



NEWSLINK

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

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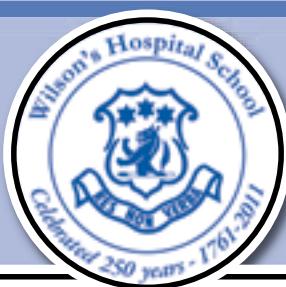


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The Principal,
Mrs Rosemary Maxwell-Eager,
BA(Mod), HDE, MEd.



Bishop Kenneth writes

I'm writing this on the day of the lunar eclipse. The sky has darkened, the birds are much quieter than usual, and animals have stopped moving in the fields. An awesome silence has fallen, and I've stopped what I'm doing to pause, to wonder.

Of course I knew it was coming. RTE has been talking about it all morning, and I understand the explanation. But to ancient peoples events such as these must have been terrifying experiences, a time when the laws of nature are being broken, deep darkness in the middle of the day. Their wise men would have sought answers in the skies, because for them the causes must lie outside the natural, beyond the earth; it must come from other worlds.

A great darkness fell over the earth on that first Good Friday, far greater than any lunar eclipse we have experienced, a sign for all alive at that time that something extraordinary, something awful, was happening. The small terrified group of disciples, however, did have an answer of sorts. They recognised that these strange happenings in the skies had to do with the death of their beloved Jesus, whose crucifixion they had just witnessed.

Holy Week has been described as the week of weeks – the most amazing week in human history, the week when salvation was made real. And so, beginning with Palm Sunday we will walk with Jesus and his disciples through each of the events – the triumphal crowds waving palm branches in procession to Jerusalem, the Temple and the money-changers, confrontation with the scribes and Pharisees,

arrest, trial and crucifixion. Through our Holy Week services and readings we will walk with those early disciples at a little distance from Jesus, frightened, yet admiring his courage, and wondering how it was all going to end.

Those early disciples didn't understand what an eclipse was, but we do; those early disciples didn't understand where the events of Holy Week and Good Friday were leading, but we do. Easter Day was the culmination of it all – triumph, victory, and a world redeemed by God.

I wish you all a holy and meaningful Holy Week, and joy in the victory of Easter!

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe
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Diocesan Calendar

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

Fri 10th – Sun 12th April: UDYC Taking a Leading Role, Clarecare, Lahinch (16+)

Thu 16th April, 8.15pm: Whist Drive, Aghancon Hall

Sat 18th 12 noon – Sun 19th 3pm, April: CIYD Connect Retreat Weekend, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

Sat 18th April, 7.30pm: UDYC Fellowship Group meeting, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick (secondary upwards)

Mon 20th April, 7.30–9pm: Mothers' Union Diocesan Council Meeting, Richmond Terrace, Limerick

Sat 25th April, 2.30pm: UDYC Annual General Meeting, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick

Sat 25th April, 7.30pm: UDYC Fellowship Group meeting, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick (secondary upwards)

Wed 29th April, 9.30pm–12.30am: Dance in Aghancon Hall

Thu 7th May, 8pm: Garden Chat with Lawlor's Florist and Garden Centre Durrow, Abbey Hall, Roscrea. Small entrance fee in aid of St. Cronan's Church Funds.

Sat 16th May, 11am–4pm: CIYD Connect Training Day, Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Sat 16th May, 7.30pm: UDYC Fellowship Group meeting, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick (secondary upwards)

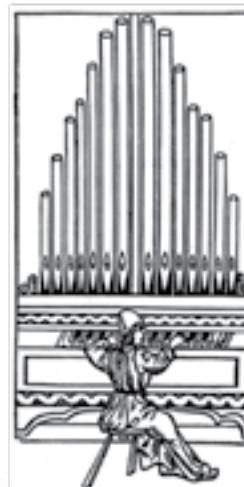
Sun 24th May, 3–4pm: Mothers' Union Diocesan Thanksgiving Service, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway

Thu 28th May, 7.30pm: Diocesan Council, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

Fri 29th May – Mon 1st June: Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, Muckross, Killarney (2014 & 2015 Confirmation Candidates)

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Editorial

Prayer at Gethsemane

On Palm Sunday you may have heard the long version of the Passion Gospel (Mark 14:1 – 15:47). Although very long – two whole chapters – it's good to hear the story of Christ's Passion from beginning to end, to better appreciate its enormity. If you did, you will have heard Jesus pray at Gethsemane:

'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet not what I want, but what you want.'

Jesus is distressed and agitated. He is certain he is doing the will of God, his loving Father. He knows what is likely to happen next – his execution as a dangerous agitator, perhaps the agonising death of crucifixion.

And he does not want to die – he is a man in the full strength and vigour of his early 30s. He loves life, he loves his friends, and he loves his ministry to those who need healing and forgiveness. So he prays to his loving Father for himself, that his death may be averted – *'remove this cup from me'*.

But that is only half his prayer. Even more important for Jesus than his own distress at the prospect of death is that his loving Father's will should be done. So he finishes his prayer with *'yet not what I want, but what you want'*.

This prayer of Jesus should be a model for our own prayers for ourselves, I think. When I desperately wish for something, it is right and proper to pray to God for it. If I cannot ask God for it, who can I ask? But I must never forget how much more important it is for God's will to be done, than for my wish to be granted. So I should always finish a prayer for myself with Jesus's words, *'yet not what I want, but what you want'*.

In the end, like Jesus, we must trust that our loving Father knows what is best for us.

St David's National School Naas/Naas No. 2 National School

Are you a past pupil/have a connection with this School?

Would you like a final chance to revisit the school building before it moves to its new location in September?

On 13 June 2015 we are celebrating 125 years.

The day will include a Service in St David's Church, followed by refreshments and an exhibition of memorabilia in the school.

If you would like to attend the celebrations and catch up with past class mates/friends please call the **School Office 045-874087** or e-mail stdavidsnationalschool@gmail.com.

