

NEWSLINK

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

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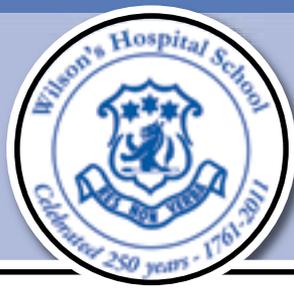
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**The Principal,
Mrs Rosemary Maxwell-Eager,
BA(Mod), HDE, MEd.**

Bishop Kenneth writes - on cathedrals

Dear Friends,

Anyone I've spoken with who was present at my Installation Service in St Mary's Cathedral has remarked on the wonderful service, and the way in which all involved 'rose to the occasion' magnificently – the cathedral looked splendid, the liturgy was inspiring, the music uplifting, and the hospitality warm and gracious. Guests were impressed; members of the United Diocese were justifiably proud of their cathedral.

So is that what a cathedral is for? For occasional 'big' services, major diocesan events and some special occasions such as during Limerick's year as City of Culture?

We in these dioceses are blessed with four wonderful historic cathedrals, two of which serve as diocesan cathedrals. As such each has been the location of major diocesan events down the centuries – the ordination of clergy, the enthronement of bishops, synod services, and diocesan services for organisations such as Mothers' Union and the GFS. Alongside this, our cathedrals are also the parish churches for local church members, usually a smaller group of people who as well as using the cathedral for worship week by week, take responsibility for ensuring and supporting the day to day life of the cathedral and making sure it's available when needed for those special diocesan occasions. It is this ongoing regular worshipping community that makes a cathedral a place of prayer and living worship.

The great thick walls of our ancient cathedrals make them strangely quiet places, places of solidity and timelessness, places of refuge from the noisy bustling world outside, places of peace and comfort. That's another much less noticed role which cathedrals play. The very architecture speaks volumes about eternity and presence, a physical space where God can be encountered more readily. Both of our cathedrals are open for prayer daily, and it's unusual to visit without finding someone sitting quietly in prayer, drawing comfort and hope from an awareness of God's close presence made easier by the distinctive architecture of an ancient cathedral.

Cathedrals can be described as the shop window of a diocese. They are places of excellence in liturgy and music. We've become very demanding today when it comes to music. For great music we only have to put on a CD, or tune in to Lyric to hear the best of orchestras and musicians. Few parish churches can even try to compete, but cathedrals have been able to maintain very high standards of church music even today. When we seek the best in the spoken word we can listen to a documentary or a poetry reading or listen to 'Thought for the Day'; cathedrals though, demand high standards from their preachers. They are also places where liturgy and movement in worship is valued and cultivated. That's what I mean when I say a

cathedral is a shop window for a diocese, and that's why visitors from afar often head to the cathedral when looking for worship on a Sunday.

Engagement with the arts has always been part of cathedral life, and has become increasingly important in recent years. Whether it's an art exhibition, a sculptural installation or music concerts or plays, cathedrals are usually

high on the arts calendar in any area. Of course they have the space, the acoustics, the resources (a fine organ, for example) to host such events, but that's not the only reason why cathedrals are so closely associated with the arts. Art in all its forms make us more fully human and speak to the spirit within us, whether it's a good programme on TV or a piece of modern or classical music or a ballad, or an inspiring landscape or painting; all help us towards what Jesus described as 'life in all its fullness'. It's important that the church is involved in all forms of art, and cathedrals do this far better than most.

We rightly take pride in our cathedrals for the way they enable our special church events to happen, and as we appreciate them for that, let's also remember the many other functions and roles they exercise in our diocese and community, on our behalf.

We each belong to two churches – to our local parish church, and to our diocesan cathedral. Each has its own distinctive and important role. Most of us rightly focus on our local parish church, but let us also remember, support and above all use our cathedrals and celebrate their vital ministry among us.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe
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P.S. The issue of a permanent See House for the United Diocese has been advancing, and a property in the Castletroy area of Limerick has now been acquired by the Representative Church Body for this purpose. A considerable amount of work on it will be necessary, so I expect it to be at least a year before we can think of moving in. More details as they become available.



Part-time Secretary

The Bishop is seeking to appoint a secretary, two mornings a week initially, based in Adare.

Experience essential.

Enquiries, in confidence, to
secretary@limerick.anglican.org

Closing date 12 March 2015

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Editorial

A holiday from the everyday

The Church invites us in the Service for Ash Wednesday (BCP p338), 'to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word'.

But to many in the wider society we inhabit, Lenten fasting and self-denial seem plain daft, perverse even. 'Oh what a bore!', I hear them say, 'Why all this guilt-inducing, self-flagellating, call to gloomy repentance? Go away, and let us get on with our busy lives! There is no shortage of people to mock those who take Lent seriously.'

My answer to them is this: Lent is not a burden, but a gift - a holiday from the everyday!

Lent is an opportunity:

- To liberate myself for a bit from one of those little habits of luxury that can so easily become addictive bad habits. It is a chance to prove to myself that I am more than the sum of my desires. And after the fast, thank God, I shall relish what I denied myself even more.
- To spend a little more time with God, to feed my spiritual side, my soul. He is the great lover of souls, but often I feel too busy to respond to his love. There are so many ways to do so it is difficult to choose, from prayer, to reading scripture, or some other worthwhile book we wouldn't otherwise find time to pick up, to joining with others in a Lenten course.
- To live more simply for a while and enjoy the present moment. Heaven knows, most of us could do with a break from the pressures to be busier and busier to acquire and consume more and more. Lent is also the time of lengthening days and burgeoning spring - let us enjoy what God has given us for free.
- To be as generous as I can be from the surplus of good things God has given me. There is nothing so pleasurable and good for the soul than to help someone in need or donate to a good cause.

And whatever we choose to do or not do, we must not be gloomy about it! As Jesus tells us (Matt 6:17-18), '*when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*'

May we all have a joyful, holiday Lent! God bless, Joc

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfer, 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.

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All material must reach the Editor by Friday 20th March 2015 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18



Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – March 2015

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Derry & Raphoe and Bishop Kenneth Good

Companion Dioceses: The five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

1st March, The Second Sunday in Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mbale, Uganda and Rt Revd Patrick Gidudu, Bishop of Mbale

Diocese: That the Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth Kearon in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe on Saturday 7th March be filled with joy

8th March, The Third Sunday in Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Meru, Kenya and Rt Revd Charles Mwendwa, Bishop of Meru

Diocese: The Nenagh Union of Parishes during the vacancy and Rev Lucy Green, Priest-in-Charge

15th March, The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Missouri of the Episcopal Church, USA and Rt Revd Wayne Smith, Bishop of Missouri

Diocese: The GFS Diocesan Service and Prizegiving on Saturday 21st March

22nd March, The Fifth Sunday in Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania and Rt Revd Godfrey Sehaba, Bishop of Morogoro

Diocese: The Shinrone Group of Parishes, Rector Canon Michael Johnston, and Priest-in-Charge Archdeacon Wayne Carney

29th March, The Sixth Sunday in Lent /Palm Sunday, Red or Purple

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

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

Diocese: That our parishes may be reconciled communities, gathered round the table of Christ, where all are welcome, all are equal, with faces transformed by the loving light of Christ.

Costly Grace

"Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'Ye were bought at a price', and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship



The Prophets are Weeping

by President of Ireland Michael D Higgins

This poem was first printed in the President's official Christmas card, and is reproduced by permission.

To those on the road it is reported that
The Prophets are weeping,
At the abuse
Of their words,
Scattered to sow an evil seed.
Rumour has it that,
The Prophets are weeping,
At their texts distorted,
The death and destruction,
Imposed in their name.
The sun burns down,
On the children who are crying,
On the long journeys repeated,
Their questions not answered.
Mothers and Fathers hide their faces,
Unable to explain,
Why they must endlessly,
No end in sight,
Move for shelter,
for food, for safety, for hope.
The Prophets are weeping,
For the words that have been stolen,
From texts that once offered,
To reveal in ancient times,
A shared space,
Of love and care,
Above all for the stranger.

M.D.H. 2014

Contemplating Lent

by Rev Simon J Lumby

A speck, a mote. Seemingly nothing. An insignificance on the face of the eternal?

The Psalmist writes, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" In the grand scheme of things, on the eternal canvas, each of us has no intrinsic value that marks us out as being more or less special than anything else in all of Creation. Yet God has regard for each and every one of us without preference or distinction.

"God so loved the whole world that he gave his only Son ... to save us from our sins". "He made there the one complete and all-sufficient [remedy] for the sins of the whole world". These are sentiments we hear each Sunday.

Insignificant? Absolutely not! A mere speck? Absolutely.

This Lent, contemplate the idea that we were not made to induce difference of value between each other. However, neither were we made without significance. Humility is the capacity to see no difference in worth between each other. Humility is the result of knowing that we are a mote – a mere nothing – that is held in the highest honour by the One who made us.

A View from the Pew – More Surprises!

the 2nd in the series by **Salters Sterling**



Those who read this column last month could well have thought - *Why did Salters not mention Christ as the way in which we know what God is like?* If they did they were right and the short answer is 750 words didn't allow me. Worry not, the view from the pew in the Carmelite Convent Loughrea during Christian Unity Week and from the pulpit in Shinrone Methodist Church on the last day of the Octave takes us a long way to discovering something of God in Jesus. The text is John's Gospel chapter 4. It would be good to

read to verse 42 now. It's the story of the conversation between the woman at the well at Sychar and a tired Jesus on his way from Judaea to Galilee. To get full value from the text we have to recall consciously that Jesus was a Jew, as was John who is telling the story, as were many who first heard it. If we take this Jewishness into account then we recognise a number of surprises. The most obvious is that it is a Jew talking with a Samaritan. John wants us to recognise this. Jesus breaks a cultural taboo. He also wants us to perceive that it is a man engaging with a woman, and in particular with a woman who has had five husbands and is now with a man to whom she isn't married, and who doesn't require the cover of darkness as did Nicodemus in Chapter 3 to consort with Jesus. They both take each other as they find each other, in broad daylight. More taboos being broken. And if we take the Jewishness of Jesus seriously we will note that the meeting place is the village well which was the customary place for courtship. Jewish scholars of the New Testament make this point forcefully in their commentary. John wants us to get the point for he writes "At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking with a woman, though none of them asked, 'what do you want from her?'" So for John and his colleague disciples, surprise is the order of the day and is the context for the woman and for them to which the content of salvation is disclosed.

It is disclosed in the reflective conversations about the Water of Life with the woman and about Food and Harvest with the disciples, and through the testimony of the woman and the presence of Jesus, himself, to the whole town of Sychar, who took him in and bade him welcome. The significance of surprise in the nature and experience of God which we noted last month is reinforced in the doings of Jesus as we read the stories of him in the Gospels. Go back and read John 4 again.

Let's take that a stage further in material appropriate to Lent - the Wilderness experience of Jesus in Matthew chapter 4. The Wilderness, to a Jew, would recall the experience of the Children of Israel after their delivery out of captivity in Egypt and the way they tested God over food and water. Here in Matthew Jesus deals with hunger and the magic possibility of turning stones into bread; with the spectacular in falling without hurt from a parapet of the Temple; with political power and authority in accepting sovereignty over the kingdoms of the world. He rejects all of them and takes up where John the Baptist leaves off with a call to Repentance. That call to Repentance is elaborated and evolved into a life of Servanthood, evocatively recalled by John in the washing of the disciples' feet, which replaces the Passover meal in the story told by John. Paul writes of Jesus emptying himself and taking upon himself

the form of a servant. So the imagery of God in the New Testament is that of the Servant, and not the all-powerful, remote, omniscient, omniscient God against whom someone like Stephen Fry rails. Are you surprised? I think if you aren't you ought to be, for I know of nowhere else in the world where there is that presentation of God, either spoken of or lived out, except in the Rabbi Joshua of Nazareth. We call him Jesus and we give him the titles Lord and Christ, but in the flesh he was Mary's son. If we ever forget that we are likely to lose the capacity for surprise. And if we lose the capacity for surprise we lose one of the most sensitive antennae for being detected by and detecting God.

Oh, and by the way, I did mention Nicodemus much earlier on. Do you remember what happened to him? You'll find him turning up again in chapter 19 of John's Gospel. He it is who brings the spices to hallow the body of the dead Jesus. It took him a while but he got there in and at the end. More of that next time. Enjoy Lent and prepare for the big surprise!

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sat 7th Feb, 2.30pm

Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth Kearon in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

Fri 6th – Sun 8th Mar

West Alive Weekend, Esker Youth Village, Athenry, Co. Galway (10 -13 yrs)

Sat 7th Mar, 2.30pm

Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth Kearon in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

Thu 19th Mar, 8.15pm

Whist Drive, Aghancon Hall

Fri 20th – Sun 22nd Mar

Spring Madness, Durrow Centre, Co. Laois (13+ yrs)

Sat 21st Mar, 2.30pm

GFS Diocesan Service & Prizegiving, St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

Mon 23rd Mar, 7.30-9pm

Mothers Union Trustees Meeting

Wed 25th Mar, 9.30pm-12.30am

Social Dance, Aghancon Hall

Sat 28th Mar, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, St. Michael's Church Hall, Pery Square, Limerick (secondary school upwards).

Sun 5th April

EASTER DAY

Fri 10th – Sun 12th April

UDYC Taking a Leading Role, Clarecare, Lahinch (16+)

Sat 18th April, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurray Church, Castletroy, Co. Limerick (secondary school upwards)

Mon 20th April, 7.30-9pm

Mothers' Union Diocesan Council Meeting

Sat 25th April, 2.30pm

UDYC Annual General Meeting, Kilmurray Church, Castletroy, Co. Limerick

A vision of Christian community

Extracts from Bishop Kenneth's Enthronement Sermon in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick 7 February 2015.

2 Corinthians 5.18. *"...this is from God, who reconciled us to himself in Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"*

One of those day to day calendars where you tear off each day has a saying on it – 'an important stage on the journey from childhood to adulthood is when there are too many candles to fit on the birthday cake!' I'm so far past that stage that there aren't even enough little candles in the box to count my birthdays!

I want you to hold for a moment the image of children at a children's party, gathered round the table while the party boy or girl blows out the candles with one blow. No doubt during the party there were squabbles, and someone won't play with someone else, but now, for the cake, all that's forgotten, all are best friends, everyone has a place round the table, and no one is excluded; and in the glow of the candlelight everyone is transformed by excitement and simple joy.

WHO AM I? WHERE DO I BELONG?

Hold that picture if you will, while I take you on a different path, because it's been said that the basic question facing us all in western, post-modern society is 'Who am I? And where do I belong?' Unlike previous generations we are increasingly uncertain of where we belong.

These things matter, because our sense of ourselves is bound up with our relationships; in fact we are defined by our relationships. The various communities to whom we belong make us what we are, and we need to be sure of them.

