enterprise Centre, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick

Deadlines

The next issue will be for September 2014, published for Sunday 7th September.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 22nd August 2014 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2014

(10 issues, new subscriptions pro rata)

- Delivered to pew in bulk €37
- Individual copy by post €45
- Collected from printer in bulk €30

(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2014

(unchanged from 2013)

	Rate per annum (Euro) (payable in advance)		Rate per single issue (Euro)	
	10 x Colour	10 x B&W	Colour	B&W
Full Page	1193	1069	154	143
Half Page	596	534	77	71
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Máirt's Musings – Thank God for the kindness of strangers!

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

I was very recently feeling, as they say, very tired and emotional! Now let me get this straight: I don't mean that I was 'ar meisce', but that I was very tired and also quite emotional. It was in this state that salvation dawned on me, starting with the arrival of a new shiny mini SUV, out of the window of which a flat Tipp accent asked me if I needed a lift.

At this point I should explain the tired and emotional bit. After a long week I had to go up to Dublin for some meetings, so I took the kids and stayed with friends. Whilst it was a good weekend, it was not relaxing. So I head to the middle of nowhere in Co. Carlow for one of those meetings where you talk about strengths and weaknesses and 'how do you feel about that'. Such meetings can leave you either energised or a little raw. I was the latter.

I thought to myself that it might be jolly to go cross country in order to get back to the route I know, thus ignoring the directional advice of one of the others at the meeting – big mistake. Lesson 1: listen to the local. 20 minutes later, straight out of Benny Hill, I was crossing over and back across the motorway I wished to be on. I had to drive as far to the other side of the motorway as I had come from, in order to pick up a road that would get me on said motorway. Lesson 2: what looks like the short route, can take much longer. So I stop for refreshment so as not to drive too tired. I knew I needed fuel, but there was no petrol station on this bit of the Kilkenny ring road, so I thought I would lash on, sure there would be one on the road. Lesson 3: don't put things off. I was still in a cut though the countryside mood and I turned off the main road sure that the next village would have fuel pumps. Lesson 4: those who don't learn from mistakes are doomed to repeat them.

This is how, as my fuel gauge hit zero I ended up rolling into a Tipp village, whose two petrol stations have closed in the last ten years. Lesson 5: don't presume stuff will be there because you think it should. I thought that I was helically wrapped around an inclined plane (namely screwed), standing by my fuel-less car with my thumb in the air, on what seemed like a deserted road out of a ghost town.



Then God, the universe or just dumb luck came through. A lovely couple on their way to Waterford Hospital for cancer treatment for one of them, stopped and gave me a lift to the nearest fuel pump. And back! We chatted away for the 10 km there and back and there are a couple of lessons that come to mind as a result. Lesson 6: people can be really nice, and what seems like a small kindness to you might make a big difference to someone else. Lesson 7: even when you think things are all falling apart, there is usually some way that they can come together, often unexpectedly.

So I would like to thank God for the kindness of strangers and the grace of the sudden resolution of my first word issue. I would like to wish the best to the dynamic duo and my prayers to the one under going treatment. And to you reading this, take direction, there is always a possibility for things to come right. And keep your fuel levels up – you wouldn't believe how few fuel pumps there are in the rural south midlands.

Electing a new Bishop

by Archdeacon Wayne Carney

Editor's note: During the Episcopal vacancy the Bishop's constitutional functions devolve on the Archbishop of Dublin, who will nominate Archdeacon Wayne Carney as his Commissary. Archdeacon Wayne should be the first point of contact during the vacancy for any matters normally addressed to the Bishop.

The Church of Ireland has a carefully thought-out mechanism for electing new bishops, and this will be followed when the Episcopal Electoral College for Limerick and Killaloe meets in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the 8th of September next. There are 24 members of the College from our United Dioceses – twelve clergy and twelve lay members, who were elected at our last Diocesan Synod triennial elections, in 2011. There are also six supplementals – 3 clergy and 3 lay – who could be called to replace any of the electors who are unable to attend the election.

There are another 24 electors, in the same proportions, who come from the four other dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Dublin; – Cork; Meath and Kildare; Cashel, Ferns, and Ossory; and Dublin and Glendalough. They were also elected at their diocesan synod triennial elections, and in each case are the three clerical and three lay candidates who received the most votes in their elections. That makes 48 in all, plus two bishops. The meeting will be chaired by the Archbishop of Dublin.

The day will begin with a special celebration of Holy Communion in the Cathedral, when the Archbishop will ask God to give us the guidance of his Holy Spirit in the election. The electors then make their way upstairs to the Music Room, where one lay person and one cleric from our diocese will be asked to make a short presentation about our concerns and our needs. Then nominations are made, with the people nominating giving a short biography of the candidate they are putting forward. After the nominations are concluded, the voting begins by secret ballot. If one candidate receives two-thirds of the votes from each of the clergy and laity, the election is over. If not, other votes are taken until the required number is reached. New candidates may be nominated at any time, and this is sometimes done if there is a stalemate. If someone receives a two-thirds majority, the winning candidate is asked if he or she will accept the position. (If he or she is not in the room, one hopes that they are near a phone!). If they do not accept, the voting continues. If it is apparent at any time that it will be impossible to reach the two-thirds majority, anyone may move that the election be abandoned. If this motion is supported by a simple majority, the election of the new bishop passes to the House of Bishops.

The electors and supplementals from our Diocese will have a number of meetings beforehand, to put together the presentation to be made, to discuss the kind of bishop we need, and to consider possible names for nomination. Please continue to pray for our electors, that the Holy Spirit will truly guide them in their deliberations, and that God will give us a Bishop who will lead us into the new adventures of building God's Kingdom that await us.

OUR DIOCESAN EPISCOPAL ELECTORS

By the time you receive this Newslink, the first informal meeting of the Diocesan Clergy and Lay Episcopal Electors will have taken place, with hopefully two more planned before the official Episcopal Election on 8th September. If you have ideas or thoughts about the criteria for selecting our new Bishop, you can send them to any of these folk so that they can be factored into the next meeting.

Clerical Electors: Ven. Wayne Carney, Revd Canon Stephen Neill, Revd Jane Galbraith, Revd Dr Keith Scott, Revd Ruth Gill, Revd Canon Bob Hanna, Very Revd Gary Paulsen, Revd Michael Cavanagh,

Revd Canon Marie Rowley Brooke, Revd Patricia Hanna, Revd Canon Michael Johnston, Very Revd Patrick Towers

Clerical Supplementalists: Revd Canon George Flynn, Revd Mairt Hanley, Revd Jim Stephens

Lay Electors: Mr Ed Hardy, Mrs Margaret Groves, Mr Trevor Morrow, Mr Eric Champ, Mr Adrian Hilliard, Mr Andrew Eadie, Mrs Margaret Brickenden, Mr Roy Benson, Mr Ray Dempsey, Mr Kieron Brislane, Mr Peter Whyte, Mrs Lorna Gleasure

Lay Supplementalists: Mr Jim Clarke, Mr Damian Shorten, Mrs Barbara Duke

Caring for our wounded planet

Rev Andrew Orr, Chairman of Eco-Congregation Ireland, suggests what we can do in our parishes



In Co. Wicklow, not far from where I live, is Tomnafinnoge Wood. It is a stunning oak forest full of life and colour, the native trees showing biodiversity in all its glorious fullness. It is well laid out for visitors to walk alongside the Derry River, and I enjoy walking there.

However, you cannot help but have a sense of sadness while walking through Tomnafinnoge. As a stone plaque at the entrance reminds visitors, it is just a small remaining fragment of the Coolattin Oak Woods which once covered thousands of acres of this part of Wicklow. Through the 19th and early 20th century the woods were carefully managed to produce excellent timber, which was used all over the world, and this in turn generated employment and, of course, protected a great variety of wildlife. But from the 1950s onwards, the Woods were sold in piecemeal fashion, clear felled and destroyed. Only a small band of dedicated local volunteers, together with the Irish Georgian Society managed to save Tomnafinnoge and other fragments from rapacious development.

What happened to Coolattin Oak Woods is a small version of what is happening to our planet. Last year's UN Climate Change talks, COP 19, held in Poland were, once again, disappointing in their outcome. Governments proved themselves once again unwilling to take the actions needed to reduce carbon emissions: indeed it is clear that a number of governments no longer see Climate Change as an issue that they have to take seriously.



A walk in Tomnafinnoge Wood

However, in the most recent talks, held in Bonn in June, there were some signs of optimism. It seems as if a number of governments are taking serious action. Finland, Scotland, Austria, Germany and even China have all pledged to cut emissions and great strides have been made towards a serious binding agreement to be agreed in Paris

next year. Nevertheless, President Anote Tong of Kiribati – a low-lying island state in the middle of the Pacific – warned that it was already "too late" to save countries such as his from being swamped by rising seas, even if a climate change agreement was reached by the end of 2015.

Here in Ireland, we all saw the destruction wrought by last winter's floods- exactly the kind of damage that was predicted by climate scientists, and we can sadly expect more of the same. We can go on repairing the damage a great cost, but that is like giving medicine to treat symptoms, without doing anything to cure the disease. So it was sad to see that the Irish Government did not even bother sending a representative to the Bonn talks. Clearly, they don't regard this as an important issue for people in Ireland.

So the initiative is back once again with NGOs and local groups of volunteers to put the environment back on the Government agenda, by raising awareness and encouraging local action. The Churches can be at the forefront of this, as they together, have a network of local active people unparalleled by another group. It may seem as if we can't do much on our own, but in reality whatever we do locally, even in a small way, impacts on a much larger scale, as politicians and decision makers see this as something that people care about.

If your parish would like to be involved in helping the environment where you are, and showing your concern about climate change, Eco- Congregation Ireland (ECI) can help. Log on to our website www.econgregationireland.com and see the many resources which will help get you started. Maybe you will be able to apply for an ECI award!

This Autumn is "Creation Time", as we in the Church of Ireland celebrate our Harvest Festivals. The ECI website will give you and all hard pressed clergy lots of ideas and resources for celebrating this time of year in Church. The theme for 2014 is "Family Farming", which is something which many of our parishioners will be familiar with and can relate to. The resources will be available in early July

"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – July & August 2014

JULY 2014

Each Sunday

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

6th July – 3rd after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (United) and The Most Revd Samuel Robert Azariah Bishop of Raiwind & Moderator of the Church of Pakistan

Diocese: Our parish schools and their staff during the summer holidays that it may be a time of rest and refreshment for all

13th July – 4th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea and The Rt Revd Clyde Igara Archbishop of Papua New Guinea & Bishop of Dogura

Diocese: Holiday Chaplaincies throughout our united dioceses

20th July – 5th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines and The Most Revd Edward Pacyaya Malecda Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Diocese: Canon Liz Beasley on the occasion of her Institution in Adare on 22nd July, & the Diocesan Junior Youth Camp beginning today at Ovoca Manor

27th July – 6th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda and The Most Revd Dr Onesphore Rwaje Archbishop of L'Eglise Episcopal au Rwanda and Bishop of Gasabo

Diocese: Hospital and Nursing Home chaplains throughout the diocese

AUGUST 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: Dublin & Glendalough and Archbishop Michael Jackson

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

3rd August – 7th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church and The Most Revd David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of St Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane

Diocese: Our Church & Cathedral Choirs and organists throughout the united dioceses

10th August – 8th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Province of South East Asia and The Most Revd Bolly Lapok, Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of Kuching

Diocese: Parish and Diocesan Readers and their ministry in our diocese

17th August – 9th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South India Diocese of Kanyakumari and The Rt Revd Gnanasigamony Devakadasham
Diocese: Diocesan Senior Youth Camp starting today at Muckcross

24th August – 10th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa and The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba Archbishop of Capetown and Primate of Southern Africa

Diocese: Diocesan Council meeting this week

31st August – 11th after Trinity

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Anglicana del Cono Sur de America and The Most Revd Hector Zavala Muñoz Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone & Bishop of Chile

Diocese: Bishop Trevor and his wife Joyce on the occasion of Bishop Trevor's retirement

Meditation for July & August

by Rev Michael Cavanagh

What was it like in the manger?

What was it like in the manger, when you opened your human senses to see the world you had made? When you smelled the moist hay, felt the breath of the animals, knew the comfort and security of strong human arms as your earthly father held you and dreamed of the things he would teach you?

What was it like in the Temple? When you lost track of time and place? Were you nervous as you rose to speak among the teachers? Did they treat you as a boy or an equal? What were your questions? Were they answered?

What was it like in the wilderness, when you took the first steps into your future? When the desert sun baked your lips to sand and seared your eyes? When, so weak from hunger, it would have been so easy to turn the stone to bread, to worship the worldly, to prove your power?

What did you see in the faces of those fishermen by the lake? What made you choose them to be your voice across the world and across the ages? Did you never doubt them? Even when they doubted and denied you?

And in the garden, as you prayed alone, did you doubt yourself? Did you wonder if giving everything would be enough? Were there tears mixed with the sweat of your brow? Were you frightened?

What did you feel when you saw the world from the height of your cross? Did you draw comfort from the faith of the one alongside you? Did you know that there would be many who would refuse the gift of life that you had won for them? Was that a greater pain than the nails?

How dark was it in the tomb? Did you rest awhile? How long did you lie there in quiet, before you turned that dark into light, brighter than time, to banish darkness for ever?

Questions I shall love to ask you. I can wait for most of the answers. But one rather more urgent request.

You said that I would be your body on earth.

When, then, when you see the world through my eyes, touch it with my hands, hear its pleading with my ears, speak to it through my lips – when I corrupt your perfection in my humanity (I may not mean to, but I do), may I not hand on my misery, but your love. For I have no intention of getting out early. I shall wait upon you, and in the meanwhile, aspire to keep your children fed.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

BIRR BRANCH

On Tuesday 20th May Mrs. Valerie Fitzgerald judged the badgework which was completed by the girls during the year. Later Valerie presented the achievement badges. Each girl received an Arts and Crafts badge and seven girls received Bible Study badges. Five girls attended All Ireland camp in Wilson's Hospital so they were given special camp badges. Many thanks to Valerie for her help.

Isabel Alexander's and Isabelle Harvey's craft competition entries were sent to the G.F.S. House to be judged at All Ireland level. Isabelle Harvey won first prize in the Junior Candidate section, heartiest congratulations to Isabelle.

The presentation was followed by a Tea Party for family and friends, thank you to all who came to encourage the girls.

Eleven members and the leaders enjoyed the fun and fellowship at the Diocesan Camp in Durrow.

Our best wishes to the girls entering second level education in September.

Wishing everybody and enjoyable and safe summer.

CLOUGHJORDAN

Our Parents' Night on Friday, 16th May was most enjoyable. We were delighted to have our Diocesan President Mrs. Rose Langley with us to present the badges. It was great to see all our work for the year on display. We enjoyed our singing and thank Mr. John Armitage for accompanying us on the keyboard and Canon Neill for looking after the amplification. Our tea party came next with lots of delicious treats being consumed. The evening ended with a raffle and a sale. Have a lovely summer everybody.