We would love to see any photos/memorabilia that you may have from your time there and maybe could include some in our Exhibition.

Hopefully, we will see you on June 13th.

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emly, 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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Deadlines

The next issue will be for May 2015, published for Sunday 3rd May.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 17th April 2015 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2015

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

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2015

(unchanged from 2013)

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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

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Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - April 2015

Each Sunday

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

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

5th April, Resurrection of our Lord – Easter Day, White or Gold

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

12th April, Easter 2, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Nandyal, Church of South India, and Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpalalitha, Bishop of Nandyal

Diocese: Parish Treasurers throughout the Diocese, giving thanks for their service.

19th April, Easter 3, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Nebbi, Uganda, and Rt Revd Alphonse Watho-kudi, Bishop of Nebbi

Diocese: The AGM of the United Diocesan Youth Council on Saturday 25th April

26th April, Easter 4, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of New Jersey, The Episcopal Church, USA and Rt Revd William Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey

Diocese: The new Church and Glebe Wardens and Select Vestries of Parishes and Unions throughout the Diocese, giving thanks for the service of those retiring this year

3rd May, Easter 5, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Ngbo, Enugu, Nigeria and Rt Revd Christian Ebisike, Bishop of Ngbo

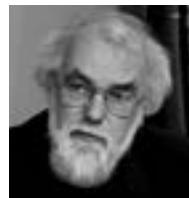
Diocese: Our Diocesan representatives attending General Synod in Armagh Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th May

A prayer for Vanuatu

Cyclone Pam struck the islands of Vanuatu and neighbouring islands in the Pacific with devastating force on 13 March 2015, ravaging many communities. The Melanesian Mission has asked us to pray for the victims and support relief efforts. Oxfam Ireland have staff on the ground in Vanuatu and have issued an emergency appeal for donations, which can be made through their web site www.oxfamireland.org.

Almighty God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
cradle in your loving arms the peoples of Vanuatu
and their neighbours affected by Cyclone Pam:
comfort the bereaved, strengthen the distressed
and uphold those reaching out across oceans
in support at this time of distress;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rowan Williams: a letter to a six-year-old



A six-year-old Scottish girl named Lulu wrote a letter to God: "To God, How did you get invented?" Lulu's father sent her letter to Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent the following letter in reply:

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

"Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected. Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – specially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I'm really like. But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!"

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off. I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan

In the midst of enemies

Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God. So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes. There is his commission, his work. 'The kingdom is to be in the midst of your enemies. And he who will not suffer this does not want to be of the Kingdom of Christ; he wants to be among friends, to sit among roses and lilies, not with the bad people but the devout people. O you blasphemers and betrayers of Christ! If Christ had done what you are doing who would ever have been spared' (Luther)."



- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

A View from the Pew – Surprise at Easter!

The 3rd in the series by Salters Sterling



EASTER IS HERE and surely the question must be does the theme of surprise continue to have meaning for us as we contemplate the work of God in the life of Jesus. For me the answer is most decidedly YES. Just think about it. The last hours of that tortured figure hanging on a cross and in the midst of agony, the continuing concern for others manifest in the advance welcome of his companion, the penitent thief, to paradise. His blessing of forgiveness on those who had crucified him..."Father

forgive them for they know not what they do". His provisioning for his mother and for the beloved John..."Mother, behold thy Son, Son behold thy Mother". And so little for himself..."I thirst"...."My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me"...."Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"....."It is being accomplished". Think about it for a moment. Are you not almost overwhelmed by surprise at this putting of others first in such circumstances? I am and I am every year. Nothing can ever diminish the impact of that degree of self-giving if we have any feeling or imagination.

And we must not forget that hasty burial, a borrowed tomb with Joseph of Arimathaea on hand to supply and Nicodemus at hand to help with the removal. Just as it would be here, the neighbours around to dig the grave. Not much surprise there you might say. You never know who will turn up at the removal.

Our imaginations need to take in the ordinary. The women weren't idle behind locked doors. They were getting on with the preparation of the spices and the other accompaniments of a proper burial in the Jewish tradition. It isn't obvious what the men were at but we can guess that it had to with the keeping of the Sabbath. And when all was ready and the dawn about to break the women are up and at it and out to the tomb. Did the ordinariness of it all ever surprise

you? And that ordinariness continues in the responses of the two Marys and possibly Salome when they discover that the stone is moved and the tomb empty. Who moved the stone? Who took the body? And where have they put it? They are looking for the answers among the works of men and that is the suggestion they make to Peter and John and the rest of the boys when they report their discovery. And ordinariness is signaled in the delightful comment that the younger John was faster on his feet than the older Peter.

And as the empty tomb is rediscovered by the group of men and women the ordinary begins to mix with the extraordinary. Folded grave clothes. A question to a gardener. A message from two messengers in radiant raiment. The penny begins to drop. Astonishment, surprise, fright and fear become the order of the day and how like us that is.

This pattern of ordinary moving into extraordinary is a feature of all the encounters with the Jesus whom God raised from the dead, to use the descriptive wording of the Acts of the Apostles.

It is the familiar Upper Room but a Jesus who comes through closed doors, a Jesus with the nail and spear wounds in his hands and feet and side, convincingly visible to Thomas.

A stranger joins up with two friends who share the latest news from Jerusalem with him and he places the events in their scriptural context. A friendship is established and an invitation to break bread together is extended and in the ordinary routine of sharing a meal the disclosure of the extraordinary occurs. The guest is Jesus.

A distant figure on a lake shore who gives an instruction to tired and disappointed fishermen which they obey. It is Jesus and he has breakfast almost ready when they bring him the fish and when it is cooked he serves them. For them he is the Lord.

In the ordinary he is the extraordinary. In the Emmaus house he is the Guest, by the lake shore he is the Host. And so it is for us today; be open to being surprised by him and you will have the greatest adventure beyond your wildest dreams. Stay with us - there is more to come. HAPPY EASTER.