The Church of Ireland community in these dioceses is not immune from all of these changes. Within my own lifetime we moved from being a very closed community, living to ourselves and defining ourselves over against the majority religious community. We've moved from that to a situation where we are fully integrated into Irish society; in fact our sense of community is the local community, with the church community being an integral part of that wider community. We have discovered the riches that lie in engaging and sharing with other Christian and faith communities.

Yet it is that sense of community, that sense of belonging, to family to locality, to church, to a political party, that is increasingly uncertain, and probably feeling most under pressure in smaller communities. And when it is threatened, we try to defend it, bit by bit. We fight for the Post Office, and then it's the bus service, then it's the local shop. What we lack is a vision of what community today really looks like – a vision which values the small primary school not as a problem about keeping the numbers up, but as place where the next generation is shaped and educated within the context of a supportive local community, which itself is committed to that school, its pupils and its teachers as the place parents wish their children to be educated, a vision of community which values the post office, yes, but also the pub and the petrol station and the small supermarket, because that's where we choose to live.

TRANSFORMATION

As Christians we find our identity in the One whose birth we celebrated 10 weeks ago, and whose resurrection and triumph we will celebrate in another few weeks. Christians are those who are being transformed by our relationship with Jesus Christ, and seek to share that transformation in our relationships, to transform our communities, and ultimately the whole world.

Transformation is at the heart of any Christian community – transformed by Christ, and seeking to transform a very hurting and broken and yet strangely glorious world. The second reading today spoke of reconciliation, which is the heart of Christian community, a community reconciled to God through Christ, and entrusted with the message of reconciliation. And our world badly needs to hear and receive that message of reconciliation. The surge of extreme violence in the name of Islam is terrifying, but is there nothing we can do? We in Ireland know to our cost that much religious inspired violence has its roots in alienation, so perhaps we should ask how a Muslim teenager feels living in this city – does he or she feel comfortable and at home, or is rejection and alienation part of their experience? In our own country some of our politicians and even our President have experienced frightening protests – is this purely about water, or is there a deeper, more worrying feeling of frustration at being out of control?

Christians bring to any discussion of community their own distinctive model of a reconciled community where welcoming the stranger, including the lonely and isolated, participating in the transformation of the world around us are central. Within that, the Church of Ireland in these parts brings its own unique experience and perspective, as a community which in the last 50 years or so has moved from being somewhat at the fringe of Irish society to full integration and participation in Irish life.

MY VISION OF A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

So then, questions about identity and belonging abound. Christians respond with an understanding of community rooted in the reconciliation we have experienced in Christ and which leads to a vision of communities which are both reconciled and reconciling. Do you remember the children's birthday party I began with? Children gathered around a table, faces glowing in the candlelight beaming with joy, squabbles and fights forgotten.

That's my vision of a Christian community, a reconciled community – gathered round the table of Christ, all are welcome, all are equal, faces transformed by the loving light of Christ.

Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth

into the Bishopric of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh

**at St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe
on Saturday, 7th March at 2.30 pm**

All are welcome to attend.

Clergy to robe in choir dress.

Please be seated by 2.15 pm and clergy to process then.

Refreshments will be served at St Anne's Community College Clarisford immediately following the service, which is 300 metres from St Flannan's.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

ROSCREA BRANCH

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is over and it is back to work. The Girls and Leaders attended the Panto, Snow White, before Christmas. It was great to see locals on stage. GFS girls are busy working on crafts and Bible Study. We are meeting in the National School thanks to Mrs Powell. The girls and Leaders look forward to Rev. Jane coming to meet us. We wish her God's richest Blessings in her Ministry in the Roscrea Group of Parishes.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Our Mini-Market has begun and takes place weekly. The proceeds go to Mission money. We thank everybody for contributions to the stall and for supporting it.

Bible Study has kept us busy as we explored the theme "Come Close to God". We read and discussed the stories "Jesus calms the storm" and "Jesus heals the sick man" and completed our booklets.

Craft work has also kept us busy and has given us lots of enjoyment. We look forward to seeing the great variety of work on display after our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving which takes place on Saturday, 21st March in Killaloe Cathedral.

Mrs. Grace Healy made a presentation of a GFS paperweight to Canon Neill at his Farewell Service on 18th January. Our very best wishes go to Canon Neill, Nicola and Aaron as they settle in to their new home in Celbridge.

NENAGH BRANCH

Canon Marie's last service in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh was on Sunday 1st February as she retires as rector. GFS girls took part in the service and presented Marie with gifts – GFS plate, basket of flowers and a card made by the girls. Marie has been a great support in setting up the branch in Nenagh and often attended meetings. We have many happy memories of wonderful enrolment services and one great Diocesan Service. Thank you Marie and we wish every happiness and God's Blessing in your retirement.

BIRR BRANCH

Birr held their Enrolment Service on 25th January during Holy Communion Service in St. Brendan's Church, Birr. Thanks to Archdeacon Wayne Carney for a wonder service which involved all the girls. Rose Langley was surprised by a lovely bouquet of flowers as this was the last occasion she would visit Birr Enrolment as GFS Diocesan President. Thanks to all the leaders and girls.



GFS Enrolment Service in Birr

LEADERS NIGHT OUT IN CLOUGHJORDAN

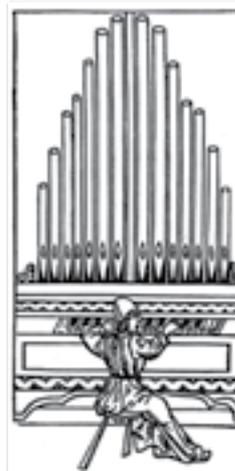
Leaders in the Diocese gathered together on Saturday, 7th February to enjoy an evening of good food and excellent conversation in the Gourmet Gallery restaurant in Cloughjordan. A presentation of a glass paper weight was made to Canon Marie as she retires from the chaplaincy of GFS in the Diocese. All the leaders and girls thank her for her ministry to GFS and wish her God's Blessing for the next stage in her life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Craft Judging – 9th March, Roscrea
- Diocesan Council Meeting – 9th March, Cloughjordan, 8pm
- Diocesan Service & Prizeday – 21 March 2015, Killaloe Cathedral. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our first service in our Cathedral. Please contact your leaders for full details. This promises to be a wonderful event – one you will not want to miss!
- Camp – Castledaly Manor, Athlone, 12-14 June
- 25th Years of Camp Celebrations – Sunday, 14 June in Castledaly

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Boys' Brigade

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

Roscrea 1st Company invited us to join them for a fun-packed evening at Nenagh Arena on Friday 13th (yes, really!) February. We were all looking forward to it, but the evening absolutely surpassed all expectations! With 24 of Roscrea's boys and 22 of ours we did a pretty good job of filling the sport hall. We rotated the boys, in teams

of around 12, around 4 activities which were soccer, basketball, high jump (sounds crazy but they love it!) and go-karting. We had 2 birthdays to celebrate (Happy Birthday, James and Rylan!) with BB cards and a lovely cake made by Roscrea s Alison. The boys got on very well together as one big happy group and we are now looking forward to our next meeting with Roscrea in May.

Sooner than that though we have a huge event to look forward to as many of you already know – the whole of the Boys' Brigade Midlands Region will descend on Nenagh for the Annual Activity Day on Saturday April 25th. We are hosts for the first time, at the fantastic venue of Nenagh College. We will greet around 150 eager boys (oh help!) for lots of fun and games. We look forward to welcoming leaders and boys to our hospitable parishes. (There is a hint there...bake/sandwich donations for the leaders' lunches would be gratefully received, but more on the begging front nearer the time!).

All our new recruits are settling in nicely which is great to see. Remaining dates this term are: Feb 24, Mar 10 & 24



Nenagh & Roscrea boys enjoying the activities in Nenagh College

Mothers' Union Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

Limerick and Killaloe Mothers' Union members would like to extend a very warm welcome to Bishop Kenneth Kearon, recently consecrated Bishop of this Diocese, and to his family who we all look forward to meeting at some of our Mothers' Union events in the near future.

"MUMS IN MAY 2015", is an All-Ireland Project which will give funding to the Literacy Programme in Ethiopia and also contributions to each Diocese, especially smaller Diocese, in whatever way it can. All branches should have received their Information Pack and hopefully everyone will do their little bit and perhaps host a tea party however big or small.

There is a booklet on sale "Grace and Flavours" which has a combination of Prayer, Quotations and Recipes for each season of the year, the cost for this booklet is €4.00, also available is a Fireside

Quiz at €1.00. These are available from your enrolling member, please support.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES are being arranged for May, one in Eyrecourt and one in Limerick. Full details of dates and times in the next issue.

AGHANCON –On February 4th, Ms Katherine Finney from Birdwatch Ireland came and spoke to the members and visitors from Roscrea, Birr and Cloughjordan, showing pictures of the wildlife on the Callows by the River Shannon. It was a very interesting talk, hearing about how the wildlife has returned to the area since conservation and development have taken place in recent years.

LIMERICK Branch hosted Adare and Askeaton branches at their February meeting when Stephen Redden, son of one of our members, showed a beautiful series of photos taken when he attended the Chelsea Flower Show a couple of years ago. Stephen is an expert plants man and accompanied the pictures with a most interesting talk.

We are also exploring how we might help the Bedford Row Family Project which supports families of those in Limerick Prison. They were delighted to receive some lovely bears knitted by our member Vida Cowpar. The bears will be used by the play therapist who works with children who come to the centre.

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 6th March, starting at 7.00pm.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION BALLINASLOE

We began in the New Year with a discussion night. In groups of 3/4, various topics (chosen by members) produced a heated debate as well as plenty of laughter. Prior to the discussion, one of our members, Jackie Eastwood gave a painting demonstration which was enjoyed very much. After the discussion when the painting was finished a draw was held and Marie Quinillan was delighted to be the lucky winner.

For our February meeting we had, in response to many requests, a return visit from Sister Chad FMDM and a member of the Pastoral Care team at the Beacon Hospital, who spoke on "Discernment", a thought provoking topic.

Our on-going projects are not being forgotten, three hand knit blankets are being completed, ready for despatch to the Women's Refuge in Athlone, who very much appreciate these gifts.

United Diocesan Youth Council

FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING & SALE

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in so many ways with our fundraising coffee morning with cake & home produce sale in Adare Methodist Hall on 2nd February. We particularly would like to thank those you brought goods to sell, helped on the day, those who set up and cleaned up and to those who came and bought goods. Almost €900 was raised to support the programmes of Diocesan Youth Council.

FUTURE EVENTS

- West Alive Weekend for 10 – 13 year olds, Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March 2015 at Lilliput Outdoor Adventure Centre, Lilliput House, Lough Ennell, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, with Tuam Diocesan Youth Council. Return Transport from/to Limerick – Nenagh- Moneygall- Roscrea- Birr. Cost from €80 plus €20 for return transport if required.

- Spring Madness Weekend, for 13+, at Durrow Centre, Knocknagrally, Durrow, Co. Laois from Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March, with Cork Diocesan Youth Council. Return Transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea, Kilkenny College, Rosscarbery, Clonakilty, Bandon, Cork, Fermoy & Mitchelstown. Cost from €80 plus €20 for return transport if required. Ms Emma Lynch from Tearfund Ireland will provide a number of fun and interactive workshops throughout the weekend to engage the group with everyday justice and connecting the dots between each of our lifestyles and the Jesus story, looking at four topics:

Connection – Sometimes our seemingly good activities mask injustice. God wants us to understand that we are connected to others and to allow our lives and decisions to have a positive impact on others.

Advocacy – Advocacy isn't just a good idea, it is God's idea – God asks us to speak up for those who have no voice,

Contentment – Greed has the potential to crush the life out of our desire for God and affects the planet and people living in poverty – How can we guard against the dangers of wanting more?

Generosity – God is a generous God – What does this mean for us as a lifestyle?

- Church Of Ireland Youth Department Connect Training Day, Tuesday 24th March, 11am-4pm, Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Andrew Frame (Youth Ministry Development Officer for the Northern Region) will lead a workshop about preparing and delivering youth talks. This will be helpful to anybody delivering talks and reflections at youth groups, youth services and more. The day is free of charge and lunch is included, but please book in advance by emailing amy@ciyd.org.
- U.D.Y.C. Fellowship Group. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 28th March St. Michael's Church Hall, Pery Square, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. Open to secondary school and upwards.
- Taking a Leading Role – Part 1. Have you ever thought about becoming a helper at either parish youth club or diocesan youth council events? If the answer is yes now's your chance to do something about it. The first of three weekend courses designed to train and develop our Youth Leaders of the future will take place from Friday 10th – Sunday 12th April 2015 at Clarecare, Lahinch. Transport from/to Limerick. Cost for the full weekend will be €70. 16+ years.
- Church of Ireland Youth Department Connect Retreat Weekend. Join us for just over 24 hours in the lovely Killeslin Hotel, Portlaoise, from 12 noon on Saturday 18th April, until 3pm on Sunday 19th April. This is an opportunity for youth leaders aged 18 and over to get away from it all and "Breathe in", taking heed of the call to "Be still and know that I am God".
- Annual General Meeting. The U.D.Y.C AGM will take place on Saturday 25th April 2015 commencing with Holy Communion at 2.30 pm, at Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward on 087 290 7553 or Damian on 087 227 4663, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Maud 087 995 9581



Goodies for sale at the UDYC coffee morning in Adare Methodist Hall

Diocesan Board of Mission

Report on Mission Evening 11th February 2015

In the absence of the Chairman, Bishop Kenneth was welcomed and asked to preside. The evening opened with prayer.

The Secretary informed those present that almost €6000 had been donated by parishes to date, as part of the Mission Sunday 2014 appeal. As a result we had been able to pay €5000 to Us Ireland as the last instalment towards construction of the reservoir at Luyengo Farm, plus €738, sent to local charities as specified by respective parish unions. The Secretary reminded those present, that we hoped to send the carrot washer to Swaziland, at the end of March; he appealed for other items which, if donated for schools etc., etc., could also go in the container.

Dean Sandra, gave a very interesting presentation, entitled 'Out and about in Swaziland', based on her travels around the country in July 2014. She described how the Monarch was still a controlling figure in government infrastructure, and the huge difference in lifestyles between the rich and the poor of society in Swaziland. The Dean went on to describe the abject poverty in certain remote rural areas of the country, and the toll which the HIV virus had taken on family life, in many cases leaving young children to fend for themselves. In some cases, where the parents had died of HIV, the meal provided by the local school was the children's only source of daily nourishment. In the absence of Government support/infrastructure, all the various Christian denominations were playing a vital role in providing a basic form of medical and social support for the impoverished and disabled sector of the population.

In closing, the Bishop described from his experience as a 'travelling representative' for the Anglican Communion, how essential it was that wealth be distributed throughout a community – it is our Christian duty to help the poor to help themselves, the Luyengo Farm Project being a prime example.

The evening closed with prayer and the Grace. Our next Mission Evening is scheduled for Wed 22nd April, when a member of the Methodist Church will speak on an aspect of 'Mission in the Community'.