NENAGH

Confirmation: Congratulations to GFS girls, Maruna Manthe and AnnaMae Powell, who were confirmed on Sunday, 15th June. As this was Bishop Trevor's last visit to Nenagh, GFS girls took part in the Service. Diocesan President, Rose Langley, presented Bishop Trevor and Mrs Williams with a GFS plate on behalf of the Diocese. We send our good wishes to Bishop Trevor and Mrs Williams as they start their retirement.

ROSCREA

The girls had a party in the Rectory to finish the season. Three of the girls are going to the Diocesan Camp. We wish Isabel and Nadia well as they move on to Secondary school in September. Many thanks to the parents for their support and to the Leaders for all the hard work. Hope to see you all in September. Enjoy the lovely sunshine.

GFS DIOCESAN CAMP

The Annual Diocesan Camp was held in The Faith Mission Centre, Durrow from Friday, 20th to 22nd June. 29 Girls and 11 leaders enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the camp in Durrow.

There are many people to thank for our wonderful camp: the leaders who organised the trip, the ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen to ensure that we were so well-fed and last but certainly not least the girls themselves, without whom there would not have been a camp. All the girls were mannerly, friendly and fun-loving, a great credit to their parents and families.

Leader's Report - Sandra Hayes, Cloughjordan

Glorious sunshine and glowing smiles certainly were the signs that camp was going well. From games to flag making and delicious treats we settled well for our first night. Waterford was our destination on Saturday. From pleasure in Penneys to pebbles at Tramore with a train ride in Kilmeadan in between, we enjoyed our day immensely. We decorated t-shirts and had fun in the playground, when we were back in Durrow. Sunday included church in Abbeyleix, competition results and packing for home. It was a fun-filled weekend with lots of fellowship and friendship. Fantastic!

GFS ALL IRELAND COMPETITION RESULTS

GFS in the Dioceses of Killaloe & Clonfert was very successful in All Ireland Bible Study and Craft Competitions. Congratulations to the following girls:

Cloughjordan Branch - Abigail Clarke, Molly Grace, Laura Hayes, Lorraine Armitage and Michelle Armitage

Nenagh Branch - Maruna Manthe

Birr Branch - Isabel Alexander

Boys' Brigade

TRALEE

1st Tralee Company of the Boys' Brigade held their annual display evening on Friday 31 May. The Senior members of the Junior Section gave a marching display, the Anchor Section showed off their circus skills and the Junior Section, with the help of parents and family members, held their "Olympics Games". Then everyone joined in singing 'The Lord told Noah' and danced to 'Father Abraham'. The evening concluded with the presentation of medals and awards.

The awards included:

- Uniform Award to Orla Rusk
- The Friendship Award to Charlotte Fort
- Attendance Award to Ben O'Reilly and Kaplan Carter-O'Flynn.
- The Pam Cooke Cup for Junior Section member of the year to Zac Boyle
- The William Fitzell Cup for Anchor Section member of the year to Billy Giles.

A huge thank you goes to all the leaders, Collette Price, Dawn Roberts, Colin Boyle, Gerhardt Maritz, Desire Busingye and David Tough for all their hard work and dedication throughout the season. All are looking forward to seeing the boys and girls again in September/October.

If you would like your son or daughter to join the Boys' Brigade please contact Collette on: 066 712 0881 or 086 318 8736 or email colletteaprice@gmail.com.

NENAGH



Denis getting his award for 100% attendance

Mothers' Union

There will be a Mothers' Union Diocesan Service in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe on 14th September at 3.30 pm. Special preacher will be Mrs Phyllis Grothier, who is All Ireland MU President. Dean Paulsen has kindly agreed to conduct the Service. More details next issue.

"Curry in a Hurry", this cook book is still available FREE to students going to 3rd level Education in September. Please contact Ina Blackwell at 057 9131253 mob 087 1481305 to receive a copy.

As went going to press, nine MU Members are going to Belfast for the Annual General Meeting of MU. There was a service in St Anne's Cathedral on 20th June, special preacher was the Archbishop of Armagh. The meeting on 21st was Belfast Waterfront and Mrs Lynn Tenbey, World Wide President was there, a full report will be in next Newslink.

ADARE BRANCH

Our year started with a joint service in Adare Church in September. In October our first meeting was a very interesting talk given by Dr. Sylvia Cooke on how to eat and live healthily.

In November our younger members were treated to a pamper evening with two beauty therapists which everyone enjoyed, and all went home relaxed and looking beautiful.

Our usual Christmas party was in December and the exchange of prayer partners gifts and we all enjoyed the mulled wine and food supplied by our young families.

February we joined with the Limerick City Branch for a very informative meeting on safety in our homes. This was facilitated by two Garda.

In March we joined with our Methodist friends for an excellent presentation on Ghana.

On Mothering Sunday a joint service was held in Kilmallock, led by the Mothers' Union and was lead by the mother's union. The children read the lessons of the day and also lead the congregation in prayer. It was a very family orientated service and the children gave the ladies in attendance a small bouquet of flowers and a Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday Card. A sincere thank you to Brian Brislane who was our guest organist on the day. After the service tea was held in the newly refurbished Coote Hall and it was very enjoyable to chat with parishioners from the other end of the parish. The collection on the day was given to Make a Mother's Day and came to €400. A thank you letter from Sumner House was received.

The Adare branch went to Askeaton for the Feast of the Annunciation and enjoyed tea and food in the Rectory afterwards.

The highlight of the year was our visit to Gordon Shire's home, who gave a cookery demonstration ably assisted by his mother Rose. This included making crumpets, lemon drizzle cake and apple cake which everyone enjoyed sampling.

Our membership is 25 and we would welcome any new members to our branch. All our meetings were extremely well attended with friends and relatives of members attending the different meetings throughout the year. As the year comes to a close I would like to thank everyone sincerely for keeping our branch alive and well. As we did last year during the summer months our older members will have some outings. Hope you all have a lovely summer and will see you back in September refreshed.

God's Blessing to you all.

Hope everyone has a good summer and is refreshed come September!

New Church of Ireland Youth Ministry Development Officer

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) recently appointed two new Youth Ministry Development Officers. The Officer for the Southern Region of the Church of Ireland, including our diocese, is Amy McCrea. Amy's role is to support anyone involved in youth ministry within the Church, so we asked Amy to give us a short introduction to herself and her work, and this is below:



'Hi, I'm Amy McCrea and I am both excited and humbled to be CIYD's new Youth Ministry Development Officer for the Southern Region. I'm from Ballisodare in Co. Sligo and, like many people from Yeats' County, enjoy few things more than a good cup of tea, a few tunes and getting out and about in the great outdoors!

I trained as a primary school teacher in the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE), but have spent the past year based in the Youth Department of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education and Training Board, working on a PEACE III funded project with young people from local churches. Although I've been volunteering in youth groups for many years, this experience really opened my eyes to the importance of youth ministry and of giving young people opportunities to grow in their faith and to serve God in their own unique ways.

I'm excited about what the future holds for CIYD and am thoroughly enjoying my new work. Over the next few years I hope to be able to come alongside the southern dioceses in their work with young people through a mixture of volunteer and youth worker support, leader training, strategy and programme development and more. It's going to be a challenge, but one that I am aiming to rely fully on God to help and guide me with. And of course I can't wait to get out and about meeting all the lovely people of the region!

Amy can be contacted by email at: amy@ciyd.org or by phone on: If you would like to keep up to date with events and resources offered by CIYD, please see www.ciyd.org or on Facebook, see 'CIYD Southern Region Volunteers'.

United Diocesan Youth Council

DIOCESAN FUN CYCLE IN AID OF SWAZILAND...

Took place the weekend these notes are due, U.D.Y.C. are looking forward to being involved in and playing our part in this diocesan event. See page 23 for a report.

SUMMER MADNESS

At the time of writing these notes, preparations are underway for this year's Summer Madness, and we look forward to another great year at the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Summer Camp and Senior Summer Camp, (see UDYC Diary Dates for details) Both summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 11th July and for Senior Summer Camp is Friday 8th August.

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

Zany Icebreaker Games

Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Waterfights, Table Quiz, Charades, Bingo, Campfires, Variety Show, Crazy Team Challenger, Treasure Hunts, Disco, And MUCH MORE!

(Junior Camp Only)

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

Overnight Camp Out at Lough Dan campsite to include hill walking in great outdoors, bar-b-que, camp fire sing-a-long and watersport activities with Outdoor Adventure Ireland including gorgewalking and kayaking.

Day trip to Dublin City to include Viking Splash Tour, National Leprechaun Museum, Swimming at National Aquatic Centre, McDonalds, Bowling & Quasar at Leisureplex.

(Senior Camp Only)

Magnificent Hiking Experience through Gap of Dunloe followed by boat trip on Lakes of Killarney. Outdoor Activities at Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre to include: Bouldering, Rock Climbing, and Abseiling. Overnight Trip to Cape Clear Island (by popular demand) with hiking trip on island, bar-b-que, sing a long campfire, Watersports activities at Cape Clear Outdoor Adventure Centre including kayaking, snorkelling, archery and sea bouldering. High Ropes at Play @ Heights Killarney, Paintball at Predator Paintball and Aquadome experience in Tralee, Cinema, etc.

As well as much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine.....

How Much? The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee will be same as last number of years at €220 for 7 days. SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family. This includes bookings for Summer Madness. The cost for Senior Summer Camp for all participants also joining International Exchange Trip to Germany is only €120. A non-refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs. The balance may be paid at the time of booking if desired and is refundable up to the start of the camp. Please contact Edward in confidence if financial support might help.

Return Transport from/ to Adare Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise for all events!

DIARY DATES

Junior Summer Camp

Sunday 20 th July – Saturday 26th July 2014

Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow - 10- 13 year olds

SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

Sunday 17th August – Saturday 23 rd August 2014

Muckross Youth Venture Centre, Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry - 13 plus year olds

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward on (087) 2907553 or Damian on (087) 2274663, or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,

Maud

Mobile: 087 / 9959581

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

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

CAKE SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

Well done to everyone involved in the successful Cake Sale and Coffee morning on June 7th. There was a delicious array of cakes, buns and home produce and senior pupils organized some novelty stalls as well as a toy and book stall. Thank you to all the organizers and supporters.

SCHOOL TOURS

The younger pupils in school had a very enjoyable day in the Donkey Sanctuary and Doneraile Park.

The senior pupils had great fun in the water in Castlegregory and then visited the Medieval Experience in Tralee and Blennerville Windmill.

CHESS NEWS

Well done to all our chess teams who competed in the Limerick Chess League. Congratulations to our champions' team who won the league and to the Girls' team who were runners up. Our novice team went through to the final.

SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Day was held on Friday 20th June. We were blessed with a lovely day, with plenty of bright sunshine. The emphasis was on participation and fun and with a mixture of sprint and long distance races and the "fun" races which included the spud and spoon, a teddy bear race, the three-legged and the sack race, there was something for everyone. This year we introduced some field events such as the long jump, discus, shot putt and javelin and this proved very popular. Thank you to Evan Shorten and his dad, Ian, for making our long jump. We spent the day in the school grounds and were joined by many parents and younger siblings during the afternoon who got into the spirit by competing in a race for Mums and Dads and for preschoolers.

A big thank you to 6th class pupils who organised the younger pupils at the starting line and made sure there were no tears during the sack races!



Mr Bertie Alfred with his granddaughter

CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Pupils in 3rd to 6th classes along with some of the boys from our neighbouring school, Scoil Naomh Íósaf spent one morning in June playing cricket in the Manor Fields, Adare. Jim Doran, who had been coaching in both schools organised the event, mixing students from both schools into four teams. It may have been very hot, weather-wise, but everyone kept their cool on the cricket crease! It was a fantastic morning with the Adare Argyles winning the tournament on this occasion.



Cricket in Adare

ST NICK'S BUZZ

The final edition of St. Nick's Buzz was circulated at the end of term with some wonderful reports and interviews. Two past pupils who have grandchildren in the senior classroom, Mrs. Ruby Shorten and Mr. Bertie Alfred, were interviewed by the pupils and we learned all about what St. Nicholas' was like in the 1930's and 1940's. Most pupils walked to school, there was lots of homework, even at the weekend and there weren't as many books as we have now. Needless to say, there were no computers or interactive whiteboards but the most surprising piece of information of all was that the toilets were outside and didn't flush!



Mrs Ruby Shorten and her grandchildren

TALENT SHOW

Once again 6th class pupils organised our annual talent show when pupils entertained teachers and parents with a wide variety of performances.

GOODBYE TO 6TH CLASS

School closed on Thursday 28th June with a service of thanksgiving in St. Nicholas' Church when we said farewell to our sixth class pupils, Heather, Ali, Nadine, Cian, Gordon, Evan and Cian and wished them every success as they move on to secondary school.

School re-opens for the new school year on 28th August 2014 and we hope all our pupils, parents and staff have a happy Summer break with lots of lovely sunshine!

St. Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

- William Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18"

The pencils are worn to stubs, and full copies are a testament to the work done over the school year past. As the last of the lessons are being completed, the hum of bees and the rays of the sun are drawing us outdoors. Our annual Sports Day took place on Friday, 20th June, followed by a barbeque and treats provided by our generous Parent's Council.

Our Senior classes donned their wetsuits and took to the waves at Lahinch recently. The weather was beautiful and the waves were kind to the eager students. Our younger classes went inland to Glendeer Farm. Ghandi once said "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." To observe and care for animals is a wonderful education for all.

Our 'Literacy through the Arts' week was a great success, and the students produced a wonderful body of work across such diverse subjects as; William Shakespeare's Biography; a study of Einstein in symmetry; a response in collage to Roald Dahl's "George's Marvellous Medicine", with the Infant Classes producing beautiful paintings related to their enjoyment of "Aliens Love Underpants" and "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch".

The trouble with endings is that they often involve goodbyes. Our Sixth Class students are moving up and about to embark on new adventures, friendships and experiences. We wish the following students thanks and best wishes for the future; Ashling Davey, Daniella Stumbre, Piotr Kozak, Maruna Manthe, Seren Fassnidge Kennedy, Rokas Turcinkas, Mainas Kybartas, Corneliu Bacean, Melani Lakatos, Aoife Carroll and Anna-Mae Powell. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh! Our Graduation Service took place in the Croft Hall on Tuesday, 24th June. Grandparents, parents and siblings of 6th Class pupils were all welcomed.

Our gratitude and fondest farewells go to Ms. Niamh McConville, a dedicated teacher and a great colleague, who is redeployed to another school. We hope she will be happy and fulfilled in her new role.

A warm welcome back to Ms. Joanna Holmes, who will be covering Mrs Maher's Maternity leave from September.

Our last day of term was June 25th and the Autumn term begins again on 28th August. Wishing all our community and our friends a warm and enjoyable Summer ahead.

St. Michael's National School, Limerick

St Michael's NS have had their very own World Cup fever. For the last weeks of term, the following countries have been represented in the tournament by mixed teams from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes - USA, Uruguay, Cameroon, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Honduras and Spain. There's wonderful team spirit built up within the different groupings, and each captain being responsible for encouragement - win, lose or draw.