What is the Diocesan Assessment?

When parishioners assemble for their annual Easter Vestry meetings one of the questions often raised is "What is this large expense in the accounts called Diocesan Assessment?"

Well, it's no mystery! In a nutshell, it reflects the cost of ministry to the Parish. It covers the clergy's salary, locomotory expenses, PRSI employer's contribution, pension contribution and any dignitary allowances. In addition it also includes the cost of our Diocesan Administration.

The key point to note is that our Diocese pools all these costs, the total of which is then charged to all the parishes in the Diocese, according to their head count. This means that the smaller parishes are not penalised because of their size.

Without getting too technical there are some adjustments charged to parishes who have certain investment income and credits are

given to those parishes who have had significant glebe expenditure.

For 2015 the basic assessment figure **per registered adult**, before any adjustment just mentioned above, has been determined at **€375**. While some will find this to be a lot of money, others will be able to do a bit more.

As mentioned above, this figure only reflects the cost of Ministry for each Parish. In addition money has to be found to cover all the other costs such as maintenance, heating, lighting etc. In many cases Parish budgets cannot be balanced without fundraising activities.

It is vitally important therefore, that Parishes make all their registered members aware of the cost the Parish has to pay in respect of their membership, whether or not they attend Church and contribute regularly.

The Marriage Referendum from Bishop Kenneth Kearon

We are all aware of the transformation in attitudes to same-sex relationships which has happened in recent years throughout Western Society. Up to quite recently our unwillingness to understand and to acknowledge that some are gay or lesbian meant that many lived lives of quiet suffering, loneliness, and fear of being 'discovered'. Today society is much more open and willing to acknowledge gay and lesbian people as friends, work colleagues and members of our families, and this is to be welcomed.

Changes in attitudes often lead to requests for structural or institutional change in society, and so in many western countries there are demands for changes in the law, including laws governing marriage, to enable same-sex couples enter into marriage in the same way that heterosexual couples have always been able to. That's what our upcoming referendum on marriage is about. The issues are complex, and in my opinion every Christian has a responsibility to listen carefully to the discussions and then to make up his or her mind as to how to vote. That's a personal decision for each citizen, and the Church of Ireland will not be suggesting to anyone how they should vote in that referendum.

Those same changes in society are also pressing for change in the church's attitude to same-sex relationships. I don't think we should change our teaching just to be modern or to be seen to be in step with social changes. However, given the changes in social attitudes which have already happened, the church does have to consider what the appropriate response from the church should be. We have our own traditional teaching on marriage, expressed in the Book of Common Prayer and in the Marriage Canon. Many say we cannot or should not change that; at the other end of the spectrum there are those who say it is time to change that teaching. Others again argue for an intermediate position.

To respond to all of this, the General Synod last year set up a Commission to listen to all sides and perspectives; to look at

biblical texts and the church's teaching, and to consider social developments. That will be slow careful work, as it should be.

As this discussion evolves, you will hear reference to the Marriage Canon. It's Canon 31 of the Constitution and Canons of the Church of Ireland. Part of it reads:

'The Church of Ireland affirms, according to our Lord's teaching that marriage is in its purpose a union permanent and life-long, for better or worse, till death do them part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the mutual society, help and comfort which the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.'

As with the constitutional referendum, we all have a responsibility to listen, think and pray about these issues. The church will move slowly in this area, and may decide that it is not appropriate to change its teaching on marriage. Meanwhile, let us all continue to acknowledge gay and lesbian people both in society and in the church, and ensure that discrimination and prejudice have not part in any of our conversations or actions.

The Marriage Referendum

The Taoiseach has said that this will be held on 22nd May 2015. The proposal is to include a new clause in the Constitution which, if passed, will mean two people will be able to marry each other regardless of their sex. The Referendum Commission will in due course provide an unbiased, neutral explanation of what the referendum is about on its web site www.refcom.ie

Young Christians invited to spend 'a year in God's time'

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has opened the application process for young Christians around the world to spend 'a year in God's time' at Lambeth Palace in London.

Christians aged 20-35 have the opportunity to spend a year from September 2015 living together as a community inspired by the ancient monastic traditions of St. Benedict, St. Francis and St. Ignatius. They will live according to a shared Rule of Life and follow a pattern of silence, prayer, worship, study and service to the poor.

The Community of St Anselm will initially consist of 16 people living at Lambeth Palace full-time, and up to 40 people, who live and work in London, joining part-time.

Young Anglicans from around the Communion are invited to apply to join the community – with both male and female applicants welcome.

"I expect this venture to have radical impact – not just for the individuals who participate but for life at Lambeth Palace, across the Church and in the world we seek to serve. This is what we expect in following Jesus. I urge young people to step up: here is an open invitation to be transformed and to transform."

Archbishop Justin Welby

The Prior of the community, the Revd Anders Litzell, said "there will be sacrifices required. People will need to leave things behind."

He added: "This is a question of how we can model a life of prayer and deep commitment shaped in the likeness of Christ for people who aren't going to be monks and nuns, but who want to embody the monastic traditions, who want to draw from those deep wells and live a lifestyle influenced by that spirituality."

To find out more and to apply, visit: <http://stanselm.org.uk>

Relationships and Care in Church Life

by Dr Paul Harron, Church of Ireland Press Officer

Readers who follow Standing Committee News in the Church of Ireland Gazette and on the Church of Ireland website may have read earlier this year of work which has been carried out on developing policies on dignity in church life.

For years the Church has worked on the basis that commonly understood Christian principles and general decency will govern behaviour and lead to good practice in church life and relationships; however, as we all know, sometimes not everyone fully appreciates the impact of their behaviour on others and on occasions things go wrong – sometimes markedly so. When situations do go awry, where are the people – clergy and lay – to seek protection?