SCHOOL NEWS

St Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Our bulbs have peeped out from under their warm soil to herald lovely spring. Soon the bare hedgerows will be full of colour and life again.

Our students are lithe and ready for outdoor life after a brush with gymnastics. There were curling, stretching, rocking and rolling, travel and balance exercises, as well as strength and tension activities.

A big "well done" to two teams from St. Mary's who were placed in the Credit Union Table Quiz. The brave brainiacs are; Crian O'Donnell, Danielle O'Brien, Chelsea Rohan and Heather Hayes. Denis Sheehy, Dylan Morrison, Daniel Sviridov and April Hayes made up the other team. Thanks to all of these students for representing us admirably.

Former pupil, Karen Robinson, has returned to us on work experience as part of her Transition Year programme. It's great to welcome her back and we are grateful for her help in the classroom.

The school celebrated Pancake Day on Friday 13th February, as Shrove Tuesday fell during mid-term break. There is nothing like the wonderful aroma of pancakes and lemon to end this half of the term.

To honour Valentine's traditions, St. Mary's held a Friendship Week in school. The focus of many lessons, activities and visual arts programme was the importance of friendship. It is of great benefit to all and a thoroughly enjoyable exercise.

Here's a fun fact! In 1445, a woman from Olney in the UK was cooking pancakes when she heard the church bell chiming. Fearing she would be late, she ran all the way to the church with her pan in her hand! So began the first pancake race, a tradition which has lasted. Since then there has always been a pancake race in Olney!

Canon Marie's retirement – school service & presentations:

Presentations of a Paul Maloney pottery bowl, a holly tree, and Tipperary Crystal were made by the Board of Management, the school and the Parents' Association. The children also presented Canon Marie with planted bulbs in pots and whilst Canon Marie waits for these to flower, the children made some flowers!

Rev Lucy joined Canon Marie at the school.

Cloughjordan No.1 National School

Thank you very much to everybody who supported our fundraising "Number and Word Phrases Quiz", kindly compiled for us by Mrs. Miriam Henderson. Congratulations to our prize winners: 1st Prize: Hope Morris, Co. Wexford, 2nd Prize: Laura Brophy, Kilbarron, 3rd Prize: Emma Armitage, Kilcommon, Shinrone & in the Children's Competition: Preschool: 1st Kyle Chadwick, 2nd Jonah Dann; Junior & Senior Infants: 1st Noah Dann, 2nd Evan Ryan & Jack Hurley; First & Second Class: 1st Ella Dann, 2nd Grant Chadwick; Third & Fourth Class: 1st Alex Mooney, 2nd Lisa Mooney; Fifth & Sixth Class: 1st Hugh Guest, 2nd Hannah Austin. This year's quiz was very successful and enjoyed by people all around the country. It raised €71 for our school – a terrific result!

We are delighted that Rev Ruth Gill has taken on the role of Chairperson of the Board of Management since Canon Neill's departure. We welcome Rev Gill back to the school and look forward to her work among us. It is also a great pleasure to welcome Rev Shannon De Laureal, Minister of the North Tipperary Methodist Circuit to our school and to join in our school assemblies.

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Congratulations to one of the school's quiz teams who made it through to the next round of the Credit Union Quiz. They were winners in the under 13 section at the recent Credit Union Quiz in the Rathkeale House Hotel. Well done to Leah Power, Aiyuni O'Grady, Arthur Cussen and Katie Purser and we wish them well in the next round.

Chess Club has commenced for this school year with a record twenty-seven pupils involved.

We are working towards our fifth green flag this year and we look forward to a visit from Geoff Hunt at the end of February. Geoff will help us to organise a 'bug hotel' and a wild flower garden at the side of the school.

Prize Day took place on Friday 13th February when Barbara Bingham presented the prizes to all the pupils. Afterwards, 6th class pupils organised a coffee afternoon in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and the ISPCA. We had a lovely afternoon and thanks to pupils in the senior classroom for providing all the lovely tray bakes and cakes. We look forward to our Book Fair which will take place in mid - March. This year the pupils have been involved in the Scholastic "We Are Writers" book project where every pupil has written a poem or a story. These will be put together in a book which will be published and on sale during our Book Fair.



Enjoying the Coffee Afternoon



Busy sewing in St. Nicholas

Well done to Ross Austin, Andrew Hayes, Tom Larke and Sophia Whelan who represented Third and Fourth Class, and to Sarah Armitage, Hugh Guest, Ruairi O'Brolchain and Donncha Speight Burns who represented Fifth and Sixth Class at the Credit Union Schools' Quiz in Borrisokane last month. Congratulations to our Fifth and Sixth Class team who came 1st on the night and now progress to the next round in March. Much to their delight they received very generous individual prizes and an unexpected prize for the school. Thank you very much to Borrisokane Credit Union for, once again, organizing a very successful event for the local schools, for the generous prizes and for the refreshments the children enjoyed on the night.

Congratulations also to Sarah Armitage (6th Class) and Ewan Powell (5th Class) who won lovely prizes in the Cloughjordan Drama Group Art Competition.

It was a pleasure to welcome Sarah Baker from Cloughjordan House Cookery School to talk to our 5th and 6th Class pupils who are participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme, and also Veronica Ryan, as a member of the judging panel, which recently assessed each group's business proposal. Exciting times ahead as the children continue their research and bring their ideas to fruition.

It was a pleasure to welcome Carl Williams from Transition Year in Villiers School on a week's work experience last month. Carl was a great help throughout the school and did everything and anything asked of him willingly and cheerfully. Thank you Carl.

We look forward to welcoming Noel, Liza and staff from the Postal Bible School to our school at the end of February for the Annual Presentation and Prizegiving. We are very grateful to the Postal Bible School not only for the generous array of prizes the children will chose from on the day, but also for all that the Postal Bible School does for us throughout the year.

As part of our fundraising for charity this Lent, we will be having an Easter Egg Raffle and Bring and Buy Sale in school on Friday 13th March. The proceeds this year will go to Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and to the Billy Goulding Fund, both of which are very dear to our hearts.



Enjoying the Winter!

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Parent Teacher Association

ANSWERS TO: NUMBER AND WORD PHRASES QUIZ
(IN AID OF CLOUGHJORDAN NO.1 N.S.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| (1) 32 C in I. | = 32 Counties in Ireland. |
| (2) 144 is a G. | = 144 is a Gross |
| (3) 999 E S. | = 999 Emergency Services. |
| (4) 8 L on a S. | = 8 Legs on a Spider. |
| (5) 24 is 2 D. | = 24 is 2 Dozen. |
| (6) 3 L P. | = 3 Little Pigs. |
| (7) 26 L in the A. | = 26 Letters in the Alphabet. |
| (8) 52 C in a P. | = 52 Cards in a Pack. |
| (9) 101 D. | = 101 Dalmatians. |
| (10) 3 S on a T. | = 3 Sides on a Triangle. |
| (11) 1000 Y in a M. | = 1000 Years in a Millenium. |
| (12) 7 W of the W. | = 7 Wonders of the World. |
| (13) 18 H on a G C. | = 18 Holes on a Golf Course. |
| (14) 5 T on a F. | = 5 Toes on a Foot. |
| (15) 12 D of C. | = 12 Days of Christmas. |
| (16) 100 C in a E. | = 100 cent in a Euro. |
| (17) 25 Y is a S W. | = 25 Years is a Silver Wedding. |
| (18) A B and the 40 T. | = Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves. |
| (19) 12 M in a Y. | = 12 Months in a Year. |
| (20) 7 C in a R. | = 7 Colours in a Rainbow. |
| (21) 360 D in a C. | = 360 Degrees in a Circle. |
| (22) 2 W on a B. | = 2 Wheels on a Bicycle/2 Wings on a Bird |
| (23) 17 of M is S P D. | = 17th of March is Saint Patrick's Day. |
| (24) 88 K on a P. | = 88 Keys on a Piano. |
| (25) 1014 B of C | = 1014 Battle of Clontarf. |
| (26) 60 S in a M. | = 60 Seconds in a Minute. |
| (27) 25 D is C D. | = 25th December is Christmas Day. |
| (28) 3 W M. | = 3 Wise Men |
| (29) 24 B B in a P | = 24 Blackbirds Baked in a Pie. |
| (30) 4 S in a Y. | = 4 Seasons in a Year. |

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

KILTALLAGH SCHOOL CHOIR TO SING WITH MOYA

Exciting times lay ahead for our school choir as preparations are being made to participate in a wonderful musical experience in Limerick in Term 3. We will be singing alongside Moya Brennan from world renowned Irish Group 'Clannad', as well as some of the province's finest musicians.

KERRY CHORAL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE

The pupils in the senior room gave an amazing performance at The Malton on Thursday February 12th last at the Kerry Choral Schools Performance.

Their chosen pieces were "Top of the World" by Karen Carpenter and "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton.

The grand finale was a medley - Real Love, with the other 9 participating schools.

Well done all of you. We are very proud of you here in Kiltallagh.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

As part of Christian Unity Week, the children joined with the pupils from Ballyfinnane School in a service in Ballyfinnane Community Centre. Well done to the pupils, parents and staff from both schools who read and sang beautifully. Thank you to Andrew, our Chairperson, who led our service. All the children (and staff!) enjoyed some treats and playtime in Ballyfinnane School afterwards.

PANCAKE DAY

Pupils enjoyed their very own Pancake Day with lots of delicious fillings including ice cream, strawberries, Nutella, banana, jam and golden syrup. DELICIOUS!!

CREDIT UNION QUIZ.

Congratulations to the children who competed in the Credit Union Quiz. Our Junior team were in a 3 way tie for 1st place with just one point separating them. After 3 more rounds of questions, they were unfortunate to lose out by just 2 points and finished in 3rd place.

Our senior team were placed fourth. Maith sibh.

GREEN SCHOOLS

We are putting the final touches to our application for our 4th Green Schools Flag for Travel. The senior room are having a competition to see who can design the most creative Logo for our Travel Flag. We are looking forward also to our cycle training workshop in March, which will take place on the school grounds.



Garda Declan Kelly with some of the pupils.

On Friday February 13th, our local Garda, Declan Kelly, called in to talk to the children about road safety and the importance of all aspects concerning safety with regard to all methods of travel either by car, bus, cycling or walking. Both the children and the staff found Declan's talk to be very informative and beneficial.

WSE/MLL RESPONSE.

We recently had a Whole School Inspection here in Kiltallagh N.S. by the Department. We are delighted to say we got an extremely positive and affirming report on all aspects of our school- from teaching and learning to management as well as parental involvement and pupil contentment. Comhghairdeas do gach duine.

KERRY LIFE EDUCATION -What a wonderful day we had with Mary and Harold-the giraffe- recently.

The Kerry Life Education (KLE) project is delivered from a fleet of mobile buses called 'Life Education' that visits primary schools in Co. Kerry. The project includes a mix of health promotion and information and covers diet, self-esteem, peer dynamics, bullying and alcohol and substance use. It has been visiting schools since

2004 and is estimated to reach between 5,000 and 7,000 students per year. Afterwards we all had a disco with 'Harold' the Giraffe, where the chosen song was 'Hall of Fame' from The Script.

BAKING

We are once again looking forward to having one of our parents back with us for some baking in Term 3. We have already been shown how to bake some mouth-watering shortbread biscuits and ginger bread men in previous baking demonstrations so we can't wait to see what's in store this time!

Why not visit us on www.kiltallaghns.ie to get a glimpse into our vibrant school life here in Kiltallagh!

Oxmantown National School

CREDIT UNION TABLE QUIZ

Congratulations to the members of our A Team Isobel Alexander, Conor Phealan O' Meara, Kelly Ross and Joshua Pyle who did us proud at the recent Credit Union inter-schools table quiz. Well done to our B Team Christy Keaveny, John Phair, Andrew Coghlan and Laura Bulfin who provided us with a cliff hanger; they finished in joint first position with Rath School, they were just piped at the post by one mark having taken two tie breaker rounds.

PANCAKE TUESDAY

The parents Association sold pancakes at the school again this year in aid of Tallaght Childrens' Hospital. Thanks to Jonathan Pyle for organising this, it has become an annual tradition at Oxmantown now.

WORK EXPERIENCE

We were delighted to welcome Lucy Reid, Cailin Keaveny and Katie Phair back to their former school to experience school life from the opposite side of the fence! We hope that the girls enjoyed and gained from their week with us.

HERITAGE COUNCIL

We availed of the opportunity offered to schools by the Heritage Council to have a speaker to talk to the children about energy conservation and the effects of global warming.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

Our pupils will once again be taking part in Limerick Education Centre's Junior Scientist this year. This year's event will take place in Limerick Institute of Technology on Monday 9th March beginning at 7pm. All are welcome to attend and view the experiments. In preparation for the event we will have a science workshop on Wednesday 4th March led by Michael Browne and Maria Sheehan, two of the co-ordinators of the Junior Scientist.

We had a very successful workshop with Geoff Hunt in January on garden birds. Before Christmas we set up a feeding station for the birds and by the time we returned after the holidays the birds had made it a regular stopping place. Our keen bird watchers attended to the feeding station every day to ensure there was an ample supply of peanuts, wild bird seed and fat balls. Geoff was very impressed by the pupils' knowledge of the birds and their interest in the workshop. Some of the birds which are regular visitors include great tits, blue tits, coal tits, robins, chaffinches, green finches, blackbirds, song thrushes, jackjaws, house sparrows, pied wagtails and rooks.



Geoff Hunt & pupils birdwatching.

We were delighted to hear that we have been successful with our application for the renewal of our Green Flag. This is our fourth flag and great credit is due to our very enthusiastic committee.

A bicycle maintenance workshop will be held for the pupils from 1st to 6th class on Friday 27th February. This workshop will be led by Angela Wall our Green School link person with An Taisce.

We'd all like to welcome Bishop Kenneth Kearon to the diocese and we look forward to meeting him and getting to know him.

St John's National School, Shannon

Hi, we have been busy here at St. John's. We won the Regional Final in the Ryan Tubridy Spelling Bee a few years ago and got a whole new library! So we have packed up about 300 books to send to the school on Luyengo Farm, Swaziland. Last year we gave our money raised from carol singing to the fund for Luyengo.



Packing books for Luyengo Farm.

We competed against other schools in Clare for two quizzes called the Clare.FM and the Credit Union Quiz. Unfortunately we did not win either of them but at least we tried.

But today we got the most shocking news, that we are getting the Green school flag.

We also did Food Dudes for the Healthy School Flag that we are also going for. We are going for our second Active Schools flag so we are very busy this year.

This article was by Lucy Huynh in 4th class!



Villiers School

BELGIUM & HOLLAND TRIP

A group of students will be flying to Brussels from Friday 27th March to Sunday 30th March under the supervision of both Mr. Hanna and Mr. White. They will visit the World War 1 tour of the Somme, which includes:- Vimy Ridge, Arras, Auchonvillers, Beaumont-Hamel, Thiepval, Pozieres and the Menin Gate at Ypres. They will also visit the Jewish Historical Museum, the Portuguese Synagogue and the Hollandsche Schouwburg in Amsterdam before touring the Anne Frank House, and conclude with a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels.