Honduras



Costa Rica



Uruguay



Argentina



Cameroon



Brazil



USA



Spain

We were lucky enough to be close to the preparations for the Opening Ceremony for the Special Olympics in the People's Park just recently. The park proved a very fitting and beautiful venue for this big event. The park took such a battering after Storm Darwin, that it took an enormous effort to restore it to its former glory in time for the ceremony. Being just right next door, we couldn't but join in the air of festivity and optimism that is what the Special Olympics is all about.

June is an extremely busy month for our 6th Class teacher, Sally Fossitt. So much to do before the final goodbye – the compilation of the Yearbook containing a myriad of school memories, preparation for End of Year Service, as well as for the Talent Show, and of course, the most exciting part of all: the mystery tour to Dublin! We wish each one of them success and happiness in their next stage of education.

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

As this school year closes we wish to acknowledge all those who have contributed in so many ways to provide opportunities for our pupils.

This term they have enjoyed school tours and gardening activities, hatched chickens, won art competitions and participated in sports events.

Well done to Hannah Benn who won a scholarship to Kilkenny College.

Best wishes to Mrs Jane McManus as she retires from the staff of St Cronan's N.S. We wish her good health and happiness and success in the next phase of her life. No doubt she will embark on a new project with energy and enthusiasm.

We wish all pupils moving to Secondary School every success in their future education and we hope they will remember their days spent in St Cronan's N.S.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

As another school year draws to a close we say congratulations, somewhat belatedly, to:

- Aimee Fitzgerald who won the Lily O'Brien's Easter Hamper at the draw in school. Thank you to everybody who assisted with and contributed towards the hamper and for very generously donating it to our school.

- Athletes from 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Classes took part in the Borrisokane Athletic Club Primary School Competition in May and won many medals in both track and field events. Well done in particular to our boys who defeated stiff competition won the O'Farrell Shield.

- 4th, 5th & 6th Classes participated in the Primary Inter-School Sports Day at Villiers School. We are most grateful to Villiers for organising and hosting this event and for very generously funding it in full. Our pupils were victorious on the day and returned with the Villiers School Cup. Well done to you all.



Basketball Team

- 5th & 6th Class basketball players won their semi-final against Carrig N.S., and narrowly defeated Rearcross N.S. in the final of the 2014 Basketball Blitz. It was a pleasure to welcome Carrig, Rahealy and Rearcross National Schools to our school for these matches. We are grateful to North Tipperary Sports Partnership and Mr. Patsy Farrell for their continued support. Congratulations to Sarah Armitage who won the Girls' Skills Event and to Ben Chadwick who came second in the Boys' Skills Event.

- Everybody who took part in Sports Day. It was a great pleasure to see so many present, despite the weather. Congratulations to the Red Team who came 1st, the Blue Team - 2nd, and to the Green and Yellow Teams - Joint 3rd. Thank you very much to everybody who provided such lovely refreshments and to our PTA and others for all the help on the day.

- School Garden Committee on its wonderful work to date and on the official launch of Our School Garden in June. We are most grateful to Pat Malone, Wendy Bailey, David and Joy Wakefield, Louise Cromer, Emma Crawford, Philippa Robinson, Linda Austin and Veronica Ryan, our Garden Committee, for their commitment to and enthusiasm for this project, and for the work they, together with our enthusiastic pupils and others have put in to setting up this project.

Our Junior Classes enjoyed their School Tour to Glendeer Pet Farm and Viking Boat Trip on the River Shannon with many of the younger children getting to steer the boat, somewhat haphazardly! Our Senior Classes enjoyed their school tour to Kilkenny Castle, the National Craft Gallery and to Kilkenny Activity Centre. Ms. Cromer

and the children were wet and mucky from head to toe but this didn't reduce their enthusiasm for splat ball and for the military assault course.



6th Class

Thank you very much to everybody who supported our PTA's Road Race and Family Walk in Cloughjordan. It was a most enjoyable occasion. Congratulations to our winners, as follows:

Men: Glenn Austin (1st), Carl Williams (2nd), Clifford Guest (3rd),

Women: Christine Carroll (1st), Sandra Williams (2nd),
Roisin Costelloe (3rd)

Primary School Children: Tom Larke (1st boy), Laura Williams & Laura Hayes (Joint 1st girls)

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

END OF YEAR SERVICE

What a wonderful day we all had with Bishop Trevor for our End of Year Service on Thursday June 19th. Our day began with a special service led by Bishop Trevor and assisted by Rev Máirt Hanley and Barbara from the Lutheran Community- to say farewell to our 7 sixth class pupils who are leaving us - Eamonn, Alex, Niall, Rosa, Naoise, Emily and Reece.



Rory & Charlotte presenting a cake to Bishop Trevor

The children read and sang beautifully with Alex giving a breath taking solo rendition of the 'cup song' - "When I'm Gone"

We then returned to Kiltallagh School to a delicious BBQ. The children were entertained in the glorious sunshine by Dolby Man - The Magician - and face painting with Emma and Caitriona with images of Spider Man and 1D topping the poll!

The children acknowledged their appreciation of Bishop Trevor by presenting a framed picture which included 37 individualised pictures by each one of the pupils depicting school life in Kiltallagh. Our chairperson, Andrew Eadie also presented two books to Bishop Trevor on behalf of the Board of Management.

One of our parents-Ciara Orme made a delicious cake on behalf of the parents of Kiltallagh School, which was presented to Bishop Trevor by Ciara's children Rory and Charlotte. We have many fond memories of Bishop Trevor and will miss him but send him our very best wishes on his retirement.

A sincere Mile bhúiochas to everybody for their wonderful assistance in making this day so memorable.

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

The children of Kiltallagh School displayed all their athleticism and skill at our Annual Fun Sports Day on June 18th with their teachers and P.E. Instructor Lisa.

We had a World Cup Theme for our Day which included many exciting activities -hockey, egg and spoon, basketball shots, to name but a few.

All children received a medal for being wonderful participants.

Our senior sports person award was won by Reece Loughlin and our Junior Sports person award winner was David Scally.



Well done boys!

GREEN FLAG-TRAVEL

On Wednesday, we also had our first official Walk On Wednesday (WOW) as part of our Green School Flag for Travel Application.

Children assembled at the local creamery where they were joined by Fiona Barry from An Taisce along with school staff and parents. With some very colourful high viz jackets and balloons we set off to school where we were greeted by more balloons, bunting and banners and the other pupils who travel by bus.

We look forward to having many more WOW's when we return in September.

Wishing all our 'News link' readers a happy safe and sunny summer!

Best Regards,
From all in Kiltallagh National School

Oxmantown National School, Birr

LENTEN PROJECT

Our total raised for this year's Lenten Project was €1,853 which we divided between the Diocesan project in Swaziland and the School Building fund. Our sixth class pupils presented Mr. David Fritzell with a cheque for €1,000. The children had many clever ways of raising this money such as a sponsored spell, a bring and buy sale and our teachers sponsored a popular Easter egg raffle.

SCHOOL TOURS

Pupils from fourth to sixth class, accompanied by Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Colton, Stuart Smith and Cailin Keaveny, spent a rather wet day in Dublin Zoo. Mrs. Hodgins and Miss Lynch brought their classes to a pet farm in Laois. Ms. Barnwell and Mrs. Carroll helped with the infants, this group fared better, weather-wise! Fifth and sixth class made the annual trip to Villiers School Sports day again, congratulations and thanks to Ms. Storey and to all the staff and transition students for making this day so enjoyable for us all.

SPORTS DAY

We expect to have our Sports at the School again this year, last year we had to take the children to the Rectory as our building project had started. Weather permitting, we hope to begin the races at 11.45 on Friday 20th Parents, Grandparents and friends are invited to come and watch the athletes.

RETIREMENT

Our very capable and popular Special Needs Assistant Mrs Alice Carroll is retiring this June; Mrs Carroll has been with us for ten years. We are very grateful to Alice for her loyalty and hard work and wish her well in her retirement.

INTERNATIONAL DAY



Children from the Polish Community displaying their culture for 'International Day'

On Friday 6th June we held an International Day at School to celebrate the diverse range of cultures we now have attending Oxmantown. The pupils, assisted by some of their parents, exhibited pictures, maps, souvenirs and samples of their varied cuisines. We enjoyed sampling each other's sweet and savoury dishes. Niamh Coughlan, Kelly Ross, Jessica Pyle and Shannon Briscoe did Irish dancing in magnificently embroidered costumes. Children from the Polish community sang a Polish anthem and Yvonne sang a Chinese song in a traditional costume. Each class group sang and we finished by joining together in a lively rendition of 'All the Children of The World'.

We were honoured to have Bishop Williams join with us and to have him bless and officially open our new classroom. During the ceremony Reverend Ruth Gill kindly presented a painting of the school to the Pupils and staff. The painting was by a past pupil Mrs. Sylvia Vaughn Spain.



Members of the B.O.M. Elaine Lynch, Audrey Colton, Archdeacon Carney, Peter Whyte, Georgina Armitage and Betty Delahunt with the Bishop at the opening of the new classroom.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

Summer has come and another busy school year has drawn to a close. The longer and brighter days of the summer are always welcome and we certainly made use of the fine days this June. We had a very enjoyable school tour. This year we didn't stray too far, we attended one of Let's Go Summer Camps in Delta Sports Dome, Limerick. This was an action packed day for all, including the teachers and parents who went along. We took part in many fun and daring activities from the zorbee ball and bungee trampoline to human table soccer and the spider ladder and slide.



The sun shone once again for us on our sports day. We were wondering how we could match last year's great sports day on the beach. Finally after much deliberation we decided to stay local once again and make use of the wonderful facilities around us in Rathkeale. The venue for our day was St Mary's Park in Rathkeale adjacent to the new playground. We had several fun relay races which involved all of our pupils. Some of the highlights included the space hopper race and also the fill a bucket using sponges race. We were then treated to a barbeque lunch and thanks to the parents for organising this and a special thanks to Siân Wilmot for the cooking. After lunch we had a scavenger hunt and of course we couldn't leave without some time in the playground itself.

Another great day was spent in Adare Village Park with Geoff Hunt. We spent the morning fishing and examining the wildlife in the stream. Who would have guessed there'd be so much to see in such a small stream.



The end of the year is a time of mixed emotions, with the excitement of the holidays ahead and all that entails but also it's a time of saying goodbye. This year we say farewell to our sixth class pupils, Lizzie, Zoe, David and Robert. We wish them all well in their secondary schools, come September. Will also be saying farewell to Alishia, as she transfers to school in Newcastle West. We'd like to also take this opportunity to thank our shared learning support and resource teachers, Mairead Loughlin and Jacqui Foley for their work with us and to wish them well next year. School closed on Friday 27th June and will reopen on Monday 1st September.

Finally we'd like to wish Bishop Trevor and Joyce well in their retirement and to thank them for their support in school over the years.



Villiers School

HEAD GIRL'S REFLECTION

by Grace Tutty

Looking back upon the six wonderful years I have spent as part of the Villiers family, I cannot remember all the special moments I have spent with my friends within the school. However, to define my time as a Villiers student, I will tell you the two things I have learned during my time here.

Villiers has taught me to love sport, in particular hockey. Right back in first year when Mr. Sutton made it his duty to teach us the basics, push passes, slap hits, etc. School hockey has been a constant in my life for the past six years. It is the thing I will miss most of all. The banter in the changing rooms, dancing to "Timber", travelling to the exotics of Cork and Tipperary, reaching the cup final. It's not just the team of beautiful girls that have made it so special for me but the respect and support of the student body as a whole, including Leo the Lion.

Villiers has taught me to work hard and be ambitious. I think all the sixth years can testify to the importance of the teachers and staff in our lives as secondary school students. They have made us use our heads when we didn't want to. They are willing to correct and improve any work we give them. When we have bad days they are there with a cup of tea, time to chat and brimming with sound advice. For every student reading, I encourage to realise that teachers are not there to give out to you for not doing your homework, but they are there to help you become the person you can become.

This morning I put on my skirt and fixed my tie for the last time. It stirred up many emotions within me but most of all it reminded me of the good times I have spent wearing the uniform. I know this is a day I will never forget. It is a day I will appreciate forever.

For those who still have a year or five until they will line up on the steps of Ms. Storey's house, and get a year photo taken for the last time, I want to tell you that although school is not easy, at times, you only get one shot at it and you may as well appreciate each day here.

SKYDIVING FOR CHARITY

Mr. McNair recently organised a skydive to raise money for Christian Aid to help develop the education system in Zimbabwe, organised by Open Schools World-wide. Earlier this year Mr. McNair travelled to Zimbabwe and witnessed the things he knew he could improve with a bit of help. This was his inspiration for choosing the charity and this is where the skydive fundraiser played its part. The group

of skydivers travelled to Kilkenny on Monday the 19th of May to participate in the jump, but had to reconvene again on Saturday the 24th of May, due to inclement weather which made the dive unsafe.

The actual skydive consists of jumping approximately 10,000 ft. out of a plane accompanied with a 20 second freefall before floating down to the ground (gracefully might I add) with an instructor. It might be something to tick off the bucket list or just the want to help raise money for a good cause but either way its definitely something they won't be forgetting anytime soon .

Both Mr. McNair and Mrs Bray participated in the dive, leading the way for the ten students who accompanied them. A great day and adventure was had by all, while at the same time serious charity work was being undertaken.

YSI SHOWCASE 2014

Last month our TY YSI group went to "YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF THE YEAR 2014" which was held in Dublin. The Annual Showcase of Young Social Innovators is the biggest celebration of social innovation in Ireland and one of the largest youth events in the country. All Young Social Innovators participating teams in 2014 are invited to attend this event to celebrate their efforts throughout the year to bring positive change to communities in Ireland on local, national and international social issues.

This year, the Young Social Innovators Showcase and Awards were attended by over 4,500 young people. With so much to do and so much to see at the Annual Showcase 2014, we couldn't decide how to spend our time! They offered a number of fun games, such as Archery, Silent Disco & Zumba, Climbing etc. But the most important part was the YSI short video show and YSI poster exhibition. We were proud to represent Villiers at the Showcase, particularly as our project involves working in the wider Limerick community, teaching the elderly how to use iPads, access social media, facetime, viber, etc. We will miss the chats over cups of tea that we had with these people and hope that next years TYs will continue this tradition.



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."

Don't forget the three "p"!

- Pope Francis

Editor: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited Pope Francis at the Vatican on Monday 16th June. In his warm address of welcome to Archbishop Welby, Pope Francis encouraged ecumenical engagement with the eventual goal of full unity. I feel it is worth reading his words in full.

Your Grace, Cardinal Nichols, Cardinal Koch, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" (Ps 133:1). Once again we meet, Your Grace, as co-workers in the Lord's vineyard and fellow pilgrims on the path to his Kingdom. I welcome you and the distinguished members of your delegation, and I pray that today's meeting will serve to strengthen further our bonds of friendship and our commitment to the great cause of reconciliation and communion between Christian believers.