Concerns on this front led the bishops to initiate exploratory work around the development of policies and procedures to underpin the support of bishops for their clergy and to make plain best practice in managing the working relationship between bishops, clergy and people in a way that safeguards all and works towards the betterment of the Church of Ireland. At last year's General Synod, the Archbishop of Armagh articulated a vision for 'Long Term Church' which, among other ambitions, included the need to take these issues seriously.

A Church House team, supported by a professional external HR development consultant, was set up to review legislation and policies and procedures in workplaces as well as those being introduced in Anglican and other Churches in the UK and Ireland. Its research was shared with a reference group consisting of a bishop, two archdeacons, the director of the Theological Institute and two diocesan secretaries. A result of their work and discussions – underscored by a firm grounding in Christian thinking – has been the development of an over-arching statement, termed a 'Dignity in Church Life Charter'.

This Charter speaks about how church membership implies a commitment to relationship, with the Gospel inviting people into

relationship with God and relationship with all who are part of the life of the Church. As such, the pattern of Christian discipleship points to how Christian people are expected to behave in their relationships with one another. It speaks of how church life should be underpinned by respect, valuing everyone's human dignity under God and the pursuit of reconciliation when conflict arises. In this context and in the knowledge that relationships in church life, as in all life, can be imperfect, it calls for the adoption of a commitment to building and supporting harmonious relationships in church life across all its structures; respecting the equality of all before God; upholding the right of all to be treated with dignity, respect and understanding; and seeking reconciliation where there is disagreement or conflict.



In addition to the Charter, a drafting process has got underway to develop policies relating to bullying and harassment; clergy grievance; and clergy long-term illness. Over recent months, the Secretary General of the RCB, with the guidance of the project team and expert reference group, has undertaken widespread consultation on these with the archbishops and bishops, the Commission on Ministry, the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod, and at a number of diocesan consultation meetings held across the island.

At the January 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee support for this process and for a principle of care in church life and clergy welfare was clearly indicated and the next step is to present Bills on these issues to the General Synod in May 2015 for debate. If the required legislation is passed policy documents will be put in place by the RCB and Standing Committee for implementation during 2016.

Further information about the draft Charter and policies and their development is available as a slide presentation on the Church of Ireland website (www.ireland.anglican.org/hrpolicy) and an extended article by the Secretary General, Mr Adrian Clements, also appears in the Spring edition of Search – A Church of Ireland Journal.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society



NEW OFFICERS

Diocesan Council Office Holders 2015

President – Norma Jean Carney

Vice Presidents – Diane Dagg, Rose Langley, Jean Blackwell, Yvonne Shaw

Secretary – Michelle Armitage

Treasurer – Linda Gill

Badge Secretary – Grace Healy

Publicity Officer – Rose Langley

Central Council Reps – June Wallace & Florence Reid

Training Secretary – Betty Delahunt

Thank you to everyone who allowed their names to go forward for office

Congratulations to our new Committee and wishing you every success and God's blessing in your new posts. We look forward to new and exciting times for GFS in this Diocese.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp – Castledaly Manor, Athlone, 12-14 June

25th Years of Camp Celebrations – Sunday, 14 June in Castledaly
Wishing everyone a very happy Easter!

DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZE DAY

GFS Leaders, girls and their families had the most wonderful day in Killaloe Cathedral on Saturday, 21st March. Full report with photographs next month.



Rose Langley, outgoing Diocesan President, Bishop Kenneth, Norma-Jean Carney, incoming Diocesan President and Dean Gary

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

It seems like no time ago since our Mini-Market began and now it has finished. Everybody enjoyed shopping each week and we have a healthy contribution available for our Mission Money.

Crafts and Bible Study were completed on time and by the time these notes are read, we will have seen all the work on display on 21st March in St. Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe. More about our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving will be in next month's notes.

We made lovely cards for Easter, some modern, using stencils, stickers and drawings and others more traditional, using beautiful dried and pressed flowers and foliage. We were delighted with the results.

Boys' Brigade



1ST ROSCREA COMPANY

Boys' Brigade has been busy as usual in Roscrea. We had a very enjoyable night earlier in the year re-creating the TV programme "The Cube", we have been trying out a little table tennis, making lots of crafts, and will be heading to the swimming pool shortly too.

We recently enjoyed a great evening out in Nenagh Arena, where our members had the opportunity to meet up with our neighbours from Nenagh BB. A well organised and fun night was had by all which included go-karting, high jump, basketball and soccer. It was great to see so many members getting together and making new friends! We are looking forward to meeting up again soon for soccer in Moneygall.

As chaplain of Roscrea Boys' Brigade, Rev Shannon De Laureal has been very generous with her time, providing bible study projects and activities with the boys. The boys really enjoy their time with Shannon and we are truly thankful for her contribution.

Well done and thanks to all the boys, their parents and leaders for all their continued commitment and support.

Hilda Mooney
(Captain)

1ST TRALEE COMPANY

The 1st Tralee Company has had a busy few weeks on February 27th we took part in the Irish cancer society shave, dye or oh my campaign, we invited parents and other family member to come along and have a crazy hair make over, the leaders didn't escape lightly either and went home adorned with ribbons, Mohawks and plenty of gel in their hair. On the night we raised €125. We thank all the parents and member who donated to such a good cause.

On March 17th we took part in Tralee's St. Patrick's Day Parade, dress in our Shamrocks, Pots of Gold and Rainbows lead out by our four leprechauns.

We are taking a break for the Easter holiday and will meet up again on April 17th were we are taking part in the National Spring Clean.

EASTER

Mothers' Union Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

We had a very special tea party on Sunday 1st March to celebrate the upcoming 100th birthday of our member Mabel O'Toole on 7th March. Mabel was joined at the party by her three daughters and a great granddaughter. Following a lovely tea and lots of lively chat, Mabel gave a short speech of thanks before departing to prepare for the 'real' party when 150 family members joined her for dinner in Adare the following weekend!