SKI TRIP TO ITALY

Almost sixty students took to the slopes of Pinzona in Italy for the our annual ski trip. Thanks to Mr. Sutton and Mr. Sadleir for organizing the trip.

TY

Our TY students have been on two weeks work experience and getting a taste of 'real life' in the workplace. Many are sampling possible future careers and feedback to date is excellent. We look forward to their presentations and reflections.

BOYS' HOCKEY

Our minor boys were narrowly defeated by Midleton College in their Munster semi-final 0-2, after extra time. We had the better chances during regular time and were unfortunate not to score.

Our junior and senior boys continue to prepare for their semi-final and final against Ashton School - we wish them well.



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NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

School is very much back and everyone is settling in to the routine of busy schedules and time tables. Everyday seems to be quite a rush and I sometimes wonder as to how we all seem to be living either in what has just happened to us in the past or thinking about what we need to do next. The consequence of this of course is that we end up missing out on the place where we actually live, the present. It can be very difficult not to allow the past to influence the present, we have a tendency to let past angers, fears, desires and attachments control our present and affect our future relationships. I wonder how many opportunities are missed due to dwelling on the past, instead of seeing and being conscious of what is happening at the present moment? I believe that it is vital to take time and simply 'be'! Especially take time and simply 'be' in the presence of God. You see, allowing God to be in our lives in the present opens up a path of healing in our past and which leads to being enabled to focus on what is happening right now, enjoying it and making the most of it. This leads to a brighter future where God plays an important part of our daily lives and gives a future which is full of light and life and promise with no weight on our shoulders from the past. I talked to a group of students recently about encountering someone who was angry and how this may affect you. We have a choice, we can either react to that person in anger, or probably carry that persons anger around with us for the rest of the day, or we can say that we don't want to be that angry person and choose to be free of the anger. Take a moment in the present and give the anger to God, He has big shoulders!!! Live in the present and be happy. Talk to God and allow Him to carry you into the future.

Until next time,

Peace and blessings to all

Chaplain Jackie McNair

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

This month has been a steady rhythm of the usual and ordinary things happening and minor adjustments to changes. The people of Castleconnell have had to get used to not having Edward around and wonderful to see people stepping in to help and fill in and do jobs and preparation that we all have taken for granted. The children at this parish always bring a great energy and enthusiasm in all that they do and so well done to parents who have been regularly bringing their children to church and to attend Sunday school.

January seemed to be very quiet in Killaloe with many away following the sunshine and in recent weeks the steady rhythm has returned and people who are usually around are back in the pews. This is a year for trying to develop and involve people in the various duties in parish life and it has been good to have new people come forward to read the Sunday lections and the 'old hands' still there to do duty. Those who have been doing things for a long time are generous enough to help and nurture and encourage others to be

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Bishop Kenneth enthroned in Limerick

In the past to be offered a chair was a mark of authority and respect. Even today the language and imagery persists, although we have long forgotten its real power - a senior professor in a university holds the 'chair' in the subject of her or his expertise. So we gathered in the deeply atmospheric setting of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Saturday 7th February to offer our new bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Kenneth Kearon, his chair or throne - his 'Cathedra' - upon which he sits to proclaim, with courage, authority and also humility, Jesus Christ as the Word of God to the world.

The service was at once simple and deeply symbolic. The great West Doors of the Cathedral are rarely opened, but the new bishop knocked three times on them with his staff and they were opened to admit him. The light streamed in as the bishop entered and sought the permission of the dean to be lead to his chair, instituted to his office, and offered symbols of the work he must do.

Bishop Kenneth took a moment to acknowledge and welcome representatives of other Churches, other faith communities, and the wider community, including the Mayors of Limerick the Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan and senior members of the local Gardaí. The Church must engage with the world, and in the setting of the most ancient seat of Christian witness and worship in the city it is important to welcome and engage with people from every culture and background.

The bishop himself preached the sermon, in which he explored his vision of a reconciled Christian community in which all are welcome, transformed by the loving light of Christ. See page 7 for an abridged text.

The service ended with the bishop going again to the West Doors, again thrown open, as he stood and prayed for the blessing of the whole city and then for the gathered congregation.



Our new Bishop knocks on the great West Doors seeking admission

Flower Festival
St Catherine's Church Tullamore
4th - 6th September 2015
Friday and Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. followed by
Songs of Hope and Inspiration at 7 p.m.

*“Celebrating the past
 Hope for the future”*

200 YEARS OF WORSHIP

Group Discounts **All Welcome**
Supporting Suicide Awareness **Admission €10**

Living Links **fosad**
 e mail: flowerfestival15@gmail.com

St. Nicholas Church, Adare

Festival of Faith & Flowers

Celebrating 700 years

22nd–24th May 2015

Join us in celebrating our 700th Anniversary as we tell the story of our Abbey and of Adare through flowers.

Throughout the weekend there will be a programme of history, music and poetry as well as flower arranging demonstrations.

We will also have a plant stall and vintage tea room where visitors will be treated to tea, coffee and a range of baked delights.

Admission €10
 To include tea/ coffee and cake

Friday 22nd May: Opening celebrations
Saturday 23rd May: 10.30am - 5.30pm
Sunday 24th May: 11.00am - 5.00pm

Enquiries and group bookings: faithandflowers700@gmail.com

Dean Sandra Pragnell writes:

As Dean, the enthronement of a new bishop was an exciting but also a daunting prospect. We were helped as Bishop Kenneth had designed a stream-lined ceremony, dignified with a clear progress through the cathedral to the sanctuary and the throne, which flowed beautifully. From the knocking on the west door, to request admission, to the final opening of the west door to bless the city, the worship was sublime. And for me personally it was a real honour to be able to enthrone and install a new bishop and then to bless him.

As Dean it had always bothered me that the pulpit in the cathedral was unusable where it stood – we took a leap of faith, and H. Connolly Ltd. were superb, working long hours to complete the task of moving it in time, though my heart was in my mouth when I saw the spider crane which held the pulpit swinging in the air. Now the pulpit is in pride of place, from where the preacher can command literally every corner of the building.

Just as when a family is expecting visitors they suddenly find time to make the home nice to impress their guests, so too it was really important for us at St Mary's Cathedral to ensure that this historic cathedral looked its very best to welcome our new father in God, Bishop Kenneth. I want to thank all who worked tirelessly each day and after their day's work: chiefly the cathedral team – staff, wardens, volunteers, and a host of people cleaning, and polishing (not easy in a building where particles of plaster are falling constantly), but I was delighted with the way everything came together. As well as ensuring the music was of the highest quality, Peter Barley did much of the preparation and proof-reading of the service sheet, multi-tasking.

So now we can look forward to getting to know our new bishop, hearing his vision for us in this part of God's kingdom, and introducing him to Limerick City and to the rest of the diocese in the Midwest and south-west of Ireland, with its rural beauty, and the stunning Atlantic coast. And with his background in ecumenics and a first-hand knowledge of the world-wide Anglican Communion, we look forward to all the new opportunities with which God will now bless us.

A note on the music from Peter Barley

Bishop Kenneth with Dean Sandra produced a clear framework for the liturgy, and he chose four strong hymns. His suggestion of the John Rutter blessing, 'The Lord bless you and keep you' fitted perfectly in the reflective moment after the opening prayers and commendation.

It is traditional that a setting of the Te Deum is sung at this service and I suggested the setting in E by George Hewson, given Bishop Kenneth's strong associations with Trinity. Hewson was Professor of Music at Trinity 1935-1962, as well as Organist of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 1920-1960. An upbeat chant for the celebratory Psalm 122 provided a nice contrast with the atmospheric anthem by Elgar 'O hearken thou'.

(Photos: Mr. Herbie Knowles)



Bishop Kenneth seated on his Cathedra, his Bishop's Throne



Preaching from the newly re-sited pulpit



Blessing the City of Limerick



L-R: Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy, Dean Sandra Pragnell, Bishop Kenneth Kearon, Rev Edna Wakely, Bishop Samuel Poyntz

Creation - Myth or Moth?

The 1st in a series of 7 articles by Rev Simon J Lumby, Rector of Killarney Union



In this series we're looking at Creation from a novel perspective, leading up to the November 2015 Paris UN Climate Change Summit. The intention is to give you some added-value, on top of the vast amount of scientific material and polemic available on the Internet. We'll not rehearse well-worn arguments or commonly understood perspectives; you'll find those elsewhere.

Myth or Moth? These two words represent the major concepts regularly applied to the issue of Climate Change.

Myth? Climate-change is not self-induced, but part of a natural cycle. This view is problematic: whilst there's plausible evidence that natural cycles are at work, there's also copious evidence that human intervention is exacerbating these trends.

Moth? Creation is a chaotic machine—the flap of a moth's wing precipitates the hurricane—therefore everything is beyond human agency. This view is problematic: it suggests that we're impotent and no solutions exist.

These two perspectives are also implicit in the way many people think of Creation itself.

We're going to look at the idea of Creation "in the round" and form a distinctively Christian view that owes something to the Celtic heritage of our Island and something to the concept of holism, or more prosaically of systems-engineering. We'll be taking a theological approach, from which we will derive practical and philosophical 'tools'. The idea of the Moth cuts both ways. Rather than taking it to mean that any action has vast chaotic and destructive consequences, we'll consider what it means to flap our moth-like wing and induce global harmonic and constructive consequences.

Our themes will be:

God: is Creator. This is the idea that God made a structure; its nature is to be self-sustaining. This is the Law of Conservation of Energy (within a closed system the total amount of energy is fixed, neither lost nor gained, yet it can be converted into different forms and uses). Such a structure has an inherent dynamic that results in con-structive development. Any perturbation in these processes will inevitably be seen in de-structive developments; they are limited in

scope (localised in space and time). Access to Creation's intrinsic harmonic nature is eternal and self-righting. We will explore these implications in the next article.

God: is Love. This is the idea that God, and therefore creation, is harmonic. The concept of harmony is a constructive one. Normally, the Love of God means our personal spiritual relationship and Discipleship. However, the Bible teaches that God is Love and that God creates in the divine self-image: humanity in the Imago Dei. It must also be true that Creation is made from the same. Love can't create something that is not Love. This implies that Creation has an ambient dynamic stability. We'll explore what this means for us as Children of God.

God: is One. The foundational axiom of the monotheistic faiths is that of Unity. Our 'Western' world is defined by the concept of individuality. 'Eastern' cultures are defined by the concept of community. Unity and individuality are opposite concepts! A community is 'unified' only if it is encased in its context. If I define myself as 'one' I have imposed a boundary between myself and the totality of everything; a discontinuity, a perturbation in the structure. The Creation is, and can survive only if it is, 'encased' in its Creator.

God: is Incarnate. God's incarnation is built-in to Creation at the level of its intrinsic nature. It is also dynamically represented

by the physical presence of The Word made flesh. Jesus's defining quality is his inability to perturb Creation; or the corollary, his innate capacity to challenge discontinuities. What then does it mean for us to be in-dwelt by Christ?

God: is Infinite. Infinity can mean "goes on forever". So what are we to make of God's infinity? Well, only that Creation is finite; ie it has a boundary, a context, specifically, it is a closed-system. This is not the negative it seems.

We will look at what God's infinite state means for us bounded creatures.

God: Is. What more can we say? Well, what does this imply, in view of the impending Summit? As St James says, "works without faith" are meaningless; they are mere perturbations. What then should our faith-based works be? Such works as are harmonic and resonant with the core dynamic of Creation; given the nature of humanity and by looking for inspiration to our Celtic Christian forebears.



PEATA Carol service in Christ Church Cathedral

- reported by Rev Janet White-Spunner

When did you last go to a service that you were really excited about! Arrive early and want to make friends with everyone! All people you've never met before! Find yourself in a packed church with a very excited congregation who all have a great capacity for happiness and whose owners are hoping they won't sing!!

That was the atmosphere at the annual Peata lunch time carol service on Tuesday 9th December.

'Peata' is one of two Pet Therapy organisations in Ireland. Pet owners, mostly dogs but also some cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and maybe other species, bring their animals to visit nursing homes, day care centres and other homes where people can benefit from the company of a pet. Stroking an animal has a 'de-stressing' effect, and very often brings smiles to faces that seldom smile. I visit Riverview Resources, a day care centre in Birr for adults that comes under St Anne's, Roscrea, and the Community Care Unit in Sandymount. At Riverview the clients take the dogs for walks and then have a cuddle on the sofa while I'm given a cup of tea! At Sandymount, we go round all the rooms, stopping to talk to people. Sometimes one of the dogs lies on the bed with someone, sometimes just put their paws up on the arm of a chair so they can be stroked. It is so good to see a smile on a face that appeared to have no interest in anything.

I travelled up to Dublin with Lil Mooney. We both used our free travel on the train from Tullamore plus my four miniature poodles all wearing their 'Peata therapy dog' jackets, so they travelled free too! Standing room only! Harder on Lil and I than the dogs! Two had never been on a train before, the others only once, but we had no problems! We were met at Heuston by my friend Flo, with her poodle, also a Peata dog and bred by me. We drove to Jurys Hotel car park, walked through the hotel and across the road to Christ Church Cathedral, which has some very nice grassy areas outside! Just what was needed!! Jason, the vergger, spotted us. We said we were going to find a coffee. 'Come to the crypt cafe' he said, 'bring the dogs'! No problem, after all, last year they had no cleaning up to do after 100 or so dogs! Visitors to the cathedral made such a fuss of the 5 poodles, no one suggested they were in the wrong place!

The carol service began at 1.15pm. The cathedral was packed with dogs of all shapes and sizes looking out from between the pews or trying to see better by sitting on seats! The Dean, the Reverend Dermot Dunne welcomed all the members of the congregation, human and canine! The girls' choir led the singing which began with an extra doggy welcome to our 'faithful friends'. Of course it had to be 'O come all ye faithful'! Readings and carols. Everyone sang lustily to try to drown the occasional 'yap'! And then all the dogs were invited up for a blessing. Wonderful to see 100 or more dogs and not a cross word between them or a lifted leg! Peata vets all the dogs for temperament and social interaction before they are accepted and obviously do a good job. It was especially good that some of the clients who have regular visits from Peata volunteers, both elderly and educationally disadvantaged were present for the service and enjoyed all that was happening.

After the service the friends of the cathedral served tea, coffee and mince pies, any crumbs were rapidly hoovered!! A wonderful occasion, truly the beginning of Christmas celebrations.

A big 'thank you' to everyone, especially the Dean, who made us all so welcome, and created an atmosphere that was truly worshipful.



Rev Janet with 5 miniature poodles at Christchurch Cathedral



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad. Did you know that God emailed the Ten Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

involved. A lovely feature now is the weekly (previously monthly) tea/coffee after the church service where people can just meet and mingle and this is so important that we can all connect in a less formal way after the formal liturgy to engage with one another. This again is effort on the part of some and the very generous gift of hospitality is appreciated and a service to one another. This will go a long way in building community.