The Lord's question – "What were you arguing about on the way?" (Mk 9:33) – might also apply to us. When Jesus put this question to his disciples they were silent; they were ashamed, for they had been arguing about who was the greatest among them. We too feel ashamed when we ponder the distance between the Lord's call and our meagre response. Beneath his merciful gaze, we cannot claim that our division is anything less than a scandal and an obstacle to our proclaiming the Gospel of salvation to the world. Our vision is often blurred by the cumulative burden of our divisions and our will is not always free of that human ambition which can accompany even our desire to preach the Gospel as the Lord commanded (cf. Mt 28:19).

The goal of full unity may seem distant indeed, it remains the aim which should direct our every step along the way. I find a source of encouragement in the plea of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism that we should advance in our relationship and cooperation by placing no obstacle to the ways of divine providence and by not prejudicing future promptings of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Unitatis Redintegratio*, 24). Our progress towards full communion will not be the fruit of human actions alone, but a free gift of God. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength not to grow disheartened and he invites us to trust fully in the power of his works.

As disciples who strive to follow the Lord, we realize that the faith has come to us through many witnesses. We are indebted to great saints, teachers and communities; they have handed down the faith over the ages and they bear witness to our common roots. Yesterday, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Your Grace celebrated Vespers in the Church of San Gregorio al Celio, from which Pope Gregory the Great sent forth Augustine and his monastic companions to evangelize the peoples of England, thus inaugurating a history of faith and holiness which in turn enriched many other European peoples. This glorious history has profoundly shaped institutions and ecclesial traditions which we share and which serve as a solid basis for our fraternal relations.

On this basis, then, let us look with confidence to the future. The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission and the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission represent especially significant forums for examining, in a constructive spirit, older and newer challenges to our ecumenical engagement.

At our first meeting, Your Grace and I discussed our shared concerns and our pain before a number of grave evils afflicting our human family. In particular, we shared our horror in the face of the scourge of human trafficking and forms of modern-day slavery. I thank you for the leadership you have shown in opposing these intolerable crimes against human dignity.

In attempting to respond to this urgent need, notable collaborative efforts have been initiated on the ecumenical level and in cooperation with civil authorities and international organizations. Many charitable initiatives have been undertaken by our communities, and they are operating with generosity and courage in various parts of the world. I think in particular of the action network against the trafficking in women set up by a number of women's religious institutes. Let us persevere in our commitment to combat new forms of enslavement, in the hope that we can help provide relief to victims and oppose this deplorable trade. I thank God that, as disciples sent to heal a wounded world, we stand together, with perseverance and determination, in opposing this grave evil.



Pope Francis greets Archbishop Justin Welby

(Pope Francis) Don't forget the three "p"

(Archbishop Welby) Three "p"?...

(Pope Francis) Prayer, peace and poverty. We must walk together.

(Archbishop Welby) We must walk together.

Your Grace, I thank you once more for your visit. I ask the Lord to shower his blessings on your ministry and to sustain you and your loved ones in joy and peace. Amen.

UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT

JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

Sunday 20th July –
Saturday 26th July 2014
Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor,
Avoca, Co. Wicklow
10- 13 year olds



SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

Sunday 17th August –
Saturday 23rd August 2014
Muckross Youth Venture Centre,
Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry
13 plus year olds



SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family.
Financial Support available

Return Transport from/ to Adare, Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise for all events!
More Info check out UDYC on facebook or call Ed on 087/2907553 or visit www.udyc.ie

GFS Diocesan Camp 2014



See report on page 8.



here2help

support • counselling • information • education

Free Pregnancy Tests!

No opinions,
just support

Crisis Pregnancy
Services

Talk it out!

+OPTIONS
CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES
Help. Support. Understanding.

Helpline: 1850 67 3333. www.here2help.ie
Located by Nutgrove Shopping Centre.

Cullen Insurances
INSURANCE BROKERS & CONSULTANTS

No matter what kind of insurance you require, contact us for expert advice and courteous assistance

Commercial Van/Jeep Insurance
Contractors Liability
Private Motor
House Insurance
Small Businesses
Property Owners

Contact Douglas Howell, Olive or Ursula
Phone 061 378116/378000
Fax 061 378055
E mail doug.howell@culleninsurances.ie
Address The Square, Newport, Co. Tipperary

Registered by the Financial Regulator as a Licensed Aspirant



Confirmations 2014



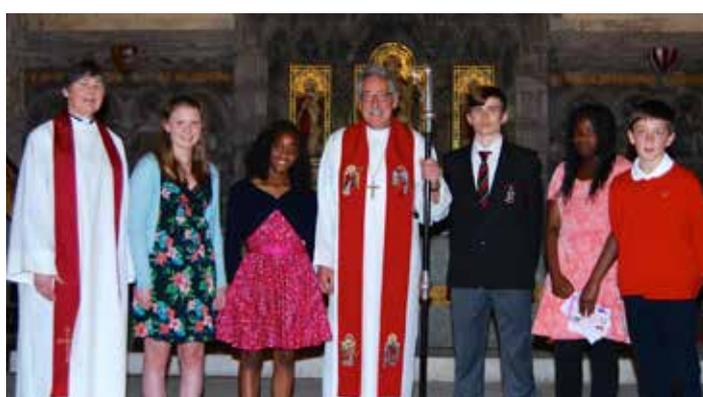
Confirmation at Shinrone on 18th May 2014



Confirmation at Nenagh on 15th June 2014



Confirmation at Cloughjordan on 1st June 2014



Confirmation at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on 29th June 2014

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND 2014

Participants' perspective – by Maruna Manthe (Nenagh Parish) and Lyndsey Armstrong (Kinnitty Parish)

We thought that the confirmation camp was really good and it was a ton of fun. All of the activities were brilliant and every single activity was great fun to do, including surfing, kayaking, caving and swimming, all of which were absolutely amazing. One of our favourite ones to do was the caving in the Burren, we were 25 metres below ground and it was really dark. We also did worship and we all learned so much more about making our confirmation and what it means to do so. The food was gorgeous and every single meal that we had was delicious. We met a load of really nice people and all the leaders and adults were really kind to us. We had the best time and we learned so much.

Leader's perspective – by Damian Shorten (Rathkeale Parish)

This year's Diocesan Confirmation Weekend was, as ever, a wonderful weekend as we accompanied the participants in reflecting upon the meaning of Confirmation, and the significance of it as a step along their Christian journey. The theme for the times of worship on the weekend, led by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, was a focus on the Holy Eucharist, and what it means to participate in this service and receive Holy Communion, which for the majority of the candidates in our diocese, and elsewhere in the Church of Ireland, their Confirmation marks the first time they do this.

Alongside many of the activities mentioned in our 'participants' perspective above another highlight of the weekend was a pilgrimage through the Burren to visit St. Colman Mac Duagh's Well and Oratory with Canon Bob Hanna, who also shared with us some insights about the lives of St. Colman and the other Celtic saints, and how committed to and intensely they followed Jesus. Great role models for our Confirmation candidates! This day concluded

with a beautiful liturgy in the ancient Kilfenora Cathedral, at which we were joined by Bishop Trevor, for the last time on a Confirmation weekend.

I really enjoyed the weekend, especially meeting and getting to know so many wonderful young people, and to be lucky enough to be with them at this important stage in their journey. Our prayers continue to be with all those confirmed, or to be confirmed, this year.



Confirmation Weekend participants at St Colman's Well



Worshipping at Confirmation Weekend

Finding Anam Cara: Part 2

– The Second of 3 articles by Archdeacon Sue Watterson

In considering 'Soul Friendship' or Spiritual Direction, it may be helpful to explore what we mean by Soul or Spirituality. Our understanding of both has changed over the centuries. For Plato the soul was something nebulous, a totally separate entity from the body which was part of the world of ideas and morals rather than part of our humanity. This was how Plato was able to speak of 'possessing' an immortal soul. A soul which was thought at some point to be implanted into an unborn child.

For Aristotle on the other hand – the body and soul were quite closely connected, the body being the substance and the soul being the form. So Aristotle (along with C.S. Lewis) would say we do not possess souls, we are souls.

The pendulum has swung backward and forward over the years, today however we have returned to an understanding similar to that of Aristotle, an understanding which now seems increasingly defensible. The soul is who we are, the real 'us'.



Spirituality as a concept has taken on a life of its own in recent years, it is less concerned with faith or religious belief and more to do with aestheticism, cultural choices and lifestyle. It is advisable these days not to automatically assume we know what someone means when they speak of spirituality.

For the Christian however – spirituality concerns the life of the soul and the ways in which the soul relates to God, and comes to know God. Some would say 'Spirituality is what I do, holiness is what God does'. We speak about Franciscan Spirituality, or Benedictine Spirituality which are ways to live out a relationship with God in love – within a particular rule of life.



Ultimately it is love that is the key to our spirituality, and to the growth of our soul. Surprisingly – not our love for God, but first and foremost his love for us. David Benner in his book *Sacred Companions* explains 'Embarking on the journey of Christian transformation is enrolling in a school of divine love which is not so much about study.....as letting ourselves be deeply loved by God'. Thomas Merton also reminds us that Christian love is not about our ability to love others, but having the faith to believe that we are deeply and unconditionally loved by God. Without this acceptance of God's love for us, we cannot know how to love others as Jesus directed – because the assurance of God's love for us is the root and grounding of our love for others, and for him.

The journey of transformation that Benner speaks of, does not mean a transformation which makes us less human and more divine, it is a journey which enables us to become more fully human, because we are loved.

A soul friend waits with us, as we ponder and reflect on those times when God has seemed close, or frighteningly distant. They offer us a form of hospitality, which sets us at ease, makes no judgement – and with quiet courtesy they let us lead the conversation or pick up a train of thought without interruption. This means that the 'other' who is also present can make himself known in his own time, and his transforming love can be recognised, accepted and owned. There are times when we all need this unconditional support, this sort of 'safe space' Even the most spiritually mature need to be able to touch base, to slow down and consider our life with God, and it is often only when we are with another that we will reflect at this level.

There are many different styles and models of soul friendship, but all facilitate a meeting with the 'other' in this way. Perhaps there are questions of faith, decisions to make, discernment to find – all can be shared with a soul friend who will wait with you as seek God, and come to discover more of his love for you.



Waiting – by Joyce Rupp

A small wooden flute, an empty hollow reed rests in her silent hand.

It awaits the breath of one who creates song through its open form.

My often empty life rests in the hand of God like the hollowed flute, it yearns for melody which only Breath can give.

The small wooden flute and I, we need the one who breathes, we await one who makes melody.

And the one whose touch creates awaits our empty, ordinary forms, so that the song-starved world may be fed with golden melodies.

Farewell to Bishop Trevor Williams

– an appreciation by Salters Sterling

As a description, the phrase "A Man for all Seasons" could well have been coined for Trevor Williams. Born and bred in Dublin's northside, educated in Trinity College and St John's College Nottingham, with parish experience in England and Northern Ireland, Bishop Williams brought an impressive portfolio of additional experiences to the united Dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly in 2008. A moderatorship in Natural Sciences and his experience as a producer with the BBC made Bishop Trevor well able to address the secular world in its own terms. As a leader of the Corrymeela Community he understood the ways of practical ecumenics. As priest and pastor in North Belfast, he knew what it meant for communities to live in fear and how shallow is peace without a hope of reconciliation. As a Christian of evangelical conviction, he comprehends both how to preach and how to live the Gospel; as a man married to the delightful Joyce, with an adult family, as a sportsman on land and water, the Bishop demonstrates all the components of wholesome living.



Joyce Et Bishop Trevor responding to presentations by Diocesan Secretary Yvonne Blennerhassett and Archdeacon Wayne Carney

We have had the great privilege of sharing the journey of faith with Bishop Trevor as our chief Pastor. Trevor has never tried to impose or dictate. In so many ways, he has taught us what the service of friendship is most wonderfully like. For example, there comes to mind the days spent with him in Swaziland, shared with the dioceses through the DVD he himself created. The depth of his spirituality shone forth as with hands of healing, exquisite words of prayer and blessing, he brought peace to a deranged boy, a dying man and an elderly retired school teacher. We also witnessed his animated participation in worship of intense colour, rhythm and vigour and saw how his fatherly presence amongst orphans in the church run feeding stations and pupils in the schools brought hope and joy to many young people who struggle to become adult with very few to help them.

Much of that deeply caring capacity came through in the documentary shown on RTE 1 as he demonstrated facets of his ministry here in Ireland. Many of us encountered him at his liturgical best in the thrilling day of thinking and worshiping in Villiers last autumn and previously in St Mary's Cathedral. Because of its peculiar sensitivities, not too many will also know of the role he has played to bring into existence and support a faith-based,

ecumenical group working to pursue justice and reconciliation in Rathkeale. The intellectual and spiritual best of what he had learned in Corrymeela and the Ardoyne has been brought to bear on a process to bring healing to a divided community.



l-r: Abbot Mark Patrick Hederman OSB, Dean of Limerick Rev Sandra Pragnell, Methodist District Superintendent Rev Brian Griffin, Bishop Trevor Williams, RC Bishop of Killaloe Kieran O'Reilly, Dean of Killaloe Rev Gary Paulsen

With similar flair, Bishop Trevor has shared in the continuing life of the Glenstal Conference, assisting, programme making, facilitating discussion, and opening up the opportunity to reflect on the future of what is now an annual feature of frontier faith life in Ireland.

There is much more that could be included in this farewell tribute – his relationship with the Irish Army, his support for the Men's Shed movement, his work with Christian Aid. Space does not allow for greater elaboration but we cannot end without recognizing Trevor's immense expenditure of energy, time and imagination traveling the length and breadth of this enormous diocese. He has traveled tirelessly, confirming, celebrating, preaching, opening new buildings, filling vacancies, encouraging, exhorting and thanking, and all this while living in a home poorly equipped for the demands of an episcopal ministry.

The manner of his retirement well becomes his ministry and his person. He goes with Joyce, who has been a wonder of patience and wisdom, humour and hospitality, at the moment when he could have stayed to enjoy the amenities of the new Bishop's house. But no, that is for his successor to enjoy. He goes so that our united dioceses can have a Bishop in office when the reorganization of episcopal and diocesan arrangements takes place. That care for the well-being of others is entirely typical of both Trevor and Joyce. We their friends are most deeply grateful and wish them a long and happy retirement.

As we said thank you and farewell to Trevor and Joyce in the medieval loveliness of St Mary's Cathedral Limerick and in the haunting beauty of Choral Evensong, Trevor left his people, now to become the family of his successor, in the words "Let God's extravagant generosity shape your life. Come to the party – are you up for it?" And our gift in response is "Yes we are and we can!"

Ordination of Rev Edna Wakely

On 14 June 2014 there was a very special day for Limerick City Parish at St Mary's Cathedral when parishioners, and many visitors from all over Ireland, including family and friends of Edna, as well as former parishioners to whom she had ministered, travelled to Limerick to support her on the occasion of her ordination to the priesthood. Many journeyed for long hours.