Mabel O'Toole

We joined with members from Adare and Askeaton for our Lady Day service in Adare on 25th March.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe hosted this year's World Day of Prayer Service which was prepared by the Christian women of the Bahamas. The Theme was "Do you know what I have done to you?" and was based on the story of the festival of the Passover. Music, prayers and a dramatisation based on the "washing of the feet" formed part of the service.

Sr. Mary Corcoran of the Sisters of Mercy, Ballinasloe led this ecumenical service which was well supported by members from the Mothers' Union.

This service takes place every year in one of the churches in Ballinasloe.

The congregation and participants joined together for tea and refreshments in Gullane's Hotel after the service.

Next year's service will be compiled by the Christian women of Cuba.

Mothers Union All Ireland Trustees wish to appoint a Treasurer.

The closing date for applications is 10th April 2015. You do not have to be a member of the Mothers' Union to apply.

PLEASE CONTACT:
The Administrator, The Mothers Union Office, St Michan's
Church, Church Street, Dublin 7.
Email: office@mothersunion.ie

For further information contact Ina Blackwell at 057 9131253

ST. JOHN'S BALLINASLOE

Three members of St. John's Branch travelled to Killaloe on Saturday 7th of March for the Enthronement and Installation of Bishop Kenneth Kearon. It was a wonderful service, full of prayer, music and great hope for the future of our Diocese. Following the service we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea in the Community School and we were wonderfully entertained by some of the students who performed a vignette from Les Miserables.

On March 11th, Ms Gerardine Wisdom gave a very interesting demonstration and talk on Rush work in Lorrha Hall, organised by Rose Harding and members of Birr MU.

Gerardine had on display many articles that she had made over time. It was great to see some younger ladies present at this demonstration.

Please note the following dates:

Wednesday 29th April at 2.30pm till 5pm.

In Aghancon Hall an afternoon for members and non members, Rev Janet White-Spunner will show slides of some of her travels, there will also be a short Worship finishing off with sing along and tea.

Sunday 17th May at 3.30pm

Mothers' Union Thanksgiving Service in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick.

Sunday 24th May at 3.30pm

Mothers' Union Thanksgiving Service in Eyrecourt Church.

Both of these services are being arranged to fit in with "Mums in May." It is hoped that as many as possible will attend either service. By now all branches will have received their Grace and Flavours Recipe books, Quiz Sheets, and information about "Mums in May" tea parties, so be it either big or small all branches are asked to organise something.



Some of the congregation and participants who attended the the World Day of Prayer Service in Ballinasloe 2015

Assault Course, Climbing Wall, Abseiling, Archery, Orienteering, Man Hunt, Scavenger Hunt, Laser Game, Team Building Games, etc. The group also enjoyed a fabulous disco and many games with some excellent food throughout the weekend. The photos are of the Bog Hopping – before, during & after.



SPRING MADNESS 2015

Our Spring Madness Weekend for teenagers was scheduled to take place from Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March 2015 at Durrow Centre with Cork Diocesan Youth Council but unfortunately due to low participant numbers booked in the weekend had to be cancelled a decision we very much regretted having to make.

FUTURE EVENTS

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 well now's your chance to do something about it. Well, why not

United Diocesan Youth Council

WEST ALIVE WEEKEND

The adventure did begin! Our West Alive Weekend 2015 took place from Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March with Tuam Diocesan Youth Council at Lilliput Adventure Centre, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath for a lively gang of 10- 13 year olds. We were delighted once again that Amy McCrea from Church of Ireland Youth Department agreed to be our Worship speaker for the weekend with "Lent" as the chosen theme. Throughout the weekend the group got to participate in many fabulous outdoor adventure activities including Bog Hopping

come along and join U.D.Y.C. for the first part of our Basic Youth Leadership Course. This will be the first of three weekend courses designed to train and develop our Youth Leaders of the future. The first weekend will take place from Friday 10th – Sunday 12th April 2015 at Clarecare Lahinch. There will be transport from/ to Limerick. The cost for the full weekend will be €70. In order to come on the weekend one must be 16 years on the first weekend.

Church of Ireland Youth Department Connect Retreat Weekend

Join us for just over 24 hours in the lovely Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, from 12 noon on Saturday 18th April, until 3pm on Sunday 19th April. This event 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". Canon Roly Heaney from Redcross Parish in Co. Wicklow will be sharing some reflections with us on Saturday afternoon and evening and on Sunday morning people can choose between some time for personal prayer and attending church in Portlaoise Parish. As well as this, there will be plenty of chances to relax and spend time with other leaders; including opportunities to make use of the hotel leisure centre and swimming pool and to explore Portlaoise. And of course, there will be plenty of good food, culminating in a tasty Sunday dinner! We'd love to see you there! Cost: €60 or £50

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting for U.D.Y.C will take place on Saturday 25th April 2015 commencing with Holy Communion at 2.30 pm. The event will take place Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick. It would be really

appreciated if as many as possible from throughout the United Diocese would make a special effort to attend this important event.

U.D.Y.C. Fellowship Group

The next meeting of the group is scheduled Saturday 25th April at Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The group will be open to all persons attending secondary school and upwards.

Diocesan Confirmation Weekend

Please note that our Diocesan Confirmation weekend will take place from Fri 29th May – Mon 1st June at Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross Killarney, Co. Kerry. Please note that this weekend will be for all 2014 & 2015 Confirmation Candidates.

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

Until next month, Maud, Mobile: 087 9959581



Diocesan Board of Mission

Church of Ireland

LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE

AT: 8.00 P.M.