In our Mountshannon part of the union of parishes Angus Levie our parish reader has been called to do duty every second week and it is great to know that there are capable lay people to call upon. Our ever faithful Grania Weir is taking it a bit easier these days after many years of faithful service, and always ready to fill in if needs be. All along the walkway to the church at Mountshannon the daffodils have pushed up through the grass and a sign that the seasons are a changing, and that warmer weather is on its way.

There is the planning now for the enthronement of +Kenneth at St Flannan's Cathedral on 7th March and another highlight for us to experience in the life of the diocese as he takes his seat in this part of the united dioceses. Modern bishops should maybe be enthroned into the seat of their cars as this is the seat they use mostly traversing the vast areas of the unified dioceses.

At St Flannan's is the World Day of Prayer on 6th March, Bishop Kenneth's Enthronement 7th March, GFS service and prize giving on 21st March. The diocese is again invited to the Mother Church of St Flannan's Cathedral on Mothering Sunday on 15th March at 4.00 pm. I trust you will all make an effort from across the Diocese to attend. We had it last year and at that service announced it would take place again this year.

As all our alleluias fall silent for Lent we trust this Lent will be a deep moving experience for us and that we can begin to realise that it is not about giving up the chocolate, or some other vice, so that we can feel good about our achievement and stroke our own ego. Lent calls of a letting go and letting God change us from within not by our own will but by the grace of God.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

SERVICE TIMES

In order to provide more flexibility for those leading worship, the Sunday service time for Birr will not change from 11:30 to 11:00 am at the end of March, as has been the pattern for several years. This will allow the Archdeacon or another priest to celebrate Holy Communion in both Lorrha and Birr on the same Sunday when necessary, with a Parish or Diocesan Reader leading worship in Dorrha or Lockeen. We may be able to change the time to 11:00 am later in the spring or summer, if circumstances permit. In the meantime, Sunday services in Birr will continue to start at 11:30 am.

PASTORAL

It is good to have Whitten Gill and Violet Harding home from hospital. At this writing, Barbara Haslam has just gone into hospital. We keep them, and all who are ill or infirm, in our prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Henry and Ann Gill, on the birth of Ava, their first grandchild, and to Dickie and Betty Delahun, on the birth of their grandson, Ewan. Congratulations, too, to Peter Whyte, whose Psalm setting was used by the choir of Christ Church Cathedral during the Sunday Eucharist on the 15th of February.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers, who continue to look after Christian education for our parish children on Sunday mornings in Birr. Thanks, too, to all who help with the Family Service – the parents, who help provide objects for 'Perplex the Preacher', and Sylvia Vaughn, who provides coffee and tea after the service.

PARISH MEETINGS

At this writing, the first of our two Parish Meetings on the future of the Rectory has been held. Many thanks to all who came.

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

Lenten services continue on Tuesday nights at 8:00 pm in Birr Church. Any changes to the schedule will be announced.

2015 HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, 29th March, Palm Sunday

Birr, 11:30 am, Group Family Service of Holy Eucharist

Monday, 30th March, Monday in Holy Week

Dorrha, 8:00 pm, Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, 31st March, Tuesday in Holy Week

Lorrha, 8:00 pm, Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, 1st April, Wednesday in Holy Week

Lockeen, 8:00 pm, Holy Eucharist

Thursday, 2nd April, Maundy Thursday

Birr, 8:00 pm, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, 3rd April, Good Friday

Birr, 12 noon, The Lord's Passion

Saturday, 4th April, Easter Vigil

Lorrha, 9:00 pm, New Fire, Easter Vigil & 1st Holy Eucharist of Easter

Sunday, 5th April Easter Day

Dorrha, 9:30 am, Holy Communion

Birr, 11:30 am, Holy Communion



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Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Rev Jane Galbraith

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Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Spring is doing its best to arrive! Praise be to God for our wonderful climate which brings us Spring and baby birds and plants and animals!

The Best Pancakes I have ever tasted were in Dingle Co. Kerry! However that record was matched with the Sixth Class in St.Cronan's Pancake Party Tuesday 17th which marked the launch of 'Count Your Blessings' Children's Version from Christian Aid for Lent. Adults, parents and grandparents can encourage those young in faith to keep this project going right through Lent. The wider parish may be in competition with the school as there is an adult version to challenge all of us too!

Congratulations to Linda Stanley, daughter of Keith and Marina, Linda recently announced her engagement to Mr. Nick Dawson of Bradford, England. We wish Linda and Nick every blessing as they prepare for their future together as wife and husband.

We offer our condolences to the Wallace family and particularly to Mrs. Vivienne Wallace on the death of her brother-in-law John Cox. John was laid to rest after service in Geashill. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

As one Kearon comes another Kieron goes! As we look forward to Bishop Kenneth's service of enthronement in St.Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe, March 7th, we extend our prayerful good wishes to Bishop Kieron O'Reilly as he moves to become the next Archbishop of Cashel. Also to Revd. Canon Stephen Neill to Nicola and Aaron on their recent move to Celbridge Union of Parishes.

We wish Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke and Patrick happy times and only as much business as they allow during their retirement and Marie's active ministry.

Thoughts too go to Archdeacon Wayne Carney who must be trying to remember how to live life as archdeacon again only and not as commissary. Hopefully the weighty matters on his shoulders are now able to be shared with our bishop and he can draw breath.

Mothers' Union Area Meeting in Aghancon. Thanks to their branch for hosting a wonderful talk by Catherine Finney on the conservation project for wading birds on the Shannon Callows. Preserving the bio diversity of our country is just so important at this time. It was great to hear of willing co-operation between all parties concerned.

Lenten Services: 'Finding God in Today's Challenges' on four Wednesdays beginning on Feb. 25th. continuing on March 11th, 18th, and 25th. All take place in the Methodist Church, The Mall; 8.00 till 9.00p.m., followed by refreshments. Sr.Fiona of 'Ascend' Domestic Abuse Services for Women will speak on Feb. 25th; wk 2 will be the turn of Revds. De Laureal and Galbraith; wk.3 Gillian Kingston a chaplain to U.C.D. and Fr. Tom Corbett will round off by preparing us for Holy Week. Expect hymns and other good music, Q&As and prayer. All round a special time of preparation. All are welcome.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

(subject to change please check nearer the time)

Wednesday Christ Church, Corbally Evening Prayer 8.00p.m.

Holy Thursday St.Burchin Bourney Holy Communion 8.00p.m.

Good Friday Ecumenical Procession of the Cross commences at 12.00 noon. Details to be arranged. Evening Prayer St. Cronan's 8.00p.m.

Easter Day Holy Communion Christ Church, St.Cronan's, St. Burchin's. Morning Prayer St.Molua'a Kyle.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templeberry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green

Tel: 062 79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Diocesan Readers:

Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc_sanders@iol.ie

Audrey Clarke Gordon 087 742 8901

audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

SERVICES

St Mary's Nenagh: 11am 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Family Service) & 4th Sundays

Templeberry: 9.30am 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

5th Sundays 11am United Service, rotating between churches

During the vacancy we hope to continue the regular schedule of Sunday worship in all three churches, though which will be Holy Communion will depend on the availability of an ordained priest. Details will be circulated locally in Grapevine.

Bishop Kenneth will preside at a United Eucharist on Palm Sunday 29th March at 11am in St Mary's Nenagh – we hope as many as possible will be present to meet our new Bishop.

FAREWELL TO CANON MARIE

Canon Marie has accomplished a lot in her nearly 10 years with us. All of that was visible for our farewell to her and Patrick at a United Communion service on Candlemas Day, 1st February as group after group presented her with tokens of their affection and sorrow at her leaving. Gifts were received from the Select Vestry, Boys' Brigade,



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Girls' Friendly Society, Junior Choir and Senior Choir. The Select Vestry presented Patrick with a fork and spade, made in Ireland for that tough Irish soil we all have to deal with in the garden.

After the farewell service, we had a well-attended, enjoyable lunch at the Thatch in Ballycommon.

A separate presentation was held at the school with gifts from the Board of Management, the Parents' Association and the National School. Some of the children planted bulbs in pots and while Canon Marie waits for the bulbs to appear, the children made flowers with their names on them.

We will miss her, Patrick and daughter Róisín and wish them the very best in whatever the future may bring.



Canon Marie receiving a portrait of St Mary's Church by award winning Nenagh photographer Pádraig Ó Flannabhra



Canon Marie with Gifts from St Mary's No2 National School



Patrick Rowley-Brooke all set for digging

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to the Powell family on the death of Robert John "Jack" Powell MRCVS, at the age of 101. Very large congregations attended his funeral service conducted by Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke in St Mary's church Nenagh on 13th February and the reception of the coffin the night before. Burial followed in the family plot in Toomevara Church of Ireland graveyard.

The longest-serving veterinary surgeon in Europe, Jack retired in 2011 after more than 75 years of practice, for which he was presented with a medal by President McAleese. Well-known and much respected locally, he continued to drive until shortly before his death, last renewing his licence in September 2014, and he read lessons in St Mary's Nenagh into his 101st year.

CENTERING PRAYER

Although there will be no Lent course in the parish this year, we have received a gracious invitation to join with our Roman Catholic neighbours in a programme of Centering Prayer as taught by Cistercian Thomas Keating.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

On Maundy Thursday 2nd April there will be a service of Holy Communion with foot-washing in St Mary's Nenagh at 8pm.

On Good Friday 3rd April the Three Hour vigil will be kept in St Mary's 12noon-3pm. As in previous years we will also join in 'Walks of Witness' in Nenagh and Templederry with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other traditions – these are lovely community events, and we look forward to the usual good turnouts.

On Easter Day 5th April there will be services of Holy Communion in all three churches at the usual times.

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Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Vacant

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Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

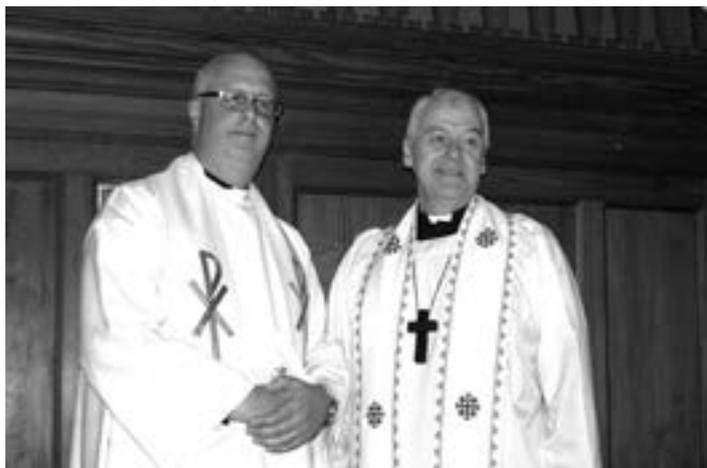
FROM STEPHEN

I write this message in the wake of two very moving events. The first was my Farewell Service and Presentation on Sunday 18th January and the second my Institution service in Celbridge on Thursday 12th February. The turnout at my farewell was truly overwhelming and the service organised by my colleagues in ministry, Pearl, Valerie and John was hugely appreciated. I was also bowled over by the generosity of the various presentations and want to thank you all for your gifts and such kind words. Nicola and Aaron too were delighted with their thoughtful gifts. It was a very good end to a very happy chapter in my ministry and in the life of our family.

It was equally moving to see how many of you from the parish made the trip up to Celbridge for the Institution - It was as I said on the night a wonderful handover as you accompanied us every step of the way into a new home and parish. It meant so much to be among so many good friends. The kind words spoken by Eileen Armitage at the Institution will take some living up to and I hope and pray that my new parish will be as patient and understanding as you were with me. Thank you and may God bless you.

Your former rector but still your friend.

Stephen



Rev Stephen & Archbishop Michael Jackson at the Institution

INSTITUTION IN CELBRIDGE

The Group of Parishes was very well represented at Stephen's service of Institution on the 12th February. It was a wonderful occasion with support from his colleagues in the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and from friends and dignitaries alike from Celbridge, Straffan with Newcastle-Lyons. The Bishop of Cork preached a down-to-earth sermon on the realities of ministry where magic will not be a cure-all! The Archbishop of Dublin conferred the rights and responsibilities on Stephen. Mrs. Eileen Armitage made a very good contribution to the speeches, giving a report on how well Stephen cared for these parishes; people and property and wishing him well in this next phase of his ministry. The very best wishes of all are given to Stephen, Nicola and Aaron in the years ahead.

THE INTERREGNUM

May I say that it's a sincere pleasure to be back with you again in Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes. My role is slightly different this time in that, like so many others, I will miss having Stephen's support. However, the kindness of so many has already made me realise just how much is going on quietly and keeping the wheels turning!

CONFIRMATION

If there any candidates for confirmation this year, perhaps they would let the Revd. Ruth know by the 2nd March please?

PASTORAL

Sincere sympathy is extended to parishioners who have been bereaved recently. To the relatives and friends of the late Jack Powell, MRCVS, Nenagh, to the relatives and friends of the late John Cox, Killeigh and also of the late Betty Stanley, (née Delahunt) Thurles and originally from Ballingarry. Betty's funeral service was held in Borrisokane on the 13th February with burial afterwards in the local cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Bob and daughter Pearl and Bob is wished a speedy recovery from a chest infection.

EVENTS IN MARCH

The World Day of Prayer will be held in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on Friday 6th March at 8.15 p.m. Thanks to Heather Perse and to the Revd. Denis and Lesley Sandes for their help.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY will be observed on the 17th March with a service of Holy Communion at 8 p.m. in Borrisokane.

PALM SUNDAY

This year Palm Sunday falls on the fifth Sunday of the month. There will be two services: Borrisokane at 10.15 a.m., and Cloughjordan at 11.30 a.m. These will both be a service of the word.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

It has been the practice for some years for the Methodist and the Church of Ireland congregations to come together for the Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion. This year it will be held on the 2nd April in the Church of Ireland at 8 p.m.

Good Friday

The annual Ecumenical Way of the Cross will take place in Cloughjordan starting at 6.30 p.m. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Wayne Carney

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

We welcome Archdeacon Wayne Carney as priest in charge of the parish, as we wish Canon Marie an enjoyable and, at least at first! a restful retirement.

Please continue to keep our rector Canon Michael and his family in your prayers, that his recovery is progressing and that he will soon be fit and able to resume his pastoral care of us all.

We are delighted that our Bishop Kenneth has now been enthroned in Limerick Cathedral in a very happy and uplifting ceremony. It was a proud moment for the Mothers' Union and our branch that Mrs Ina Blackwell, as Diocesan President, with Mrs Lucy Kavanagh from Limerick City Parish presented the Bread and Wine during the service. We look forward to seeing Bishop Kenneth in our parish in due course.