Rev Edna Wakely (centre) after her priesting

Edna has asked us to let everyone know how greatly she appreciated the Ordination Service. She says it was a wonderfully uplifting and deeply moving service. Many favourable comments were made to her afterwards, including the awesome beauty of the cathedral, the warm and welcoming atmosphere (not always easy to achieve in a large church space), the beautiful liturgy and the 'splendificent' music of both the organ and the choir, the wonderfully generous and

delicious hospitality, the deeply moving and meaningful ceremony... I could go on, Edna says; adding that these things don't happen by chance, they require an enormous amount of hard work and dedicate preparation by so many people, and she wants to record her thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day a truly special and memorable one for her, and she feels truly humbled and enormously privileged.



Rev Edna with her daughters Jenny & Joanna who read lessons at her ordination

The Dean also wishes to add her thanks to the organist and choir, to the work party who helped get the cathedral ready, and to all in Limerick City Parish who worked together to organise the reception afterwards, it was extremely well done. A sincere thank you to you all.

Hunger for Justice
Act and pray for our climate
18-19 October 2014



This October, churches around Ireland will stand alongside the millions around the world affected by our changing climate.

Will you join us in prayer and action?

For more information about how to get your church involved, visit christianaid.ie/hungerforjustice or contact your local office.

'Lord, to those who are hungry, give bread. And to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.'



Belfast
Helen Newell
hnewell@christian-aid.org

Dublin
Peter Byrne
pbyrne@christian-aid.org

Cork
Andrew Coleman
acoleman@christian-aid.org

Mid Summer Fun Cycle

The 21st of June got off to a good start. Canon Patrick gave an 'enlightening' history of Clonfert Cathedral, Linda from US Ireland informed us of the latest developments at Luyengo Farm, and Rev Jane led the service of worship with Damien 'on drums'. The weather was excellent as we travelled through Offaly and North Tipperary as far as Cloughjordan Parish Hall, where we were rested and 'resuscitated' with drinks and a fine selection of food. On into Borrisokane and Portumna, where once again the ladies of the parish gave us more food and drink for the final leg through Eyrecourt, arriving at Clonfert Community Centre about 5.30 p.m. Thanks to Ed, 'stoking the embers', we had a meal of burgers, sausages and a fine selection of salads, which brought to a close a very pleasant & happy day of strenuous activity by the cyclists.



Waiting to start in front of St Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert

The Organising Committee would sincerely like to thank the following:

- Our marshall, Pat Hopper, who came all the way from Dublin for the occasion
- The Red Cross, Tralee Branch, for ambulance and staff, all free of charge.
- The ladies in Cloughjordan & Portumna parishes for refreshments and 'quiet words of encouragement' to those who were beginning to show 'signs of physical stress and mental strain'!
- The Diocesan Youth Council for facilitating the barbecue and liquid refreshments en route.
- All those who generously sponsored the cyclists.
- And finally, but more especially, to the cyclists themselves who soldiered on through the heat of the day... a big thank you.



On your marks, get set...

At the moment, over €3000 has been collected, with a few more donations still to come in. Late donations maybe sent to Archdeacon Wayne Carney, The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly. As a result by the beginning of July we should be able to send a cheque to Linda at Us Ireland for an additional €5000, making €10,000 in all from Mission Sunday 2013 as our contribution towards construction of the reservoir at Luyengo Farm in Swaziland.

Once again thank you to one and all who made the day not only a financial success but a happy and memorable event.

Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev Jane Galbraith, Ed Hardy, John Chadwick, Dave Frizelle.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

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

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

The month of June always brings the promise of better weather and longer days after a bleak winter. This reminds us that there is always new life and resurrection in our circle of life. Our liturgical season also goes green into ordinary time after all the festivals within the churches calendar. The academic year also ends and everyone switches to holiday mode, so we wish you safe travels if you are going away. A warning though, you are going to miss the great weather and sights Ireland has to offer this summer.

Polydome Greenhouses
Crinkill House
Birr
Co Offaly



Polydome
Greenhouse Specialists

GROWHOUSE Special Offer
Western Cedar Range



**FREE Staging,
Shelf, Louvre
Window &
Autovent**
**Valid to 30
June 2014**

Start the growing season with a new tunnel, various options available to suit your budget



Tel. 057 91 20424 www.polydome.ie

Tuamgraney Church has had three choirs sing on Sunday 8th June and our thanks to all who organised this event and every euro helps toward the restoration of the church. A big thank you to Tembre de Carteret. As always with these old buildings it leaks and we need to raise the money for repairs. We share the same frustration of many C of I communities of not enough time spent on ministry and all our time and resources go into keeping buildings going.



Audrey, Tom, Margaret & Shirley, Stradbally

Stradbally had a very successful cake sale and our thanks to all who put in the hard work and to those who supported the event. The church will now get a bit of a facelift and a new signboard will go up in front of the church from the proceeds. Thank you to those who have planted lovely flowers in front of the church, your effort is appreciated by all of us as the flowers greet us with a smile. It is great to see when people take ownership and have initiative to beautify our churches and their grounds. It is hoped that we can obtain two benches to have in front of the Stradbally Church. We would like them made of recycled plastic which will suit the damp Irish climate and be virtually maintenance free! We are asking someone to donate a bench and a little plaque will be added in acknowledgement.

Jean Kelly's ashes were placed in the family grave at Mountshannon and we continue to pray for Tom and the family. Tom and Jean were married at Mountshannon many years ago and Tom now lives in Dublin and is still connected to the church at Mountshannon.



Members of Chamber Orchestra

The Chamber Orchestra performed at the Cathedral over the weekend of 13 to 15 June and it was a very entertaining and successful Festival of Music. John Horgan has established this Festival and, together with a dedicated committee, did all the hard work in putting it together. Joachim Roewer was the Artistic Director and we appreciate the wonderful programme and the talented musicians he assembled. A feature was the children playing on the Saturday afternoon and so we had a taste of the festivals future generation musicians.

The Deanery was the venue for a barbecue on the 29th June. The idea you brought what you want to eat and drink and some chairs, barbecues etc. to barbeque or just to picnic. It was an opportunity for the people of the Union of Parishes to just meet with each other - and have a bit of fun!

PARISH SUMMER FETE

Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways with our Summer Fete and Family Fun Day in Oxmantown School on the 15th of June. There were many activities for young and old, lots of things for sale, and food for every taste. The preliminary figure of the amount raised is €6400; there is probably more to come.

LOCKEEN CONCERT

Thanks to all who supported the concert in Fancroft Mill in aid of the Lockeen window restoration.

CONGRATULATIONS

Valerie, daughter of Raymond and Hilda Colbourne, Cree and Darragh, son of Brendan and Anna Lynch, Limerick, were married in Birr Church on the 17th May. Unfortunately, Anna was in hospital in Dublin but was able to join in via Skype! The flowers were beautifully arranged by Richard Haslam. Valerie and Darragh are wished every blessing in their married life together in their new home in Annacotty. David Crawford and Priscilla McCarthy were married in Borrisokane on the 31st May. They are wished a long and happy life together. Congratulations to two new members of Christ's Church. Emma Kate Mulhare was baptised in Birr Church on the 14th of June. Her parents, Heather Delahunt and Des Mulhare were married in the same ceremony - a surprise to nearly everyone present! Sienna Rose Maud Jackson, daughter of Alan Jackson and Lucinda Galvez, was baptized in Lockeen Church on the 15th of June. And congratulations to Robert Reid, who received a silver medal in horse-riding in the Special Olympics in Limerick. Well done, Robert!

BEREAVEMENT

Mrs Charlie Hodgins passed away peacefully on the 30th May after a long and happy life of over 100 years. In 1999 she came to Mount Erin to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Des and Sylvia Hodgins and grandchildren Wayne and Sacha. Her funeral service, in Birr on the 1st June, was conducted by the Revd Ruth Gill, assisted by Mrs Jean Talbot, Diocesan Reader and long-time friend. Charlie was laid to rest with her parents in Dungar Cemetery. Sincere sympathy is offered to the Hodgins family and to Charlie's friends and relatives.



Summer Fete - Pillow fight

MU OUTING

On the 7th June, members and friends of the Mothers' Union set off on a trip in and around the Dublin Mountains. The first stop was at Powerscourt Estate to see the beautiful gardens and visit the retail outlets. Then on to Mount Venus Garden Centre and Tibbradden House where the group was given a guided tour by Selina Guinness. The late Muriel Jackson, who had worked there, is still fondly remembered by Selina. A final welcome stop for a meal near Portlaoise and then home. Many thanks to Mrs Rose Harding and Mrs Joan Fairbrother for making the arrangements.

CONFIRMATION

June 8th, 2014 in St. Cronan's – Hannah Benn, Aoife Bohan, Stephanie Dreaper, Geoffrey Drought, Jeff Duke, Ben Hoffler, Glen Lewis, Isobel Wallace, Louise Wallace and Kate Williams all from Roscrea. Almost 300 people filled the Church to wish the candidates well together with the other candidates from Birr and Shinrone and the Bishop received a warm welcome. Also in robes were the Rectors of Birr and Shinrone, and Rev. J White Spinner, Fr. Seamus Bohan, an uncle of one of the candidates and Adrian Hewson. Each candidate participated in the service, the church looked well and the weather was pleasant for the photographs. Also we remember Tara St. Leger who was confirmed in Wilson's Hospital and Eve Blackwell who received her First Holy Communion in St. Cronan's Church, Abbey Street.

FUNERAL SERVICE

June 11th, 2014 in St. Cronan's – Katherine (Kate) Connaire, Mona Incha followed by Cremation in Dublin. Well known locally in the world of antiques, as a Bridge player and formerly as a parent of St. Cronan's N.S., Kate will be missed by those who knew her. To her husband, Tony, son J.J. and her family circle, we extend our deepest sympathy.

THE SICK

Nevin Alton is at home now and thankfully recovering well after his long ordeal. His church pew awaits. Eddie Clare is adjusting well to his new surroundings now in Dun Laoghaire's National Rehabilitation Hospital and appreciates a visit. Vivienne Wallace is thankfully also recovering well after her short hospital stay, while Alice Harvey is not so well at the time of writing. We also wish Evelyn Newton well as she recovers in Villa Maria. They all continue in our prayers.

CHURCH GROUNDS

St. Cronan's Church grounds have undergone a major overhaul and look resplendent and should also enhance Roscrea's Tidy Towns effort. Under the guidance of Des Young, a major clean up began on Bank Holiday Monday and thanks to all who assisted including Hastings Mills, Abbey Street who kindly loaned a sweeper which was a great asset. Jordan Lewis keeps the grass in excellent shape and the building is now opened on Wednesdays, from 2 pm to 4 pm thanks to the rota of parishioners who are in attendance led by Evie Lupton.

OUT AND ABOUT

Bourney parishioners and friends went by bus to Bloom and all who travelled enjoyed the occasion. Thanks to the organizers Pam Wallace and Jenny Moynan.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Leslie and Heather Evans on becoming grandparents for the second time – we wish Evan well; to Wendy Hodgins on obtaining an honours degree in Social Community and Development Studies and to Hannah Benn on winning a Scholarship to Kilkenny College.

ST. CRONAN'S N.S.

June 19th saw a special service in St. Cronan's to mark the closure of yet another year and to say farewell to 6th class and also to Mrs McManus from the school staff. These people will be missed and the parish says thank you to teachers and students for your contribution to parochial life, and Good Luck!

LOST AND FOUND

Anyone visiting St. Cronan's for the Confirmation who lost a pair of glasses can have same by contacting the churchwardens.

Have a nice summer!

As always, the month of June was crammed full of events to ensure a clear space for holidaying in July and August, when, thankfully, things quieten down somewhat. Bishop Trevor made his last visit to the Union when he came to celebrate the Confirmations of Maruna, Anna-Mae and Seren on 15th June (see photo page 19). We also had two baptisms at the same time, welcoming Thomas and Lauren into the Christian family. Thomas is the second son of Simon and Jane Day, and the family were over from California holidaying – both sets of parents have homes in Dromineer. Lauren is of course a stalwart member of GFS and Junior Choir, and had determined to become a Christian – a lovely example of how it's often said that Christianity is 'caught', not 'taught'!! It was very appropriate therefore that we sang 'I have decided to follow Jesus' on the day!



Lauren Cao with her mother, Bishop Trevor, Cannon Marie Et Sponsors Audrey Et Marion

At the end of a very joyful service, the school, BB and GFS made presentations to Bishop Trevor, including reciting a poem written specially for the occasion. We wish Bishop Trevor and Joyce every blessing and happiness in their retirement.

Another baptism took place on 22nd June in Killodiernan when we welcomed Amy Louise Pearl Clarke into the Christian family. After the service a lovely buffet lunch for all was held in Clannarince, Caleb and Laura's home.



Amy Clarke's Christening

Junior Choir finished off their year's work with a BBQ on 24th, and the school held their end of year service with blessing of leavers on

25th.

As the Rectory is not occupied at present whilst preparations are under way for renovation, there won't be a parish BBQ this year. Instead there will be a parish picnic, with children's treasure hunt, blessing of pets (all life forms welcome!), and worship in Ballincarra Wood, Templederry, on Sunday 31st August, starting at 3.00 pm. Many thanks to Templederry parishioners who are organising this event. Folk are invited to bring their own picnic and something to sit on!

Of course, not everything switches off completely during the summer! You will see elsewhere in the Newslink details about the procedure for appointing a new Bishop, and that the Diocesan Episcopal Electors, clergy and lay, will be meeting during the summer to reflect on and consider this process. Canon Marie will be chairing these informal meetings prior to the official Electoral College which will be held on 8th September.

It's good to report that babies Sarah and Mae are now both home with parents Thelma Percy and Mike O'Brien, and are doing well.

Two families in the Nenagh Union have recently had bereavements - Rita Edwards lost her husband of 62 years, Malcolm. The family came from Wales for a cremation service in Dublin. The death also occurred of Gordon Percy, well-known local engineer and motor car enthusiast. A very large attendance at the two services in St Mary's attested to Gordon's popularity. He was laid to rest in Lisbunny. Our condolences go to the Percy family, Lionel, Richard, Gordon (jnr), Thelma and Hilary (Mulligan). Please hold all the bereaved in your prayers as they learn to live life in a new way without the presence of a loved one.

During the summer school pupils, having finished their exams, will of course wait anxiously for results, and we hope that they will be all they have wished and worked for. Folk will be travelling or having a 'staycation' for rest, renewal and refreshment and we pray for good weather and good holidaying for all.

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to: 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, confirmed by Bishop Trevor on 1st June (photo page 19).

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Emma Stanley of Borrisokane Parish who along with George McAdoo recently announced their engagement. We wish Emma & George every blessing as they prepare for their future together.

WEDDINGS

As mentioned last month we have had an abundance of weddings in recent weeks - Some photos of the happy couples are included below.