- **HOME MISSION AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING MATCH**
*by REV WILLIAM OLMS TED
(MINISTER, ADARE & BALLINGRANE METHODIST CHURCHES)*
- **Update on progress filling container for Swaziland**
- **Everyone**, irrespective of Christian denomination, with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas, is very welcome to attend.
- Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting

Church of Ireland

LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

LAST CALL FOR ITEMS TO PUT IN CONTAINER

The carrot washer for Swaziland is now finished and awaiting despatch in a container at the end of April/beginning of May. There is still plenty of room for additional items which would be of great benefit to the Anglican parishioners in Swaziland. We are looking for the following items:

- 1 Protective clothing, rain gear etc.etc.
- 2 Children story books
- 3 Children's shoes, new or in good condition.
- 4 A mower for a 40 hp tractor
- 5 A fine seed planter
- 6 Shovels, spades & hoes.
- 7 A second hand tractor, in the 40 to 50 hp range.

Any donation towards the cost of transport would also be most welcome.

The collection co-ordinators for the Diocese are as follows:

For Killaloe & Clonfert:

*John Chadwick, Cullenwane House, Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary
Tel 0505 45859/086 2112985 or john.chadwick@live.ie*

For Limerick & Clare:

*John Jarvis, 28 Heatherdale, Monaleen, Co Limerick
Tel 061 338262, or john.jarvis@ul.ie*

For Ardfert & Aghadoe:

*David Frizelle, Curraduff, Camp, Tralee, Co Kerry
Tel 066 7130209/0876855251 or davidfrizelle@eircom.net*

Thank you for your interest in and support of this project in Swaziland.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The school is now ready for an invasion of 'bugs' and 'garden birds' following our wonderful day with Geoff Hunt. We built a 'bug hotel' using wooden pallets, piping, rolled up cardboard and old pieces of carpet and we are reliably informed that this makes a perfect boarding house for lots of insects. Now we just need a suitable name for our new premises! Thanks to 6th class pupil, Chloe Shorten, who painted some old tyres which we filled with seed and potting compost and have also planted some flowers which attract butterflies. We also began the creation of a wildflower garden but must wait until the frosts have gone before planting the seeds. Geoff also gave us a lesson on the garden birds which live in Ireland and thanks to the Davis and Cussen families we have two bird feeders which can be observed from the classrooms. We have posters with pictures of the birds so we look forward to some bird spotting in the coming months. Infant pupils have planted some early potatoes and they look forward to tasting them in the Autumn!



The 'bug hotel' is ready



Frantically searching for clues in Our Lá gaeilge treasure hunt

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great success once again culminating in our Lá Gaeilge on the 13th. Staff and pupils made a great effort in dressing up in our national colours. It was a beautiful day so pupils and teachers enjoyed being outdoors for our treasure hunt. This was followed by a 'Tráth na gCeist' (quiz) and 'Teilifís na Gaeilge'. Pupils entertained us with some singing, traditional music, poetry, dancing, sports, news and weather forecasts all through Irish. We finished off the day with a céili in the playground.

Book Week took place just before the Easter break. This year we hosted a book fair in the hall with a great variety of books on sale. It was wonderful to see St. Nicholas' N.S. 'We Are Writers' book on display and these can be ordered by families in school. Dress Up Day on Friday 20th brought the usual colourful and interesting book characters to life.

A group of American student teachers visited us in March. They were visiting Mary Immaculate College in Limerick and wanted to spend time in a rural primary school.

Congratulations to our quiz team who has made it through to the National Finals of the Credit Union Schools' Quiz. This will take place in April. Well done to Arthur, Katie, Aiyuni and Leah.

Congratulations to David Canning in 4th class who has qualified for the Community Games National final in Art. He will participate in the finals in Athlone in August.

St Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Spring took its own sweet time coming this year, but here it is. What a difference it makes to rise in the morning with sunlight!

The month of March got off to an exciting start with World Book Day. Every child got a free book on 5th March and the whole school participated in a series of fun events around literature and reading. There was some great storytelling and creative work on the day. To inspire interest in reading is a lifelong gift for a child, and our students enjoyed the event.

Our St. Patrick's celebrations were fantastic this year. Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge againn chun bém a chur ar an Gaeilge neamhfhoirmíúil. Rinne gach duine iarracht mhaith ár dteanga a úsáid. Bhí scéalta, ceol, rince agus Tráth na gCeist againn agus fuair gach duine sult agus spraoi astu.

We bid farewell to James from Junior Infants. He was with us for only one term but we will miss him greatly and wish him and the Day family well as they return to the United States.

Miss Shouldice completed her time at St. Mary's on the last day of term. We are grateful for her hard work and offer our best wishes for the future.

Mrs Whiteford did an excellent job as acting principal this year and we thank her for the dedication, patience and kindness she has shown to all. Mrs Maher will return from maternity leave on the first day of third term and we look forward to having her back again.

Our School Sale in support of the Make a Wish Foundation took place on Wednesday 25th March in the Croft Hall. Students brought clean, working toys and books in good condition. Our Lenten focus this year was on children who are fighting illness, and the Make a Wish charity is a very worthwhile recipient of whatever funds we can raise.

Wishing all readers of Newslink a peaceful and happy Easter!

St Michael's National School, Limerick

As always the end of term is busy with extra-curricular activities. The Postal Bible School visited us just before Easter, bringing with them their usual enthusiasm and love for what they do. What the children have learned throughout the year, is brought very much alive through the interaction and fun that we have with Noel, Liza and helpers. The music, story-telling and games are thoroughly enjoyed by all ages.

Each class enjoyed learning Irish dancing during the month of March and proudly performed in front of their other school friends. This is a most valuable experience where Junior classes get to see what to see what older pupils can do. This year there was also poetry recitation and singing.

Due to ever-increasing expense with buses each time there is an event, Fifth and Sixth Classes offered to organise a Cake Sale to

raise funds. They set a target of €300 and much to their surprise and delight, they raised a whopping €522.88!



Cake sale March 2015

Past pupil Grace McClure was a finalist in an art competition called Doodle4Google and she visited the school to both encourage and seek support for her entry. We eagerly await the result on April 20! Another past pupil, Emily Howes, has been visiting St Michael's NS in connection with her Speech and Language Therapy studies to observe children's language skills. It is always such a pleasure to hear how happy and successful our former pupils are doing now in college.