With that in mind - if anyone is thinking about confirmation this year, please make yourselves known to Archdeacon Wayne.

Lent began on Wednesday 18th February with a service of Holy Communion in Shinrone. There will be no mid-week Lenten services in the group, but it is hoped people will join with Birr or Roscrea. On Tuesday nights at 8pm, Birr will host a short informal worship service, with teaching about 'faith'. Roscrea are sharing a series of lectures from 8-9pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday evenings, with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is very welcome to join

either or both these Lenten services. The Ash Wednesday collect is special. In the old Book of Common Prayer it was to be said 'daily' during Lent. Sometimes the 'old ways' are 'good ways'.

Special thanks to Jean Talbot, our Diocesan Lay Reader and to Derek and Amanda Grant who have been conducting the United Services of Morning Prayer. Your help and support is much appreciated. Also thanks to Myrtle and Andrew Armstrong who hosted the Holy Communion service unexpectedly, one very frosty morning when the key to Kinnitty Church could not be located. Myrtle, your house was as warm as your hospitality.

Our sincere sympathy to Michael Taylor on the death of his wife Marion (Mitch), and to their son Aylemer. Mitch grew up in Aghancon and it was here that her funeral took place, attended by a very large congregation. The family live in Rathkeale, so their friend and previous rector, Very Reverend Patrick Towers conducted the service, with Reverend Dr Keith Scott and Reverend Janet assisting. Fr Michael O'Meara from Kinnitty was also in attendance. Our sympathy to all who are saddened by her death especially her uncle Robbie Ardill.

The Mothers' Union held a meeting in Aghancon Hall on 4th February when Ms Katherine Finney who works for Birdwatch Ireland, showed slides and spoke on Wildlife in the Callows along the Shannon mainly from Athlone to Lough Derg. It was very interesting to hear how wildlife has returned to the area since it has been conserved and developed in recent years, it was great to have some members from Roscrea, Birr and Cloughjordan. An evening which several people (including myself!) now wish they had not missed!

A good crowd attended Mothers' Union meal in Parkers Restaurant in Riverstown at the end of January. An excellent meal created an enjoyable social outing.

Social Dancing and Whist in Aghancon Hal - continue with good attendances on the 4th Wednesdays and 3rd Thursdays of each month respectfully,

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Parishioners are invited to share over Lent in the Christian Aid Count Your Blessings 2015 Programme. It is a beautiful invitation to pray and act with the women of Ethiopia through Lenten Pilgrimage and Self Denial. Here bite-size reflections to inspire come from these fellow Christians while we transform our lives and theirs with generous and manageable support from our own limited resources.

We have been supporting the US agency Luyengo Farm project (and hopefully will continue to follow Swaziland being given new hope through the farm).

Our parish readers will form the core of the study fellowship on Wednesday evenings in Lent (St Columba's 7.30pm). Issues at the heart of our Faith as Christians and Anglicans will be explored for ALL interested worshippers, and thus won't be too 'high fallutin'!

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Thanks to parishioners who supported the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the shared Liturgy in Ennis Cathedral. Great to have African Pentecostal brethren taking part.

One is reminded that Bishop Kieran O'Reilly after three short years moves sideways to the Archbishopric of Cashel. We thank him for his courtesies to us, including his hosting of a Pilgrimage to Iniscaltra (Bishop Trevor attended also) during the Eucharistic Year and his Talk at a Christian Unity Prayer Breakfast in St Columba's. We pray blessings on his new ministry from Cashel.

BEREAVEMENT

Drumcliffe parishioner Francis Okeyenbolour prepares in the near future to fly home to his native Nigeria for the burial of his father. We assure Francis and his wife Blessed and children of our prayers at this sad time.

The ashes of Mrs Kitty Craig, a former caretaker at Kilnasoolagh, were committed into a family grave there by the Rector, following a previous funeral service in her accustomed parish of Limerick City.

SICK

Mrs Mamie Counihan, mother of parishioner Ms Caroline Counihan and wife of late Ennis Town Doctor and parish friend Dr Frank Counihan, continues to struggle in Cahercalla Nursing Home following her fall before Christmas. We remember her and Mrs Anna McCrum, 99, in Cahercalla.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Congratulations to our parish reader Edwin Bailey who continues his interest in Audio Visual creation with success at the NIPA (Northern Ireland Photographic Association) Audio Visual Championships held on the 13th and 14th of February in Newtownabbey Co. Down.

Since his retirement from Aer Rianta in 2007, Edwin has used some of his spare time to make Audio Visuals, that is using still photography with music and voice over to create an interesting sequence on any subject that takes your fancy. This time his winning sequence was titled 'Winter Reflection' which is a look at some beautiful frosty landscapes and how the robin copes in such conditions. The voice over is a poem specially written by Edwin for the sequence.

Out of a total of 40 entries this year, it won 3rd place. He also entered a sequence titled 'Stained Images' which tells the story of Ireland's famous and creative stained glass artist Harry Clarke. This sequence was highly commended at the NIPA championships. It won gold in the advanced section and the audience vote at the IPF (Irish Photographic Federation) Audio Visual Championships in Dublin last October. Edwin runs Audio Visual Workshops in association with Shannon Camera Club in the Oakwood Arms Hotel, Shannon, in spring and autumn beginning this year on the 26th March. If interested contact Edwin at 061-368373.

WINTER

Winter days are with us	Scratching icy ground.
And frost has bitten through,	When blustering night winds howl
Trees that sway in gusting winds	And tremble round the gate,
Now robed in silver hue.	Where can poor robin shelter
Standing bold in silhouette	But underneath the slate.
Against the azure sky,	For him the garden folly
Branches bowed and curved with frost	Silent as the dawn,
Like frozen cobwebs, high.	Bestowing calm from winters harm
Through the branches sunlight filters	'Till chilly night has gone.
Reflecting in the lake,	And in the cold of morning
Where bush and reed in still respite	He flits above the hedge,
Are sheltering duck and drake.	Seeking out a hip or haw
On the lonely hidden ways	Or crumbs upon a ledge.
The ice rimmed water crushed,	If winter skies are thick with stars
Where wild fowl feed amidst the marsh	and frost is in the air,
When all is still and hushed.	Then scatter on your window sill
And what about the robin	Some tasty robin fare.
Whistling in the wind,	Edwin Bailey
With plumed out feathers brown and red	

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Vacant

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Maurice Sirr,

Tel: (061) 277372. Mob: (087) 2541121

Email: msirr@iol.ie

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

BEREAVEMENT

Our Sincere sympathy to Irene Weily and family on the death of her brother Ivan Buckley after an illness. We remember also Ivan's mother Jenny Buckley and all the extended family in their time of loss.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Thanks to Claire Besnyoe for organizing a lovely service for Christian Unity in the Carmelite Convent Loughrea. The service was led by Bishop John Kirby and the preacher was Fr. Ray Sweeney from Ballymacward. Our parishes were well represented and both Vera Harte and Robert Cooke took part in the prayers of Intersession. A cuppa was enjoyed by all afterwards which was kindly provided by the Carmelite Nuns.

NEW BISHOP

Our Parishes were represented both in Christchurch at the Bishop's consecration and in Limerick at his enthronement. On Sunday the 15th February the congregation of St John's, Ballinasloe and Holy Trinity Aughrim were delighted to welcome Bishop Kenneth on what was his first parish visit within the diocese. It was nice to see the churches with so many parishioners attending. During his sermon Bishop Kenneth talked about the Christian values of love and marriage drawing from the life of St Valentine. He also offered his sympathies to the parishioners on the loss of Canon George Flynn and his appreciation of all that he had achieved during his ministry. Bishop Kenneth joined the parishioners in Gullane's Hotel for a buffet lunch and a "meet and greet" time to allow us to get to know him and he us. At the beginning of the buffet, Robert Cooke welcomed the Bishop on behalf of the Ballinasloe/Ahascragh Union and the Aughrim Union of Parishes and Bishop Kenneth, at the end of the meal thanked all who had turned out to meet him and said how much he had enjoyed his first visit.



Bishop Kenneth visits Ballinasloe & Aughrim.

ARDRAHAN

With the 'stretch in the evenings' and the unusually better February weather, it is encouraging and heartening to see the number of lambs in the fields, a sure sign that Spring is here!

Studying times: we send our best wishes to any of our young people who are studying for their Leaving or Junior certificates. Our hopes and prayers are with them as they take their next steps on their educational journey.

Congratulations to one of our most senior citizens – Mrs Kitty Sides – who celebrated her 93rd birthday early in February. With members of her family and some friends around her she enjoyed the celebrations. May she have more 'happy birthdays'!

Like other churches in our group and (further afield) we are struggling to keep our two services going on a regular basis. Our lay readers – some of whom also cover our Sunday school – are finding it increasingly difficult to commit to two Sundays a month. Hopefully the situation will be resolved in the not too distant future when we will be able to enjoy Holy Communion again. We look forward to welcoming our Bishop as he begins his ministry in this area.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Rector: The Rev. Alan Nevin

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

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

Email: towers@iol.ie

PURIFICATION, CHURCHING & THANKSGIVING

Let me race into the really cheering news: within the octave of "The Purification of St Mary the Virgin Mary" the congregation of St Paul's Banagher liturgically leap-frogged over the 1662 Prayer Book Service for "The Churching of Women" and went at great speed to the 2004 Book of Common Prayer's "Thanksgiving after the Birth of a Child".

TWINS

My arrival at St Paul's that Sunday morning was delayed on account of the fog in north Tipperary. I was greeted with the news that Liga O'Neill had arrived at the church with her newly born twins. Father of the girls had arrived carrying Samantha with his wife carrying her daughter Olivia. This was a complete and delightful surprise for all of us.

A percipient churchwarden had the modern BCP Book service at hand on Page 402, ready for me to lead the congregation in giving great thanks for the safe delivery of two such adorable little children and look forward to their eventual baptism. What can a rushing cleric do without such churchwardenly help?

WOLF HALL

For those into liturgy or history or Wolf Hall the 1549 Prayer Book entitled that service as "The Order of the Purification of Women". 'Purification' was too much for the puritans so the neutral form of 'Churching' was preferred by 1662. Now both 'Churching' and 'Purification' have given way to the more modern 'Thanksgiving'.

BISHOP'S ENTHRONEMENT

Of course there was other cheering news of rites of passage. Our new Bishop, following upon his Consecration in Christchurch Cathedral Dublin, was installed as Bishop of the United Dioceses in Limerick Cathedral. The Bishop preached: beginning and ending his sermon with a reference to candles. Most appropriate I thought bearing in mind that we were within the octave of Candlemas. Bishop Kenneth did talk substantially about our identity (or was it identities?)

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061-302038 Mob: 085-1450804

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest sympathy to the Craig family on the death of Kathleen Craig, who died on 29th of January;

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Lindsay and Roland Boyle who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 3rd of February and to Mabel O'Toole who celebrated her 100th birthday on the 7th March.

ST MICHAEL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be Sunday School in St. Michael's Church on the first two Sundays of the month for primary school children. We ask parents to bring the children into church for the opening hymn and greeting; and don't forget there is a Family Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month in St Michael's also. You are very welcome, so do join us and stay for refreshments after the service.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL TO RENT

If anyone knows someone looking for or interested in renting the Church hall – please contact Susi Eckhardt on 087-707 5880.

LECTERN FOR ST. MICHAEL'S SIDE CHAPEL

The clergy would greatly appreciate it if anyone would like to donate a lectern and a lectern Bible (possibly in memory of a loved one) for use at services in the St. Michael's side chapel. These items would greatly assist and enhance the worship of St. Michael's, and enable members of the congregation to read at these services. (Families could share the cost).

MANY THANKS

...to all in Limerick City Parish who made the Enthronement Bishop Kenneth Kearon on the 7th of February such a splendid occasion. The Bishop was delighted with the whole day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 6th March at 7pm. The service has been prepared by the women of the Bahamas.

THE HEALING SERVICE is held on alternate months in St Mary's Cathedral – this service of Holy Communion offers the offer of laying on of hands, and of anointing; and don't forget that you can come forward on behalf of someone else for healing, as well as for yourself. Next one is on Sunday 8th of March.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH WHIST DRIVES

Sat 14th March (RAFFLE) – St. Michael's Church

Sat 21st March – Villiers Square

All Whist drives start at 7.30pm sharp. Admission including supper €6. We welcome your support.

TEAM LIMERICK CLEAN-UP (TLC) 2015

On Good Friday morning next (April 3rd), a major clean-up operation is being organised throughout Limerick City and County. This initiative is being sponsored by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and supported by Paul O'Connell of Munster Rugby and Ireland fame.

The event co-ordinators, Limerick City and County Council would like as many people as possible to volunteer and get out on the day for a few hours to collect and bag litter in an area of your choice – there may be a group already registered in your area. Or, in the case of St. Michael's Church, there is already a very active local residents group who meet every Saturday and Sunday morning. They would be delighted to have support from the congregation (please contact Colin Marsden on 086-8173030 if you would like to help that group). For further information or to register a group and receive information packs and clean-up kits either phone 061-496200 or email tlc@limerick.ie. More information is available on www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie

Colin Marsden writes: I would encourage all able-bodied persons, including children, to join up for this – it's only for a few hours and these events are very sociable and a great way to help your local environment. I'm sure you are all aware of the litter on the sides of the roads and in the ditches – sadly, the council do not provide sufficient resources to have it cleaned up regularly, so volunteers are needed – gloves, pickers and bags will be provided, so no excuses!

CONFIRMATION 2015 will take place in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 17th May at 11.15am. Dean Sandra and/or Rev. Edna would like to hear from those who might wish to think about Confirmation for themselves this year. Please contact the Dean or Rev. Edna for information and for an application form.



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 4th March
Moira Gray and Geoffrey Pratley (piano duet)
Music by Mozart, Dvorak and Ravel

Wednesday 11th March
Students from Villiers School
Leaving Certificate Students perform a varied programme

Wednesday 18th March
Helen Houlihan (soprano), Irina Dernova (piano)
Music by Haydn, Ravel, Quilter and Baroque composers

Wednesday 1st April
Peter Barley (organ)
Special recital for Holy Week – The Stations of the Cross (Alan Ridout)

Wednesday 15th April
Students from Mary Immaculate College

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

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND FLOWERS.

That's the name of the three-day celebration of the 700th anniversary of St. Nicholas Church, Adare. From May 22nd to May 24th, we will tell our 700-year story, and that of Adare Village, through floral arrangements displayed in the Church. A programme of music, poetry, flower demonstrations, a plant stall, and history tours will be available. Activities for the senior classes of the village's schools will be held in the week prior to the Festival.



The inside of Adare's former Augustinian Abbey, now St. Nicholas Church, celebrating its 700th anniversary this year.

St. Nicholas Church was originally an Augustinian monastery, founded in 1315 by John Fitzthomas Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare. It lay in ruins between the 1600s and early 1800s before being restored for the local Church of Ireland congregation. While changes were made, the atmosphere of the ancient monastic church remains. The Refectory is still used, now as a church hall, and the Cloisters are little changed from the covered arcades where monks once walked and studied.