David Crawford & Pricilla McCarthy, Graham Harding & Triona O'Keefe, Philip Stanley & Mags Egan and Debby Kenny & Adrian Shine.



Pricilla & David Crawford



Debby & Adrian Shine

J J Ryan Funeral Directors

Nenagh, County Tipperary

Ryans provide a comfortable
purpose built funeral home.
Shipping of remains,
embalming (female embalmer available)
Cremation, nurse to perform last offices

Telephone: 076 31541

- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com - www.
jjryanundertakers.com



Graham & Triona O'Keefe



Philip & Mags Stanley

Congratulations again to them all.
Best wishes to Tara Downer & Adrian Creamer to be wed in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on 2nd August.

THE LATE MARGARET HENDY

Sincere condolences to the family of Margaret Hendy who died peacefully after a long illness bravely endured. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with her Son Howard, Daughters Hazel, Frances, Jennifer, Sharon and Valerie, son-in-law Andrew and daughter-in-law Pauline. Margaret was buried in Modreeny Graveyard alongside her late husband Sam following the funeral in Cloughjordan Methodist Church.

MONEYGALL SALE - Thursday 17th July 7pm in
Moneygall Hall - All the usual stalls and attractions. Something for all the family.

NO NOTES SUPPLIED

CHRIST CHURCH, SPANISH POINT

Work is underway on the repair and reconstruction of the steeple at Christ Church, Spanish Point, which showed signs of decay within ironwork at its base. A Local Government Heritage Grant will help alleviate the cost and the rest should be met by fundraising over the summer period. Mrs Judith Ironside is to be commended for her efforts to finance this work on the decorative steeple, build in 1927 with the new church.

The repairs will not interrupt worship during the busier holiday period at the seaside church.



Christ Church, Spanish Point

KILKEE

Meanwhile an assessment of overall effect of the collapse of the east window in St James's Church, Kilfieragh, Kilkee continues with inspection by insurance folk and the local Heritage Officer concerned with a listed building. Summer worship will have commenced there for July and August by the time this is read. For recent years' services (11.30am) have been confined to a chapel at the rear of the Church.

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Classical Thursdays...fortnightly lunchtime concerts aimed at office workers and tourists in particular, organised by top soprano, Helen Houlihan and colleagues, male and female in the world of classical music, have begun and continue into August in St Columba's Church. The opening concert featuring local soprano Ruth Kelly, attracted the highest audience yet in the Series which began last year. Also coming up in St Columba's in July is a second evening of modern music organised by Clare Youth Service Workshop, the first proving a ground-breaking event.



Ennis Youth Workshop musical evening

Galway-based organist and choirmaster Mark Duley took in St. Fachnan's, Kilfenora on his organ playing marathon of regional cathedral under the auspices of Paperworks Inc. and a treat it was to be there. Only problem was....too few were there to enjoy the rich experience. The same must be said of the numbers turning up for the recital by the wonderful high school Choir, US Madrigal Singers from near Chicago.

OUTING

Belvedere House, Mullingar was the venue for the annual Kilnasoolagh summer outing at the end of June. Our thanks to Edwin and Frances Bailey for their planning of this trip.

HOSPITAL

Max Halliday and Amy Hanna have both entered recovery from surgical operations of late and we pray for good healing. Our prayers also go to Catherine Doherty Louer who has been in South Wales with her granddaughter Yasmin, a young mother who has lost her partner in a sudden death.

BRIAN BORU

Among the many events linked with the anniversary of Clare's great national historic figure (note the uncaptioned Irish Wolfhound seen at the Brian Boru tent manned by Lord Inchiquin at the horse event at Dromoland last Newslink), the Rector shared in re-enactment pageant of the Inauguration of Brian Boru as King of Munster at Magh Adhair near Quinn, presented by schoolchildren. As a representative of the Clare Pilgrim Way he gave an oration to explain the thinking behind the tribal ceremonial.

Summer days are here again certainly in this part of the Diocese these past few days. May this fine weather uplift our spirits and bring to our farming community a bountiful harvest for the months that lie ahead and for our children and teachers a good start to their holidays. Of course I hope that all families will be able to have some break over the coming weeks and months.

WEDDING BELLS

St. John's Ballinasloe was host to the wedding of Simon Hyde of Aughrim and Elaine Faulkner of Fohenagh. Their special day was Friday 6th June and a large gathering of family, relatives and friends shared this special day. Simon is the eldest Son of Anthony and Mary Hyde. Elaine is the youngest daughter of Peter and Marian Faulkner. The ceremony was conducted by Rev Canon George Flynn and assisted by Father Christie McCormack.



Elaine & Simon Hyde

US CYCLE FUN DAY

Saturday morning saw Clonfert Cathedral grounds turned into a scene much more associated with a scene reminiscent to the start of the Tour de France cycle marathon race. Cyclists from all parts came to Clonfert and started their fund raising 'fun cycle' in aid of our Diocesan Swaziland mission project spearheaded by the Us Mission Society. The day started with a celebration of Holy Communion conducted by Rev Patrick Towers priest in charge and assisted by a number of clergy and lay people. The cycling aspect of the day started at 11.00 and concluded in the afternoon with a bar-b-cue that attracted a number of non-cyclists.

GLEBE SCHOOL AUGHRIM

This coming week will see another successful year of growth draw to an end for our school with an end of term service. Good news has just been received with the Department of Education granting

a second teacher for our school subject to a minimum number of twenty pupils on the roll at the end of September 2014. The present projected number will need to be increased by three children to allow this to happen. I bring this news to the attention of all readers who may know of parents with children 4 years of age plus within the catchment area of Aughrim/Ballinasloe who might allow their children enrol from September. Please contact the Rector for further details at 087 20 74 739 or as shown above.

HELL AND BACK

You may have heard of this fund-raising cross-country obstacle 12k strength sapping challenge that took place over the weekend of 14/15th June in Bray Co. Wicklow. Participants both male and female rose to the challenge to raise funds for their chosen charity. Among the participants were 'three of the Aughrim rectory crew' of Ross, Robin and team captain Dale who raised in excess of €700 for Beaumont Hospital. Dale as most of you will recall survived a 'life threatening' illness in the past and this event allowed Dale and his two brothers give something back in appreciation for the life giving care and attention that brought him through his ordeal. I hope that any other participants from our Diocese who may have participated rewarded their respective charities with much needed finances. Well done to all concerned who took part.



Aughrim Rectory Crew

Services for the coming month may be viewed on our Website. All visitors are welcome. Clonfert Group of Parishes

St Brendan's Cathedral was the perfect venue for the Organ Concert in aid of 'Pipeworks' a Dublin based Charity. The Organist, Mark Duley, praised the small, single keyboard organ, he played pieces from J S Bach, Jan Pieterszoon, Johannes Brahms, Cesar Franck and Froberger. It was a very enjoyable half hour.



Mark Duley with Isobel Finney & Caroline Underwood

Laura, grand-daughter of Carol.

We wish them all well.

The Golf Club Portumna was the venue for the Fund raiser for Swaziland. It was a great party night with everyone joining in the fun. Lots of lovely raffle prizes had been donated.

Many compliments were given to the Golf Club for the lovely food and service.

Live entertainment was provided by The Two Johnnies from Loughrea, who donated their time and talents for free.

I would like to thank everyone who gave their support. Could not have done it without you.

I don't have the final tally as yet but it is in excess of €1,000 after expenses.

Thank you again. Maureen

EYRECOURT

Sunday 1st June was the Holy Baptism for Charlie Pip Caffrey. It was a lovely service presided over by the Rev Ruth Gill, with the church full of family and friends. Charlie's parents Kathryn Finney and Brian Caffrey were supported by God-parents, Louise Carey, Jackie Finney and Samuel Lankoande.

We welcome Charlie Pip, into the Church family and may God bless him throughout his life.



Charlie Pip Caffrey's Christening

BANAGHER

Ten parishioners travelled to Portumna to support Maureen Moss on her project for Swaziland, all enjoyed food, drink, dancing and chat and everyone came away with a door prize!!

Congratulations to Heather and Des- Baby Emma Mulhare born on 3rd April, daughter of Heather Delahunt and her partner Des, grand-daughter of Edward and Isobel Delahunt.

Thanks to Pat Kenny, FAS supervisor in Banagher, St Paul's Hall, which is located in a prominent place in town, got a badly needed face lift. The hall is looking great with new colours. Banagher Tidy Town's Committee should be very happy with a job well done.

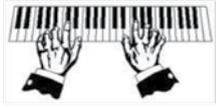
Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Frances Delahunt on the death of her sister Lily Smyth, who died in England, her ashes interred in Lisburn, Co. Antrim on 13th May.

Sympathy to Des and Sylvia Hodgins on the death of Des' mother Charlotte in her 101st year "Charyle" was a short term resident of Eliza Lodge Nursing Home, Banagher. It was great to have Des and Sylvia join us for Holy Communion at the nursing home on 4th June. We wish all our students good luck in their school and state exams!! Happy Summer Holidays to all!!!

PORTUMNA

Congratulations on the birth of a second great-grand-son for Carol Underwood, and a cousin for Connor.

Baby George Ryder Willis was born on 8th February in England to



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 2nd July

Lorna Moore (piano), with Marian Power (violin)
Including music by Mozart, Scarlatti, Britten, Debussy and Grieg.

Wednesday 16th July

Peter Barley (organ) - *Music by Buxtehude, Hassler, Tunder, Weir, Mathias*

Wednesday 23rd July

Edel O'Brien (alto), Irina Dernova (piano) - *Music by Elgar and Berio*

Wednesday 30th July

Sarah-Ellen Murphy (alto), with Peter Barley (piano)
Songs by Brahms, Wagner, Wolf, Liszt and Dvorak

Thursday 31st July

Lions Youth Brass Band

Wednesday 6th August

Stuart Nicholson (organ) - *Music by J.S. Bach, Parry and Whitlock*

Admission free

Retiring collection in aid of the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music

Limerick Diocese

HOLY BAPTISM:

On 7 June 2014 at St Mary's Cathedral: Hayden Bruce McGrath, son of Frances and Keith of Mayorstone Grove, Limerick.

WEDDING FEVER:

Congrats to two couples who were married in Limerick on 23rd May: Yvonne Nolan and John Buckley, were married in St Mary's Cathedral by the Dean (assisted by Fr. Eamonn Fitzgibbon), and Lynda Trousdell and Ed O'Leary were married in St Michael's Church, by Archdeacon John Murray (assisted by Canon Ken Smyth). We wish both couples every blessing and happiness in their life together.

SYMPATHY:

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Annesley Hacketthorn on the death after a long illness on 12th June in the USA of her husband Mark, to Annesley's parents Joy (nee Morrow) and Joe Magill, to her uncles Trevor and Ken, their families and relatives and the wider family circle.

ORDINATION:

On 14 June 2014 at St Mary's Cathedral, the Rev'd Edna Wakely was ordained priest by Bishop Trevor. Edna's family, friends, and former parishioners came from all over Ireland to support her in an uplifting service, with music all specially chosen by Edna, and with a beautiful new setting for the Litany composed by our Organist Peter Barley. Sincerest thanks to all those who helped to set up, provide food, etc for a very impressive reception in the cathedral following the ordination. See page 22 for report and photos.

EVENTS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL:

On 7 June 2014 we were delighted to host a very large attendance for the Debut Performance of LIMERICK SINFONIA, sponsored by the Limerick School of Music. It is a new initiative to bring together professional musicians and provide a platform for developing performers. Opening the event, Trevor Selby played his new composition, Fanfare for Limerick. Conducted by John Davis, music by Gounod and Poulenc followed, with Stuart O'Sullivan on piano for the final two pieces by Albinoni and Mozart. A promising development for music in the city.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS:

Abington Church was delighted recently to be able to host the Sliabh Felim Singers (who use Abington Church twice a year for concerts to raise funds for charity). This event, with a full house, was in aid of the Special Olympics, and one athlete there was very proudly wearing his medal. Then on 14 June Fr Loughlin Brennan (PP Murroe and Boher) and Dean Sandra together met the SO athletes at Murroe, where they were to take part in a Pitch and Putt competition. A short inter-church prayer began the event, and the athletes were blessed by Fr Loughlin. It was a glorious day for the event.



Fr. Loughlin blessing athletes at the Special Olympics

TRALEE FESTIVAL:

On 15 June 2014 the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral travelled down to St John's Church, Tralee, to sing Choral Evensong on the occasion of the Church's Flower Festival and the restoration of the church organ. The Dean of Limerick and Ardfert preached, and also blessed and rededicated the beautifully restored organ in the church.

LIMERICK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL:

held its Annual Remembrance Service on 15 June in a packed St Paul's Church, Dooradoyle near the Hospital, led by Fr Coffey and Fr Boyce. Dean Sandra was invited to represent the Church of Ireland, and gave a short reflection on the meaning of memory. Cathy Quinn from the Pastoral Care Team End-of-Life Care Committee also spoke movingly about the journey of grief and hope.

WELL DONE:

to all on the welcome desk at St Mary's Cathedral: we have been awarded a 2014 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence, signifying that we received outstanding feedback from visitors and travellers in the past year.

STATE EXAMINATIONS:

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations are now over. We hope that the Leaving Certificate candidates will have their efforts duly rewarded when results come out on the 13th of August. We wish all candidates well and hope they now enjoy the summer!!

LCP BARBEQUE:

takes place in Villiers School Saturday 23rd of August at 6pm.

Tickets available from the Church Wardens.

PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR:

This is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday 18th of October. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves, books, bottles, bric-a-brac (no electrical). Please keep us in mind when Spring cleaning your house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods and novel ideas for stalls.

KILMALLOCK

Our appreciation and thanks goes to Rev Maurice Sirr for looking after us while the parish was vacant , and for continuing all the Eucharist services in each of the churches as normal , and for visiting the patients in the homes on a regular monthly basis.

The Sunday School finished their year with Prize Giving, and all the children received their books for their hard work during the year. All took part in the service and it is wonderful to see their confidence as they read lessons, lead the congregation in prayer and take up the collection.

On the same day Hugh Lillingston made a presentation to his grandfather and grandmother Alan and Lady Vivienne Lillingston on behalf of the congregation to mark their retirement from the vestry. A gift token for the Irish Tree Centre in Kildorrery was presented and we wish them joy as they choose a tree to plant and hope they have many years to enjoy watching it grow.

ADARE

Like everywhere in the country we are really enjoying the summer weather - the village and the countryside look splendid. There was a very successful fete on Sunday - the sun shone and tills rattled. This was a mighty fundraiser by the community and great praise is given to the organising committee.

Services are as usual in all four Churches, except for a joint service in Croom next Sunday 29th June at 9.15 am - we hope to see all our parishioners there.



Blake Fitzpatrick & Jacqueline Jones

Dean Gary returned for a short visit to perform a marriage service on the 18th June, the wedding of Blake Fitzpatrick and Jacqueline Jones from Texas. It seems the Fitzpatrick family came from Adare many years ago. We wish them a long and blessed life together.