During February and March we were privileged to have physiotherapy students come and work with the junior Classes to improve balance and co-ordination skills, amongst other physical activities.

Third and Fourth Classes spent a very enjoyable day at the FAI Futsal Indoor Soccer Tournament held in Roxboro – one team was very excited to come home with a trophy!



St Michael's NS Futsal winning team

Cloughjordan No.1 National School

Recent weeks have been very busy in our school. Thank you very much to everybody who generously supported our very successful Bring and Buy Sale and Easter Egg Raffle. We were very grateful for the €1250 we raised and delighted to donate €625 each to the Billy Goulding Fund and to Crumlin Children's Hospital.

Thank you very much to Super Valu, Roscrea who kindly donated a Lily O'Brien's Easter Hamper to the school, to Mrs. Esme Grant for her help with this, and to the shopkeepers in Cloughjordan who are selling lines on our behalf. All proceeds from this will go to our School Garden Fund.

Thank you very much to Pearl and George Whiteford who very kindly organised "Line Dancing" in St. Kieran's Hall on St. Patrick's Night. Donations on the night amounted to €363, for which we are very grateful.

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Patsy Farrell back to our school to coach basketball to our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils. This was a great experience for our pupils who delighted in learning from Patsy's expertise in this area.

Congratulations to our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils who participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme and brought their ideas to fruition in a very successful "Treats and Treasures" showcase event in school at the end of term.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Hayes back to school from maternity leave and are very grateful to Ms. Emma Doherty for all that she did while working as Learning Support Teacher in our school. We said farewell and "Thank you" to Mr. O'Dwyer at the end of term. Mr. O'Dwyer has been teaching First and Second Class since last September. Mr. O'Dwyer leaves us with our sincere thanks for his contribution to our school and with best wishes from all at the school for his future teaching career. We were very privileged to have teachers as fine as Ms. Doherty and Mr. O'Dwyer with us for part of this school year.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

HESTOR HILL R.I.P.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of our past principal Hestor Hill. Our sympathy is extended to all her family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Sunday March 22nd 2015 the children of Kiltallagh NS Choir performed at the Kingdom Music Academy Spring Concert.

KILTALLAGH TABLE QUIZ.....took place March 25th.

KERRY NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHOIR SHOWCASE.

A night to be remembered is what would best describe our senior room's performance at the Kerry National Schools Choir Showcase, held in the beautiful surroundings of The Malton Hotel recently. There is an old saying that 'Small is Beautiful' and we certainly proved this true on the night. Our 16 little voices (some only out of their sick beds) gave the most chilling poignant rendition of Tears in Heaven followed by the upbeat Top of the World. While some schools had up to 90 performers in their choirs, our sweeter than sweet 16 voices certainly had the audience on the edge of their seats. Well done to all the children of the senior room and to Séan Treacy for his accompaniment.

ASH WEDNESDAY - We all enjoyed a really special Ash Wednesday Service in Kiltallagh Church. Rev Jim had all the pupils captured with his sermon regarding 'packing our suitcase'. Rev Jim was equally enamoured by the children's participation with their wonderful singing, music and confident reading.

Well done to all, particularly the pupils in the junior classroom.

GIVE IT UP FOR CRUMLIN – WE HAD A RED DAY

We all have things that we feel we should give up like chewing gum, fizzy drinks, coffee, chocolate or crisps. You're not only saving your teeth but with the money you save you can make a huge difference to the lives of Ireland's most seriously ill children. And then there are the things that our students would love to give up, like not wearing their uniform for a day.

On Fri March 27th we made it happen.... A Red Day. Each pupil wore an item of red clothing and brought in €2.

Let's Give it up for Crumlin!

WORLD BOOK DAY (WBD) THURSDAY MARCH 5TH 2015.....

Over the last 16 years World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading by providing them with an opportunity to have a book of their own. This may sound like a very simple idea, but unfortunately, many children do not have access to books in their homes. We had a book swap day and a Book Fair where the children got a chance to browse through a vast selection of books and got to buy their favourite one. Happy Reading!

"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away. And in its place you can install, a lovely bookshelf on the wall." – Roald Dahl

LIAM'S LODGE

Our school recently held a No Uniform/Colours Day where the children dressed in regular clothes and donated €136 to Liam's Lodge -Ireland's first National Respite Centre for genetic and rare disorders -founded by Liam and Mary Heffernan from Castlemaine.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

As part of our celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge, we joined with our neighbouring school Ballyfinnane in a Céilí mó� at the Castlemaine Community Centre on Monday March 16th. We enjoyed dancing some polka sets, the 'Walls of Limerick', 'Siege of Ennis', 'The Brush Dance' and 'Two and Three Hand Reels', along with 'Shoe The Donkey'. Afterwards, we all returned to our school for some play time and treats. Míle bhuiúchas do Norrie, our Dancing Teacher for preparing the children (and the adults!) and to Miss Hickey and Miss Roper from Ballyfinnane School.

CYCLING WORKSHOP

In conjunction with our 4th Green Flag application for travel, we are having a cycling workshop in our school for children for 6 years and over who are independent of stabilisers. This project is being funded by An Taisce and the workshop will be delivered by Jay Scully from Killorglin. All participating pupils will need to have their own bike and a correctly fitting cycling helmet. Pupils may opt to share bicycles -but this will be dependent on consent from both parties. Further details to follow.

WE HAD A FLIPPIN GREAT DAY ON PANCAKE TUESDAY!- with all pupils getting to sample some delicious pancakes which were accompanied by mouth-watering fillings...strawberries, Nutella, blueberries, ice cream, golden syrup to name but a few. Bet that has tempted your taste buds!

CLOTHING RECYCLING...We had an overwhelming response to our last Clothing Recycling Collection-a grand sum of €227.70 was collected. This will help to ease some of the financial costs of our upcoming school tours.