Unfortunately disaster struck the Church building in February 2014 when it flooded and sustained significant damage to the roof during a period of extreme weather conditions. Our festival is to celebrate our 700 years but also to help raise the vital funds for repairs that have taken place so far.

The weekend will begin and end with celebratory services on Friday and Sunday evenings. The activities will be held throughout the days on Saturday and Sunday. A range of other activities will also be taking place in the village throughout the weekend in conjunction with the Festival.

The cost is €10 for admission, which includes tea/coffee and selections from a range of baked delights. For enquiries or group bookings, contact faithandflowers700@gmail.com. We also have a Facebook page called Festival of Faith and Flowers.

The Festival is the focus of St. Nicholas Church these days, but other things are happening. Most significantly, we have just started a confirmation class for a number of young people, and are looking forward to our confirmation service on 26th April, to be held at St. Nicholas.

The Group also has a new website! Additional pages will continue to be added, as the weeks go by, but for now the basics are there. It may be found at www.adarekilmallock.org.

Perhaps people don't generally "look forward" to Lent and Holy Week, but we have planned a full week of Holy Week services, with a service at one of the churches each evening, as has happened in recent years. They culminate with the Easter Vigil at 8.00pm in Kilmallock and Easter Sunday services at Croom, Kilpeacon, and Adare.

In the meantime, we wish to all a blessed and holy Lent.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

With Lent and Easter already upon us it is going to be a busy few weeks in our parishes. We begin March with the area World Day of Prayer service, held this year in Ballingrane Methodist Church at 8:00 p.m. on Friday 6th March.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and this year it so happens that Palm Sunday falls on the 5th Sunday in March. This will give us an opportunity to try out something a little bit different. The Rev'd William Olmstead, the Methodist Minister in Adare and Ballingrane will swap with Rev'd Keith for that Sunday. Rev'd William will become an Anglican and celebrate Palm Sunday in St. Mary's Askeaton at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday 29th March and Rev'd Keith will become a Methodist in Adare at the same time.

Holy Week Service will follow the usual pattern: Tuesday 31st March at 8:00 p.m. in St. Brendan's Tarbert, Wednesday 1st April at 8:00 p.m. in Castletown Church Kilcornan, Thursday 2nd April at 8:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Askeaton. Good Friday will see us walking the Way of the Cross as an act of common community witness to the reconciliation of Jesus in Rathkeale starting at 5:00 p.m. This will conclude with some brief prayers in Holy Trinity Rathkeale.

Easter Day services will start with the Liturgy of the Light at Castletown Kilcornan on Saturday 4th April at 10:00 p.m. and continue with celebrations of the Eucharist on Easter Day in Holy Trinity Rathkeale at 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's Askeaton at 10:30 a.m. and St. Brendan's at 12:00 noon.

We ended last month's notes with the sad news of the death of Marian (Mitch) Power. Mitch was a long time parishioner and an active and dedicated member of the team which cleaned and prepared St. Mary's Church for special events. She always had a special place in her heart for the Harvest. Our parish was deeply grieved when she was found dead in the Lucan area. We continue to remember her close family in our prayers. We also remember Lyn Scott, and the other members of her family, on the sudden and very unexpected death of her father in England.

In difficult times when we face grief and death we can only hold fast to the hope that we have in the Resurrection of Jesus which we celebrate at Easter. So we wish you all that deep joy which overcomes all sorrow and which itself is never overcome, the joy of Easter.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Archdeacon Susan Watterson,
Teach an tSolais, Ashe St, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 719 5416 Mob: 087 689 2025
Email: tralee@ireland.anglican.org

Searching the Scriptures

The series of Bible Studies led by Mr. Michael Culloty to be held on four Mondays in Lent will be themed under the heading of Searching the Scriptures and will be held in Teach an tSolais from 8 to 9pm, followed by a cup of tea

Mon.	2 Mar	Mary of Magdala:	Faithful Disciple
Mon.	9 Mar	Three Anonymous Women:	Suffering and Healing
Mon.	16 Mar	Mary of Bethany:	The Anointing of Love

Our Wednesday evening services continue throughout Lent at 8pm in Ballymacelligott Church.

The introductory meeting for this year's Confirmation classes will be held in Teach an tSolais at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 March. It will be necessary for at least one parent/guardian of each candidate to attend that initial meeting. The classes will then continue at the same time and place each Wednesday. The date for the Confirmation Service has not yet been received.

We are pleased to report that Archdeacon Sue is recovering well from her recent eye surgery although her vision will be slightly impaired for a few more days, which explains the brevity of this month's notes. We'll catch up next time.

Congratulations to Mr Michael Lynch the Principal of St John's Parochial School who has announced his decision to retire at the end of the school year. Thank you Michael for all you have achieved during your time in Tralee.

SUNDAY CLUBS

Our Sunday Clubs are back in business after their Christmas break. We are fortunate to have such enthusiastic little ones who are eager to learn about The Lord, and leaders who are so willing to give of their time and energy to teach them. Both Clubs are due for a treat and a chance for joint fellowship with a trip to movies! (A little R&R is good for all ages!) The clubs will meet at Tralee Omniplex at 11.45am on 1 March. Each child is asked to contribute €1 towards the cost of outing and, of course, to smuggle in their own "contraband" treats. Shhhhh!!! Further information, if you need it, is available from Ann in Ballymacelligott and Susan or Jane in Tralee.

DINGLE UNION NOTES

On Sunday 8 February we welcomed Diocesan Reader Barbara Buckley who preached in both Kilgobbin & St James' Churches. Barbara will be taking up residence in Kilgobbin Rectory for the duration of the vacancy, from where she will pursue the Foundation Course with the Church of Ireland College and assist Archdeacon Sue with services and pastoral ministry in the West.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997
Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

LENT:

Lent has always been a time for reflection, so spiritually we need to put ourselves in a different "space" in order to understand what Jesus suffered for us and why, as Christians, Good Friday and Easter day are so important. After His baptism Jesus was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit to fast for 40 days and forty nights and to be tempted by the devil. Whereas we Christians don't need to go into the desert, we do need to take the time to consider where we are at, both as individuals and as a society.

BIBLE STUDY:

Throughout Lent Rev. Simon will host a series of reflections at 7 pm for a one hour session of developing and experiencing the power of the prayer of silence. This is followed by a second one hour study session on the theme of The Disciplined Disciple. This really seems a "must" for all of us because it is a study of The Epistle of the Hebrews and it is envisaged as a support group for those taking a disciplined approach to Lent.

BOOK CLUB:

At the time of writing a book has been selected for the inaugural meeting of the Book Club at Randles Court Hotel – ironically, the Old C.O.I. Rectory – but for the life of me I cannot think of what the name of it is or the author(ess)! Apologies for not checking, but I'm out of my sick bed writing these notes and if Fiona catches me that'll be the end of both me and the Book Club! At any rate, Book Club meets (reading@randles) on the first Sunday of the month between 7:30 & 9 pm.

WELCOMING OUR NEW BISHOP:

On Saturday February 7th eight parishioners from St Mary's travelled to Limerick for the Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth and for those of us who didn't know him before it was a delight to be in the presence

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 - 414967
FAX: 061 - 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

of such a warm, hospitable man. Jennifer, Kenneth's wife covered a lot of ground as well on the day and we hope that they will both settle in fairly quickly and we have no doubt they're well able for the challenges ahead. It is hoped that they will come amongst us at our St Mary's to witness and advise us on our unique ongoing Ministry to visitors to the other "Kingdom"!

BACK TO WILDERNESS:

It is hoped – weather permitting – that we will have the first outing of the year completed on Sunday February 22nd when we do a relatively short walk in one of the last wilderness areas of Killarney National Park. The walk, which will take 2.5 – 3 hours to complete is off-road, off-track, actually off any semblance of man-made structure at all. It should have commenced at 1 pm after Holy Communion, but should the walk have been cancelled on the 22nd, it will go ahead in the very near future.

The idea behind the wilderness walk is to get people into the wilds to appreciate our place in nature and the environment and to make sense of our modern world. This will be done through a mixture of discussion on the geology of the area and the effect of climate change on some of the species we will encounter. Amongst them will be Peregrine falcon, Tree-creeper, Jay, Snipe, Red grouse, alongside some of the more familiar garden birds. Animals will be feral goats, red deer, and foxes. From a flora perspective the highlight will be some unique tree species including two hollies over 26 m. in circumference and a single oak overshadowing almost a full acre of land. We'll also see a lot of carnivorous plants as they awaken for a new season of meat eating – I kid you not!

The walk is only for those with a good standard of fitness and a willingness for one minor scramble. Boots, rather than wellingtons are advised for all of our off-road walks and this one is certainly not suitable for children under 12 years of age..

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

Email: stephens.j@temmler.eu or stiofain.s@gmail.com

SERVICES

Kiltallagh 9.45 am Except the first Sunday at 7pm Holy Communion

HC 1st & 4th

MP 2 nd & 3rd

Kilorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2st & 4 rd

MP 1 st & 3 rd

BISHOP'S VISIT:

Bishop Kenneth will visit the parish on Sunday morning the 1st March, He will celebrate the Holy Communion and preach in both Kiltallagh and Killorglin churches.

There won't be an evening service in Kiltallagh on that Sunday. We are very much looking forward to his visit and we wish him well as he begins his ministry amongst us,

CONFIRMATION:

We have been given a date for confirmation. At the moment we have six candidates for and the service which will be held in St Michael's Church on the 21st June. Classes will begin in March.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Lent began with a service in Kiltallagh Church on Ash Wednesday. Many thanks to the staff and students who worked so hard and put so much into the service.

MOTHERING SUNDAY.

A family service will be held in Killorglin on Mothers' Day as we celebrate motherhood and as we give thanks for our mothers and all that they mean to us.

MOIRA SCOTT:

Moira passed away in her 93rd year after a short illness, she died in her own home at West Ridge, Caragh Lake. Her funeral service was held in St Mary's Church Killarney on the 26th January. Moira was the wife of the late John Scott, former organist in the old church in Killorglin. We extend our sympathy to her daughters, Linda and Elizabeth and to her sons, James, Johnny and Michael and her grandchildren and great grand children,

LENTEN SERVICES:

It is hoped to continue evening prayer in Killorglin on Tuesdays at 8pm, A short discussion on selected biblical texts will be part of these devotions.

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

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

Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

KENYA BUILD – A BRIEF UPDATE ON PROGRESS.

Several of us sponsor a child in the orphanage, Cheryl's Children's Home, in the slums of Nairobi. Cheryl's takes in abandoned, lost, bereft, sick children off the streets; most have very sad backgrounds. There are now two more orphanages run by Kenya Build: the Dream Children's Home in the Ngong Hills, and St Paul's Children's Home in Blixen. Both are in the beautiful hill country made known to us in the writing of 'Out of Africa' Isak Dinesen aka Karen Blixen.

In addition we support Dominic Odanga, a student brought up in the Orphanage, who is now at 3rd level in Catering College. Dominic is currently on a 4-month placement in a 5 star Mombasa hotel and loving it – what a change in the life of a former street child with no hope of a future.

Of course, we need to continue raising funds to continue to support Dominic once he completes his course – and maybe we can also help another young person through a similar educational programme. To start us off, Snoo Sinclair, our formidable Diocesan Reader, raised €320 towards the fund by selling signed copies of her thriller 'Green Death'. See also below!

Dominic's own words form the real basis for our thoughts. I quote: *Hallo everyone again I believe you all are moving on well, I apologize for taking long in writing to you I was unwell and admitted in hospital but now am feeling better after the school covered hospital bills. I am so grateful that uncle jemo, Michael, Louise, Stephen, Marjorie and mum Yvonne you thought of me your kindness and all your investment am really happy also for the church the contribution of everyone to keep me going on and on with my career. You are amazing people that God brought on my way and you all have been a blessing in my life. You all, have been the force behind all my success and all that I have achieved so far. When I was told with the school about the internship and all its expenses I felt like I won't be able to join my colleagues*

to participate for the internship the reason being was expensive but I prayed to God and fortunately God favor was upon me and I remembered that, when rocks block your way and mountains make the going difficult remember a rock can be a stepping stone while a mountain gives the most perfect view walk with faith in your heart. Trust God in everything, and I believe in Him. Eventually I shared with uncle jemo the information about my work experience and uncle jemo assured me that it shall be well although he didn't have idea on how he will raise the amount for me but with God help there was a way for me and this goes to the church in kenmare thank you all so much for giving me a hand and all your deeds you have done for me God who is in heaven have watched that and He has kept a record for that. I am going to use every bit of my strength to tackle any obstacles that may come on may as a challenge in future and I believe it shall be well. Thank you all for your good kind gesture. May God blessing be with you all.

A bear, however hard he tries



Grows tubby without exercise...

So do Rectors, and, bearing an increasing resemblance to His Majesty the King of France, Michael has decided to embark upon a sponsored 'Lose weight for Lent' exercise, with the proceeds going to Kenya Build. Sponsor forms at the back of church or email to michael.cavanagh@eircom.net.

** those familiar with the reference will know that there is a degree of vanity rather than humility attached to the similarity, which those familiar with the Rector will not find surprising... (Mrs. C.)*

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Bill Olmsted
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396236
Email: william@olmsteds.net

We have had a wonderful Epiphany. We were in charge of the ecumenical service in Charleville and enjoyed a great time of Praise.

There was a well attended week of Prayer for Christian unity with Rector Keith Scott participating to mark our Covenant with the Church of Ireland.

We celebrated Communion on the 1st. and on the 7th the Church of Ireland Youth had a coffee morning and sale in the Adare Methodist Hall.

As Lent begins we will have a Bible Study on Wednesdays and look forward to Easter.

We welcome the new Church of Ireland Bishop to our town and pray for his ministry among us.

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We may have come to the end of the City of Culture year but Central Buildings will still wear the colours and continue to welcome all those who want to benefit the city. Whether that's through working in the community, the arts, education or faith or a mixture; we'll talk to anyone who wants to bless the city.

Through Business in the Community we were given a fantastic opportunity to engage with experts in KPMG on their Bright Ideas Project. A group of us connected with Central Buildings travelled up to Dublin to their rather smart offices just off St Stephen's Green to spend a day looking at the past, present and the future of Central Buildings Community Project. It was challenging, intense, highly enjoyable and very useful to be able to work with people so experienced in marketing, sustainability, fund raising and administration; great people, so willing to help, giving their time and expertise completely free of charge.