Trees are being felled in the rectory and so far three clean ups have been organised in preparation for our new Rector, whose institution is on the 22nd July at 8pm in St Nicholas' Church.

Goodbye, Bishop Trevor, enjoy your retirement with Joyce. Long life and happiness to you both!

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

It may be summer, and things should be getting a little bit less active but we still have plenty going on over the next couple of months in our group of parishes.

The big event is the celebration of the 200th anniversary of St. Brendan's, Tarbert. The church was extensively remodelled and rebuilt in 1814 and we will be celebrating with a very special service on Sunday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. We will be joined for that service by our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, with all sorts of choirs and music and needless to say afterwards there may even be cake!

There is, as Frank Carson would have said, more:

For the midsummer madness Rathkeale Parishioner, Naill West is cycling the long "Red Route" in the Board of Mission Fun Cycle, all 105 km of it. By the time you read this the cycle will be well and truly over, but don't let that stop you contacting the Board of Mission in order to make a donation. You can find all the details at www.limerick.anglican.org.

We extend our prayerful sympathy to Roy and Josephine Fleming of Glin following the death of Roy's son, Brian. This is the second tragedy to have struck the Fleming family in recent weeks, and I am sure they will value your prayers for them at a very difficult time.

Happier events have also been taking place:

- we congratulate Rathkeale parishioners George and Susan Shorten on the recent birth of their grandson Jack, who is named after both his great-grandfathers.
- we also offer congratulations to Simon and Hillary White on the marriage of their daughter Elizabeth to 'Manu. Elizabeth and 'Manu were married in France.
- we celebrated the baptism of Harry Langford son of Andrew and Carol, grandson of the late Richard. Welcome Harry!

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the recent Festival of Music and Flowers in St. John's Tralee, which was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. A special thank you to Margret Groves and Sue Latchford who headed-up the organising of the floral arrangements which were quite stunning. The ladies from the local Flower-Club and our own arrangers from across the two parishes filled the windows and chancels with arrangements celebrating music, each with the name of a hymn. There is not space to thank all our musicians - but it was a memorable weekend - thank you. We hope to have a series of lunch time organ recitals

during the weekend of the Rose Festival (16th-18th Aug).



Flower Festival

During the summer information on concerts and church events can be found in our fortnightly newsletter, and our new Facebook page (Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes) which is also accessible through the Diocesan Web-page. Thank you to Kirsty Watterson - Brown for setting up the page



"Different Skins" concert

Please see Boys' Brigade Notes for the Tralee BB News.

NOTES FROM THE WEST

Congratulations to Robert and Sandra Hoffman on the birth of Alison their granddaughter. Baby Alison is the daughter of Alex and Kate. Lucy Fitzgerald's poem, 'Confessions of a Pounding Skull', having been chosen as one of eight winners from a pool of 5,000 poems, was recently heard on R.T.E's Arts programme, 'Arena'. Congratulations Lucy! Her prize is a trip to the U.S.A. where she will read her poem on HBO T.V. (Having read its opening line, I feel tempted to reply in kind!)

Several people have expressed a wish for an evening service. There will therefore be a service in Killiney Church at 7.30pm each Sunday evening during July and August.

BISHOP TREVOR'S FAREWELL:

On behalf of the Select Vestry and all of the congregation of St Mary's may we wish Bishop Trevor and Joyce a long, happy, peaceful and holy retirement. Trevor has been very good to us during his years in office and he and Joyce have been, are, and will be, always in our prayers.

SUMMER:

As I write these notes summer has really come upon us and the glorious weather has prompted many people out for a stroll. Consequently the number of visitors to St Mary's has risen dramatically with a steady throughput of people all day long. It is important, therefore, that when any of the congregation are in town and have a few minutes to spare, that they go into the church to

make sure everything is kept tidy and neat. Those with an extra few minutes would be doing us a great service if they used that time to water the plants during the dry spell.

Hopefully we can use the fine weather to get the Sunday School children out walking in the National Park and with this in mind the facilitators should arrive in church a little early so that we can arrange that.

ST MARY'S APPOINTMENT:

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Revd Simon J. Lumby as Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's and the Service of Introduction will take place at St Mary's on July 18th at 7 pm. Bishop Trevor will lead this very important service for us and it will be followed by a get-to-know-you barbecue in the church grounds immediately afterwards. Simon will take charge of his first Service of Holy Communion the following Sunday at 11 am. We ask all of the congregation and those from further afield in the diocese to make a special effort to attend these long-awaited events.

SIMON WHO?

Simon comes to us from the Peak District National Park in Derbyshire, England where he has been helping small rural churches to engage with the issues their communities face living in remote situations, with a particular emphasis on tourism and on churches as community resources. He has served in the Church of England as a rural parish clergyman and brings experience of ministry to both the tourism industry and to tourists. He is married to Nolleen whose family have roots near Cahirsiveen and in County Wexford.

Simon has travelled widely all his life; his professional background has been in Electronic and Telecommunications Engineering and, prior to his ordination, he worked in academia devising theological degree programmes in England and in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America for indigenous students. Simon's hobbies included ornithology, calligraphy and hill walking and they, both he and Nolleen, indulge in family history research. Simon and Nolleen are very excited about the move and looking forward to engaging fully in the life of Killarney church and town. They will be bringing their little dog (a rare breed Dandy Dinmont Terrier) whose name is Aggie (short for Aghatubrid where Nolleen's father lived). As I write this, Aggie's kennel is getting a make-over.

CONCERTS:

The concert season has had phenomenal support this year and once again a sincere thank you to all of the stewards who have given so much of their time this year. By the time you read these notes we will have wound down from the hectic June schedule which saw 9 concerts in the church. The only concert currently scheduled for July is Spraoi Chiarrai, which takes place on Saturday 19th. Let's hope Simon enjoys a bit of Irish music - it'd be a shame if we were to lose him between his Service of Introduction and his first Service of Holy Communion!!!

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.

So another term is over for schools and it would seem parishes. Many of us will be taking a bit of a break over the summer so this is more of a look back. We have had some great events over the last year and I would like to thank all those who have been involved.

Most recently, of course, we have the garden party last month which went very well. Holding it on a bank holiday did seem to put a dent

in our numbers but despite that the weather was lovely and we had a wonderful day. What's more - with fewer people we still made as much money as last year! Thanks to Pauline and Peter for opening up their home to us all. I would like to thank everyone who bbqed, made the tea, baked, cooked or otherwise catered for our events throughout this year. It really helps to bring people together and create a Christian community in our parish. Thanks also to those who have helped as wardens, readers and musicians. It has been an especially big year for Barbara, but you may be reading about that elsewhere....For our final word - it is over to Sunday School and the head of our group - Linda Spillane,

We have come to the end of another year of Sunday School. and I would like to say big thanks to the children for attending Sunday School and actively participating in the various lessons and activities. A special thanks to the children that did prayers and readings at the family services - it is not always easy to stand up in front of people, so well done. Also I would like to thank the Sunday School Teachers - John, Pam, Karen, Shauna and Caroline (our new recruit) for their work and preparation throughout the year. We look forward to next year and as always if anyone out there is interested in becoming involved in Sunday School, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Sunday School Teachers or indeed if anyone has any suggestions for Sunday School just let us know!

MOTHERS UNION WHEELS APPEAL

A big thank you to all who baked and helped in the Wheels Appeal Cake Sale in the blazing sunshine of Sneem on Tuesday 11th June - we raised €250 which will go towards helping Mothers' Union Community Development Co-ordinators who travel vast distances, often across difficult and sometimes even dangerous regions to bring training and advice to isolated families around the world. Every cookie counted!



MU Wheels Appeal cake sale

DOMINIC ODANGA

Over the past year, we have been supporting a young man named Dominic Odanga in his first year at catering college in Nairobi. Dominic was orphaned at 6 years old, and was brought up in Cheryl's Children's Home, a place where people like Dominic are given the chance to break the cycle of slum living. Dominic was the very first young person to achieve a college place from Cheryl's, and is a great example and inspiration to others - he came top of his class in his first year. However, we needed to raise significant funds again for him to continue into his second year.



At Dominic Odanga's catering college in Nairobi

Well, we did it!

We often feel close to helplessness and despair when we see the news and the poverty in which so many people live. But we can and do make an impact. It may seem only a small contribution in the great scheme of things—but, as someone once said, "People who think they are too small to make a difference have clearly never shared a bedroom with a mosquito..."

ST MICHAEL WATERVILLE AND ST JOHN VALENTIA

During the Summer months, there will again be services every Sunday at St Michael and St John. These have proved very popular in the past with both holidaymakers and those who have holiday homes in this lovely part of Kerry.

The Methodist District Superintendent writes

Editor: Following Rev Brian Griffin's retirement, the new Superintendent of the Methodist Midlands & Southern District is the Rev Bill Mullally of the Cork Circuit. Although based outside the United Dioceses, we have invited him to continue to write this column for Newslink, because we believe it is valued by very many among both our Church of Ireland and Methodist readers. We hope to print his first contribution in the September issue.

Methodist News

At the end of June, I will be retiring and leaving the Adare and Ballingrane Circuit. I will be moving to my home in Co Antrim. My Farewell Service, which will be conducted by Rev Vicki Lynch, will be held on Saturday 28th June at 8.00pm in Ballingrane Church. I will conduct worship on Sunday 29th June for the last time as Circuit Superintendent. This will be a United Service at 11.00am in Adare Church.

In July my successor, Rev Bill Olmsted, will be welcomed to the Circuit and will conduct worship on Sunday 13th July in both churches. Bill served as a minister in the Iowa Methodist Conference, in the United States of America, for many years. When he 'retired' he came to minister in Ireland! For the last 5 years he has been ministering on the Portlaoise and Mountmellick Circuit. Bill says that he is looking forward to coming to such a beautiful part of the country.

While in Adare, I have enjoyed the opportunities to meet and worship with so many people from both the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Churches; not only in Adare but also in Charleville where we have our monthly Fellowship Meeting. It is wonderful to find such openness and a warm ecumenical spirit.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the pages of Newslink. May I wish you all, both throughout the District and the Diocese, God's richest blessings for the future.

Sincerely
Liz Hewitt

Franco Jombo represented Christ Church Limerick at the ordination to the priesthood of Rev Edna Wakely on 14th June 2014 in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. He has provided us with this report.

Beehives of clergy, Christians, parishioners, relatives and well-wishers gathered in St. Mary's Cathedral Church Limerick for the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Edna Wakely. I was privileged to be in attendance for this great occasion. As a representative of Christ Church Limerick, I was highly recognised and honoured which afforded me the opportunity of active participation. Bishop of Limerick, Bishop Trevor conducted the ordination.

In the course of Rev. Edna's ordination, a lot of scriptures were said to her. As I was reflecting and pondering over these scriptures Matthew 28:18-20 was among other passages of the Bible that I meditated on: 'Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all

the commands I have given you. And be sure of this. I am with you always, even to the end of the age"'.
the commands I have given you. And be sure of this. I am with you always, even to the end of the age".

In the second reading, from St John's Gospel 20:21, Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you". In the second paragraph of 'The Rite of Ordination' Bishop Trevor said to Rev. Edna "You are to be messengers, watchers and stewards of the lord; you are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to search for God's children in the wilderness of the world's temptations and to guide them through its confusions, so that they may be saved through Christ for ever".

I suppose the significance of Matthew 28:18-20 to Rev. Edna's ordination to Priesthood is that she was empowered and charged with responsibilities just as Jesus charged the Christians in Matthew 28:18-20. It implies that all Christians have been ordained in our various capacities. While all Christians have the primary duty of going to make disciples of all the nations, Rev. Edna and other clergy have the responsibility of the secondary duty in God's ministry, to look after God's sheep, Christ's followers.

In conclusion, because none of us can bear the weight of God's ministry in our own strength, but only by the grace and power of God, I pray earnestly for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Rev. Edna Wakely. I also pray that God will each day enlarge and enlighten her understanding of the Scriptures, so that she may grow stronger and more mature in God's ministry, as she fashions her life and the lives of the people she serves on the word God.

Almighty God, give to this your servant Rev. Edna grace and power to fulfil the ministry to which she is called, to proclaim the gospel of your salvation. Amen

See the photo on page 22. Franco, on the right in brown is surrounded by a 'beehive of clergy'.

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 11am in the meeting room (access from the lane)

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

SHANNON – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details

Fellowship group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7pm

Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday 6pm

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 & 11 am (inc. Children's programme at 11)

Prayer meetings Monday, Wednesday 9.15-10 am	Tuesday & Thursday 8am – 9 am,
Bible Study Meetings	Wednesday 8.00 pm (Term Time), Friday 10.00 am
Drop in for coffee each	Friday 10 am – 12 pm
Parent and Toddler Group.	Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm
Impact Youth Club (13+) 1st, 3rd & 5th	Fridays 8 – 10 pm
Kingdom Krew Junior Youth Club (9-13)	2nd Friday 7 – 8.30 pm
Women's Fellowship	2nd Monday of the month 10.30 a.m.

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

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

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

Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12 pm

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 pm
Meeting in "The Lighthouse, Town Square, Millstreet.

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 has moved to Wednesday nights. They will meet on the 2nd and 16th July at 8pm and 6th and 20th August at 8pm.

Our meetings in Dingle continue over the summer at the following times - Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 27th July and 31st August both at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispolé on the 31st July and 28th August both at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 10th July and 14th August both 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, Crageens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our July meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th July and the August meeting on Monday 25th. Please pray for this new initiative.

"No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group had a fascinating meeting last month regarding the incredible nettle plant as a valuable food source. Everyone will also remember the lovely soup and the salad made from sea beet growing wild at Fenit. The July meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th and the August meeting is on Monday 25th.

What a blessing we had at the end of June when we were visited by a team from California. The children's Bible clubs in Killarney, Kenmare and Drishane Castle were a blast! Also the Men's and Women's Fellowship evenings were a real blessing for everyone.



Bikers & Friends

Another recent highlight was the June bank holiday weekend when we partnered with members of the Christian Motorcycle Association of Ireland in having a Family Fun day in the grounds of Killarney Church during the annual BikeFest. On a glorious sunny day many people were welcomed to our church grounds where there were bouncy castles, face painting and free food. It was also Africa Day and the local Killarney Asylum Seekers support group organized some of the African residents of one of the hostels in Killarney to cook African food which we also enjoyed sharing together on the day. As the sun shone down we prayed that our visitors sensed a touch of God's grace.



All ready for the Family Fun Day!

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670

An Open Air Service will be held on Sunday 27th July at 4.00 pm at the home of Billy and Phyllis Gee, Derry House, Shinrone. The preacher will be the Rev Shannon DeLaureal.

The MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland) District Service will be held on Sunday 7th September at 11.30 am in Borrisokane Methodist Church. The preacher will be the Rev Helen Freeburn, a Presbyterian Minister serving in the United Methodist Presbyterian congregation in Galway.