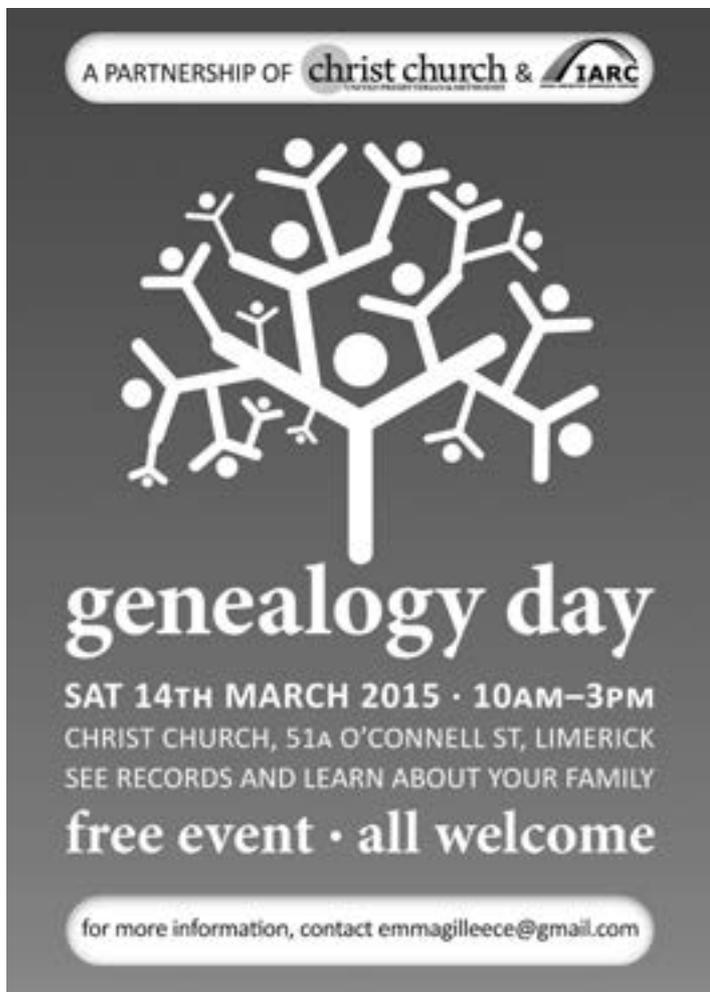


Bright Ideas Day at KPMG

Dr Peter Carroll of SAUL was one of our group. At the end of last year as part of their studies, Peter had brought his second year students to survey Central Buildings and Christ Church. The complex of buildings has an interesting history starting with Georgian walls at the back and ending with the Art Deco façade we can see on O'Connell Street. Peter has continued to work with us and will be collaborating with Emma Gilleece to hold an exhibition of the students' drawings and models in CB1 in March.

Following on from last year's 'Made in Limerick event' for City of Culture, Genealogy Day will be taking place again. Christ Church is partnering with the Irish Ancestry Research Centre (IARC). It will take place on Saturday 14 March during St Patrick's Weekend in Christ Church 51A O'Connell Street and it's completely free to attend. As with last year we're bringing together the historical church registers from several denominations in Limerick including Methodist, Presbyterian, the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland (Quaker) and the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon). Also on board so far are professional genealogical research services such

as Eneclann, Find my Past and Limerick Genealogy and institutional repositories such as Limerick Museum & Archives and the Special Collections of the University of Limerick. Local groups and societies have also been invited such as the Irish Georgian Society, the Thomond Archaeological & Historical Society. Each stand will have experts on hands with local genealogical advice with no need to pre-book. This is a rare opportunity to view original baptism and marriage records and this will be the only event of its kind taking place in the city this year.



We're also looking forward to welcoming LSAD. Students from the ceramics department will be displaying their work in the church from March 10th to March 13th.

New things are happening in CB2 as well and we'll keep you posted! Our day with KPMG gave us a lot of goals to achieve so we should be kept busy this year!

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
Youth Group Mondays 7.30 – 9pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch
Prayer group Wednesdays 7.30pm, CB2

SHANNON

Contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details

KILKEE

Sunday Service 11am

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613 Mob: 087-2745044

Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org

Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:

Ed & Jean Ritchie

Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney

Sunday Services. 9 and 11 a.m. (inc. Children's' programme at 11)

Prayer meetings. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 a. m. – 9.00 a. m.

Bible Study Meeting. Friday 10.00 a. m.

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

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

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

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

Sunday Service. 11a.m. (preceded by coffee)

(inc. Children's' programme)

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

Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.

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

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p. m. Meeting in "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

- Our meetings in Dingle for March are Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 29th March at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispolo on the 26th March at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 12th March 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, Craggeens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our March meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th March.
- "No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group meet on the last Monday of the month. The March meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th at 11am.
- Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Saturday 28th March.
- The film night is on Saturday 7th March at 7pm.

OTHER NEWS

On Sunday 1st March in Lurgan, Co. Armagh there is a special service to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Methodist Missionary Society Container Ministry. This wonderful ministry enables lots of useful items to be shipped out to partner churches around the world. Over the years people have benefited from everything from tractors to hospital beds to computers to name but a few. Often the Container itself ends up as a classroom or some other useful building in its new home as well.

On Saturday 22nd March the Midlands and Southern District Synod takes place in Limerick.

Our minister Laurence is now back from sabbatical and also back from a mission trip in Haiti. This was a wonderful time and Laurence would be happy to speak about it if invited.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808

Email: Shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

The season of Lent is one where we take time to reflect on our relationship with the risen Lord. Retired United Methodist Minister, John Winn, writes Lent is "a time of personal examination as to how we have kept our agreement to love." At the heart of this season is Love . . . for this is why God sent his Son to us and this is what Christ instructs us to do. In what ways have you kept your agreement to love God? And others as yourself? In what ways have you not kept that agreement? During this season of fasting and reflection, may we have courage to be honest with ourselves so that through confession and repentance we can deepen our love for God and for one another in thought, word, and deed.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

10:00am – Borrisokane

11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sundays

10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

11:45am – Roscrea

7:00pm – Shinrone

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES:

World Day of Prayer Service – All are invited to an ecumenical service on Friday 6th March at 8:15pm in the Methodist Church, Roscrea to observe this day of prayer where we focus on the needs of the world. Preachers' Meeting – Ordained Ministers and Local Preachers are invited to this quarterly gathering on Tuesday 10th March at 8pm in Portlaoise Methodist.

Circuit Irish Night – 17th March in Cloughjordan Methodist. All are invited to come for a night of food, music, and entertainment.

Ecumenical Lenten Talks: Finding God in Today's Challenges at 8pm in Roscrea Methodist:

Wed. Feb. 25th – Sr. Fiona of 'Ascend' Domestic Abuse Services for Women Nth. Tipperary.

Wed. March 11th – Revd. Shannon DeLaureal, Methodist Minister N. Tipperary Circuit and Revd. Jane Galbraith, Rector Roscrea Group of Parishes, Church of Ireland

Wed. March 18th – Mrs. Gillian Kingston Chaplain U.C.D.

Wed. March 25th – Fr. Tom Corbett, St. Cronan's, Abbey St.

FEATURING the interview style made popular last time, facilitated by Mr. Adrian Hewson. Also featuring music by members of the Community Choir, Dom Richard and Mr. John Armitage.

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME AS TOGETHER BEFORE GOD WE TAKE TIME OUT TO REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF GOD'S WORD FOR US IN A CHALLENGING WORLD

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 1 April at 8pm – worship service in Roscrea Methodist

Maundy Thursday 2 April at 8pm – United Service in Borrisokane's Col

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

Morning – Ecumenical procession through Roscrea

Afternoon – Ecumenical procession through Cloughjordan

8pm – worship service in Shinrone Methodist

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL – Service of Celebration & Holy Communion

10am – Borrisokane

11:30am – Cloughjordan

11:45am – Roscrea

Lenten blessings to all,
Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

CHRISTMAS QUIZ RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Annual Armchair Christmas Quiz, in aid of the Ebola appeal, via Christian Aid.

We had almost 200 entries this year, 2/3 of which were correct, making just over €800, thanks to the generosity of many people. Congratulations to the winners, and all those who entered. A big "Thank You" also to Newslink for finding space for the quiz at very short notice.

Rev Denis Sandes

PS: my apologies for misspelling Kohlrabi.

Here are the answers:

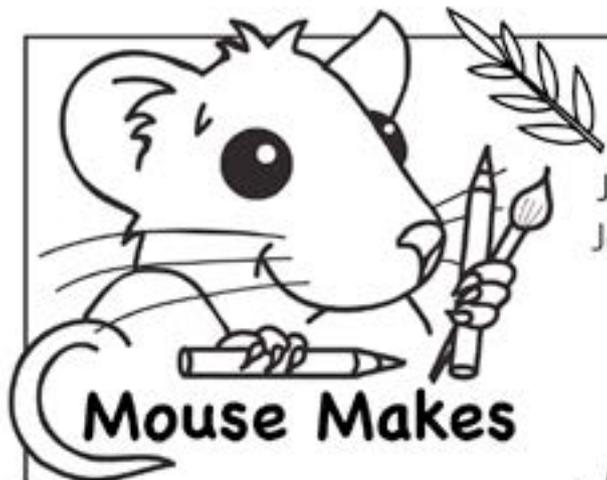
- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Sounds like it should be growing in the garden | FL O U R |
| 2. Could this be driven in the ground? | S T E A K |
| 3. You might do this to a block of wood | C H O P |
| 4. Sounds like it is from the Baltic! | S W E D E |
| 5. Far end of the Med | T U R K E Y |
| 6. Sounds dirtier, also in Med! | G R E A S E |
| 7. Is this fancy bird a complaint? | G R O U S E |
| 8. Red head | C A R R O T |
| 9. Eye black/Jewish Priest | K O H L R A B B I |
| 10. Could be underfoot | S O L E |
| 11. Skirt too long? You need to do this! | T U R N I P |
| 12. Could be farm animals | S T O C K |

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 13. Could be beet or cane | S U G A R |
| 14. Could be one of the wise men | S A G E |
| 15. Don't say stop! | S A G O |
| 16. Could be in the river or the wiring | C U R R A N T |
| 17. You couldn't cash this in: | D O U G H |
| 18. But you could cash in your | C H I P S |
| 19. Do C Bees live in these? | C H I V E S |
| 20. Would a goat do this to a lady? | B U T T E R |
| 21. Could be a female Muslim ruler: | S U L T A N A |
| 22. French little marrow | C O U R G E T T E |
| 23. Could be in a bone! | M A R R O W |
| 24. Sounds like the winner! | C H A M P |

Here is a list of this year's winners:

- 1st Hollie Talbot, Dangan Reagh, Roscrea.
2nd Joan Jackson, Borkle, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow.
3rd Ruth Colton, Shanrath, Athy.

Good tries by Malcolm Benson, Little Abingdon, Cambridge, and Robert Freeborn, Ardara, Co. Donegal, who were also rewarded with prizes.



Mouse Makes

Some believed Jesus was God's Saviour, the Messiah, but some did not.

What do you believe?

Read these stories from Mark's Gospel - 1:40-45, 4:35-41, 5:1-43 and 6:30-56

JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM AS KING
As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem they came to the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two disciples ahead of him and said "You will find a donkey and her colt, untie them and bring them to me."

A large crowd spread their coats and branches cut from the trees onto the road in front of Jesus and shouted:

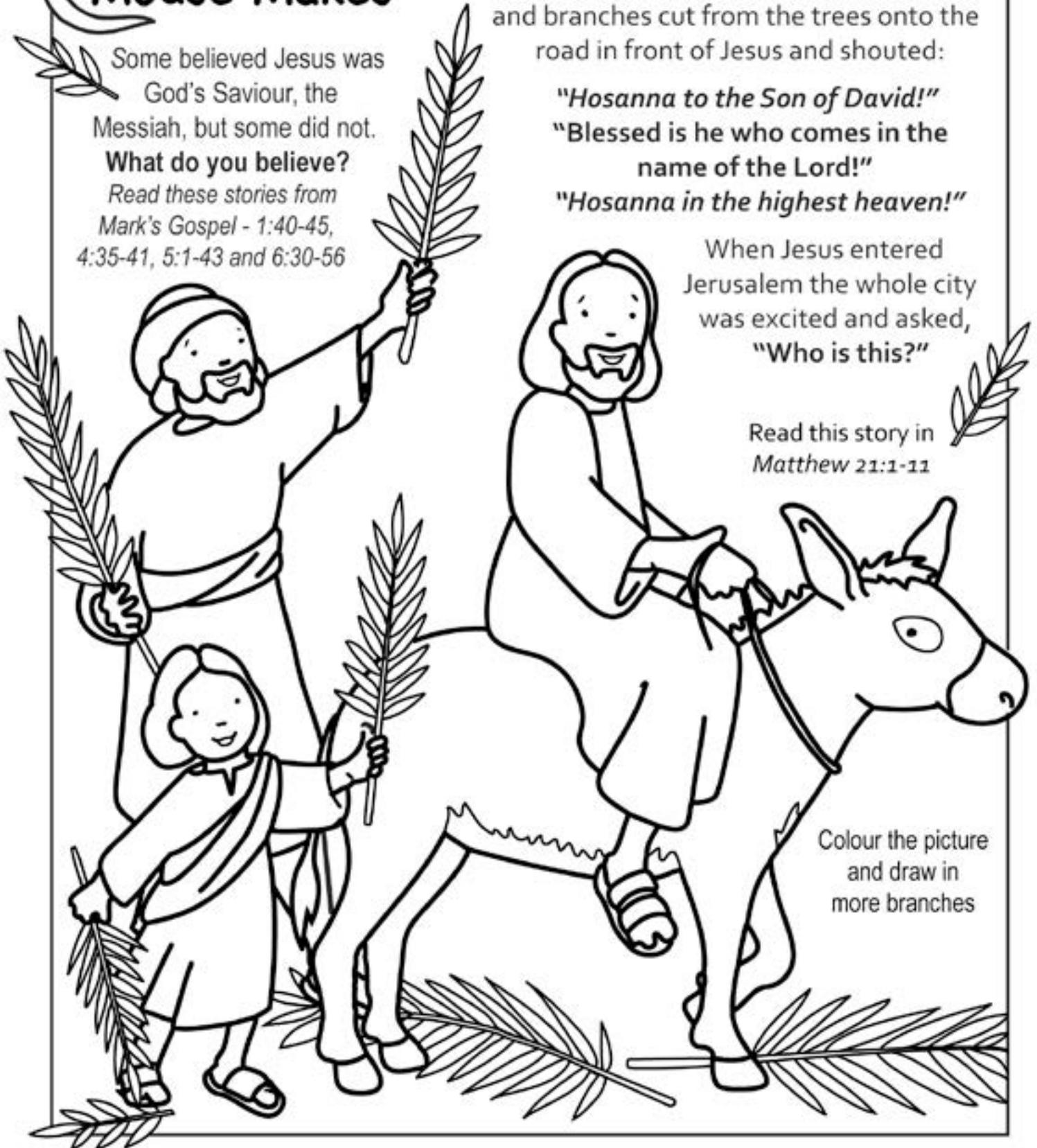
"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was excited and asked, "Who is this?"

Read this story in Matthew 21:1-11



Colour the picture and draw in more branches

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- *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.



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