Editor: I was privileged to be present in Roscrea Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday 29th June for Rev Brian Griffin's last service in the circuit after 6 years ministry in North Tipperary. The large congregation, representing the circuit, other circuits in the district and many ecumenical friends, came together to wish Brian and Eirene farewell and every blessing for the future. Brian preached on the theme of travelling to the Promised Land. In the light of the deepening covenant relationship between the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland, he suggested our churches might consider worshipping together on 5th Sundays of the month. Eirene played

the organ to lusty singing. After presentations and many speeches of appreciation and thanks we enjoyed delicious refreshments in the hall. May God bless Brian and Eirene richly in their retirement.



Inter Faith Relations and the Trinity

A reflection by Rev. Dr Keith Scott

Not long ago a Christian pastor from Belfast spoke of Islam as "Heathen" and "the spawn of Satan". He spoke of not being able to trust Muslims for anything more than "going down to the shops". I must confess that as a Christian pastor, I am appalled, and embarrassed at such language.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FAITHS

There are very real differences between what we, as Christians, believe and what most Muslims, or for that matter the believers of any other faith, believe. If I personally believed what Muslims believe about Muhammad (Peace be upon him) and about God then I would indeed be a Muslim. I am not a Muslim; I am a Christian. I am a Christian firmly and deeply within my being. I am what I am and I cannot be anything else and remain true to myself and to God, as I understand God. The differences between us are real, and yes they do matter, at least to us as believers.

Would I like Muslims to become Christians, yes I would. Would Muslims like me to become a Muslim, yes I believe they would. After all both our religions are "proselytising" religions. We both make absolute and exclusive claims about God, how God is known and what it is to live a life in relationship with God. We both believe we are called by God to tell people about our understanding of God and about what we think God's will is for human life and living. We both believe that we should call other people to change their lives and live the way we believe God has called us, and all others, to live. That is a core component of both our faiths. Indeed for Christians it is the very engine of our faith and thinking.

Of course Islam and Christianity are not the only two religions in the world. It is also true that not every religion is "Good". There are beliefs that can do harm, mislead or damage people, even lead to mass suicide or violent confrontation with the civil authorities. Christianity's exclusive claims about God in Jesus, however, incline us to condemn other faiths out of hand, no matter what they actually are. I believe that this is quite mistaken.

All religions make truth claims, some of those truth claims are exclusive and utterly incompatible with the truth claims of others religions. So who is to be the neutral unbiased judge between us? The easy answer might be the secular atheist, who would simply pronounce "A plague on all your houses". Secular atheism is,

however, as much a belief about the ultimate mystery and reality of the world as any religion. If there is no neutral place to stand then what can we Christians say about other religions that is both truly Christian, and does not simply condemn others out of hand?

Let us start with a unique core Christian belief about God. We believe in One God who is also three "persons". Now people will groan loudly at this point because, truth to tell, although we are supposed to believe in the Trinity it is not something very important to our daily life. It is the "higher mathematics" of our Christian thought involving a lot of very technical language. Far better for us, as Christians, to just say our prayers and get on with living the Christian life as best we can and leave the higher mathematics of theology to those odd people, like Dr. Scott, who like that sort of thing.

THE IDEA OF THE TRINITY MATTERS

And yet the Trinity as an idea matters. It is an effort to understand and express our experience of "God with us" in Jesus. It is an idea which is central and unique to Christianity. It sets us apart from all the other religions in the world and is intimately connected with our understanding of "revelation", "salvation" and Christian living. Whatever the deep technicalities of the language we use we are trying to say something important, not only about God but also about the world that we share with people following all those other religions.

What we are trying to say is that God encompasses diversity and difference in all the divine oneness. For God to be the one God, God must also be diverse. We believe that at the heart and core of the ultimately unfathomable mystery of the Divine there is relationship. This relationship is shaped and structured by a permanent and real difference between the three persons. This difference cannot be dissolved without God ceasing to be the God we know in Jesus Christ. If God is both one and yet relational and differentiated it is surely the case that humanity, created in the image of God, is also intended to be both one and differentiated.

So when we look at the diversity of human beings, when we look on people who are all sorts of different colours from the colour of rich high coco fat chocolate to the colour of pumpkin porridge we see some hint of the mystery of God. When we look at people who have beliefs, which we do not, indeed as Christians cannot, share; we

peer short-sightedly into the heart of the mystery of the divine who, we say is one and yet diverse. We probe the depths of the mystery of our own faith claims about God in Jesus.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD REACH OUT

As Christians, therefore, calling another faith "heathen" or the "Spawn of Satan" is not merely rude and insulting it is profoundly non-Christian, even anti-Christian. It expresses a complete rejection of that most singular and unique of Christian beliefs about the nature of God as Trinity. This, in turn requires a denial of that which makes us "Christians": the claim that in the human being

we know as Jesus of Nazareth God is truly and completely present with us. For our understanding of God as Trinity arises out of, and is demanded by, an understanding of Jesus as both human and divine. As Christians therefore the whole tower of our faith demands that we reach out in order to get to know others. We reach out in order to learn to trust them and have them learn to trust us, to share their world and have them share ours. We reach out in a dialogue through which our faith seeks deeper understanding. Only in this way can we strive to see the fullness of the God we understand as Trinity. Only in this way are we truly "missionary", and truly Christian.

Impressions from a journey through Lay Reader training

by **Barbara Irrgang-Buckley, Lay Reader in Training, Kilcolman Union**

'Do you think you could travel to Carlow or Kilkenny for some Thursday evenings and on some Saturdays for the next one and half years?'

This is how it all started when Rev. Mairt Hanley, my Rector, rang me one morning in January 2013. It was dull and cold outside and the mobile connection was poor. There was a place in a Diocesan Readers course, I understood, and he thought this would be a good opportunity for me. Immediately I got excited. At that time I did Parish Reader training in Killarney with Rev. Sue Watterson, and I had hoped to undertake further study in the future. Now this was a surprising offer. Despite a few initial hesitations regarding such a big commitment I said yes. I bought a new road map and some weeks later I found myself in Kilkenny joining a group of lovely fellow students from various parts of Ireland and under the wings of the Very Rev. Tom Gordon, who organizes this course which is run between Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth and the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory.

The course is entitled 'An Introduction to Christian Faith: a two year course in Faith Formation' and leads to a Certificate in Christian Studies. The curriculum consists of six modules:

- CHRISTIAN LITURGY: Worship and the People of God
- THE BIBLE: Exploring the Word
- MISSION AND MINISTRY: Sharing the Good News
- ETHICS: Christian Faith and Moral Choices
- THINKING ABOUT GOD: Faith Seeking and Understanding
- CHURCH HISTORY: Christianity in Ireland (including field trip).

Each spreads over two evening seminars and two full Saturdays, there is recommended literature to read and an essay to write for each module. For participants who train to be lay readers there is an additional section of seminars in Homiletics and Liturgical Leadership. Practical experience needs to be acquired in the home parish under the guidance of one's rector.

So there is quite some work involved, and it can be challenging for someone who hasn't done academic study for a while and who has to fit it all in with multiple demands of daily life.

Having said this, I find the course very enriching and inspiring. Tom Gordon and his team of fantastic lecturers present the program in

a most interesting way and open one's mind to various aspects of the topics encouraging creative and imaginative thinking. It has certainly helped me to deepen my knowledge and my faith in an amazing way.

Additionally it is a great experience to meet new people and share this journey in a group. For me personally this is a major benefit of the course arrangement.

Back home in Kilcolman Union I have received ongoing, patient and invaluable support from Rev. Mairt Hanley, Rev. Jim Stephens, and Diocesan Reader Eric Champ, but very much so from the parishioners for which I am extremely thankful.

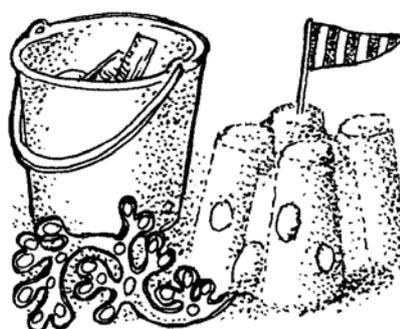
Lately I have started to broaden my horizon by helping out in Tralee Union with the Very Rev. Sue Watterson, which is another great experience.

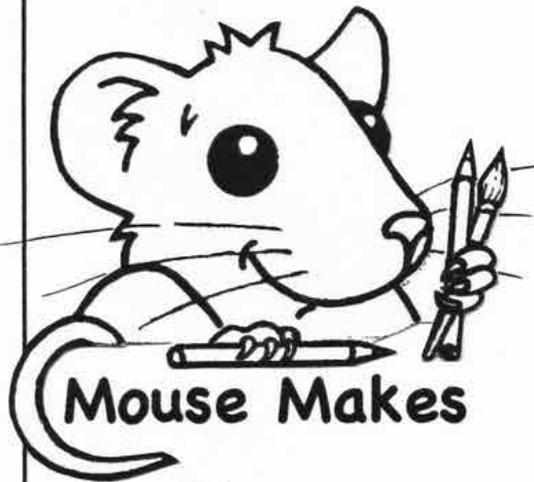
All over, I can only recommend this training, whether one aims to be a lay reader or does the academic part only.

As I am writing, the six modules are behind me, but I am still facing some essay writing, and there are a few more sessions scheduled for the lay reader part of the training. So the pressure is still on. Graduation will be in November 2014.

If you are thinking of taking the course, I would be glad to share my experience – you can contact me at bjpbuckley@gmail.com, or 087-775 2170.

The Newslink team wish all our readers a very blessed and happy summer holiday season.





Mouse Makes

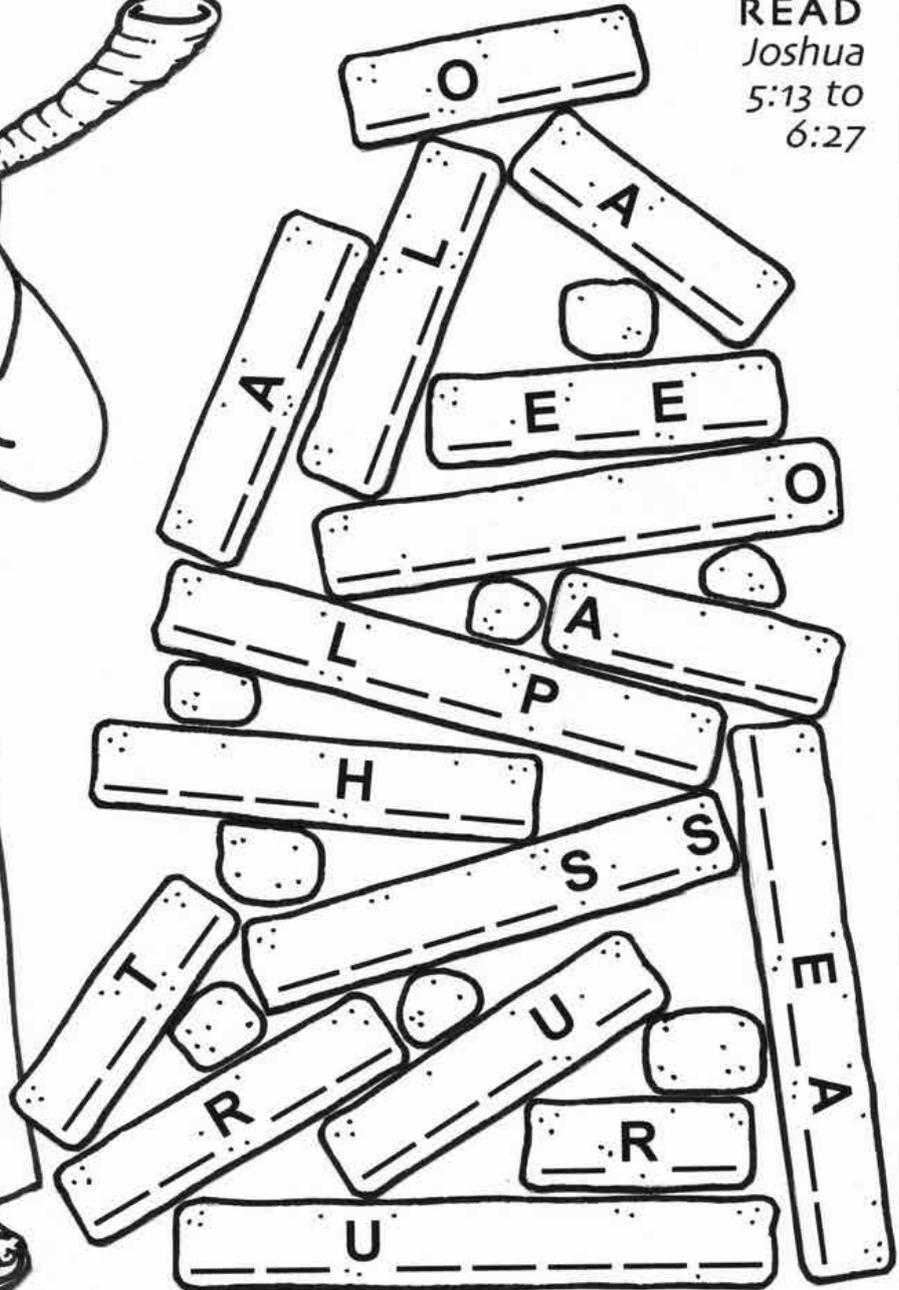
THE FALL OF JERICHO

Then the Lord said to Joshua

*"See I have delivered **Jericho** into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city **once** with all the armed men, do this for **six** days. On the **seventh** day march around **seven** times and when the trumpets blast the city will collapse"*

And Joshua did what the Lord had commanded.

READ
Joshua
5:13 to
6:27



Can you find all these words in the rubble of Jericho?

JOSHUA • JERICHO • CITY • WALLS • MARCH • ARK • SEVEN
DAYS • PRIESTS • TRUMPETS • BLAST • ARMY • SHOUT • LORD
COLLAPSE • COVENANT

Revolutionising Homecare in Ireland



An Expert Team Delivering Exceptional Service

Call our expert team on 0818 227 052



**Quality
Certified**



2

**Nationwide
Service**

1



3

**CSR &
Advocacy**

4

**FETAC
Trained
Staff**



www.bluebirdcare.ie



- Caring "family" environment with dedicated staff.
- Consistently excellent academic achievement.
- Promotes the holistic development of your child.
- Broad range of sports available:- Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and Athletics.
- Modern facilities.
- Comprehensive Transition Year Programme with wide ranging opportunities.
- Varied and multi-cultural society.
- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

In addition to the SEC and other grants available Villiers School offer the following assistance with fees: Hannah Villiers Bursary. Governors' Bursary. Villiers School Bursary. Sibling Discounts.

Scholarships

Four Academic Scholarships, currently €1,000 per year, are awarded based on the results of the scholarships exams set each May for students entering Form I. These are awarded to the best Day Girl, Day Boy, Boarding Girl and Boarding Boy.

Prompt Payment Draw

All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester. Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com

Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea. ** New route - Tralee, Killarney, Tarbert and Listowel.



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

North Circular Road, Limerick

Telephone: (061) 451447 / 451400 Fax: (061) 455333

E-mail: secretary@villiers-school.com Web Site: www.villiers-school.com