Villiers School

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

As I write this column we are heading into the 5th and last Sunday of Lent and are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. After a long season of Lenten preparation we are ready to get a good hold on our resurrected Jesus and let life settle down for a while. However, upon reading the Gospel of Mark I realised that instead of life settling down by the time the women get to the tomb early on Easter morning - Jesus is already gone. Their worry as they approach is that the body of Jesus may be all too secure, that the large stone blocking the entrance to the tomb may be too much for them, and so prevent access to the one they have come to anoint. But upon arrival, they find that they actually have the opposite problem: Jesus is not unavailable because his corpse is locked away behind a barrier; he is unavailable because the stone is removed and he is alive and has already left. The "young man dressed in a white robe" delivers the good tidings of Easter morning explaining why you can't have a quick word with Jesus: "You're looking for Jesus? Sorry, you just missed him." How often do we 'just miss Jesus?' You see the resurrected Lord has no intention of giving us time to sit around pondering whether we believe in this sort of thing or not. Instead, we are told that if it's Jesus we want, we will need to head out and look for Him. What exactly would it mean to go out and catch up with Jesus? There is something deeply disturbing about all of this, as the women at the tomb clearly understood. But if we can recover from the shock, there is nothing for it but to do as we are told and head back out and catch up with Jesus – go back to the site of his ministry among us, back out into the world where we are promised that he has gone ahead of us. Whatever he is up to out there, it's probably not what one might first suspect. Life here in Villiers goes on season after season and the temptation is to 'just miss Jesus' amid the hustle and bustle. However, that is why the Sanctuary exists, to offer a place where we can catch up with Jesus and encounter the risen Lord. We need to know the whole story in order to know where to look for him and as long as places like the Sanctuary exist and continue to tell that story that will have to be enough to go on as our search begins. My prayer for each of you this Easter is that you will head back out there and catch up with Jesus!



Happy Easter,

Blessings and Peace to all!

Chaplain Jackie McNair

BOYS' HOCKEY

Congratulations to our senior boys' hockey squad who reached the Munster Cup Final against Ashton School, Cork. Unfortunately we were defeated 3-1 in a spirited performance and hard fought game. Half time saw us 2-1 down and still very much in the game. Luke Cardy being our scorer from a well executed short corner.

This was our third final in as many seasons and we are hopeful of getting our hands on the Cup next season – as we retain the majority of our squad. Plans are already at an advanced stage to travel to Holland pre-season for extra training in August. Many thanks to their coach, George Blackwell, who has put in many extra hours training throughout the season. Also to all parents and students who supported us on final day.

BOYS' RUGBY

Congratulation to our junior boys who have reached the final of the Giles Shield by beating Cahir 15-0. They now play the winners of Newcastle West v Blarney in the other semi-final. Fingers crossed for success.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Best of luck to our senior girls who have reached their Senior B Cup final against St. Angela's, Cork in the Mardyke. We are the current Cup holders and hope to retain it.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS FLAG

Bean Ui Riain has been working hard over the past year in our attempts to gain our active schools flag. This is a new Dept of Education initiative aimed at promoting health, nutrition, well-being and fitness throughout the school. We are nearing the conclusion and have just completed our Active School Week.

As part of this we have had many guest speakers and visitors to the school promoting participation in both outdoor and indoor activities. Elvery's, in conjunction with Aviva Healthcare, paid us a visit with their 'Power Team' and we held our School Nutrition Day recently.

JUNIOR AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

Spanish orals, Irish orals, German orals, Japanese orals and French orals are now upon us and we wish all students the best of luck in their upcoming exams – both oral and written.

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

The big event at the cathedral has been the enthronement of Bishop Kenneth into his episcopal chair at St Flannan's Cathedral. Our thanks to all who attended and assisted in anyway to make this a special occasion in the life of the Diocese. It is on few occasions that we can gather in this way to celebrate together another milestone in our journey as church, and so it is always good to see God's people gathered in thanksgiving and welcome.

There were a number of groups that visited the cathedral church, and it is always a pleasure to receive visitors and to share a bit of the history and beauty of this place. Villiers school Transition Year students paid the cathedral a visit on 24th February. Some 40 or so students from Limerick University also came to look at the structure and its architecture.

continued on page 21



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Web: www.pact.ie

An advertisement for here2help Crisis Pregnancy Services. The background is teal with a white speech bubble containing the text "here2help". Below the speech bubble, the words "support • counselling • information • education" are listed. A yellow button on the left says "Free Pregnancy Tests!". On the right, the text "No opinions, just support" is followed by "Crisis Pregnancy Services". The logo for "OPTIONS CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES" is shown, with the tagline "Help. Support. Understanding." Below the logo, the helpline number "1850 67 3333" and website "www.here2help.ie" are provided, along with the location "Located by Nutgrove Shopping Centre". A pink speech bubble on the right says "Talk it out!"



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Creation - God is Creator?

The 2nd of 7 articles on Creation by Rev Simon J Lumby, Rector of Killarney Union

What do we mean when we say "God is Creator"? Logically, God has made something that works (Genesis 1:31 "it was very good"). This implies Creation is a viable system, it has intrinsic capacity, innate self-sustaining properties.

A Creation that was not internally mobile and active would have no capacity for change. This capacity to change brings into effect life and death. Without change nothing can "be". Stasis cannot exist! Something formed within Creation constantly absorbs and emits in varying degrees in the context of its environment and it finally returns to that context in a reusable form. This recycling is a crucial aspect of the self-sustaining nature of Creation. For Creation not to have these defining aspects would be tantamount to being still-born. The innate, fundamental properties of a viable Creation are: absorption, emission and recycling. In this sense Creation and Evolution are one and the same.

Given these three, there is no obligation for God to intervene. A viable self-sustaining system will do whatever its internal capacity is capable of. This is not a clockwork creation. A clock has only one function and that is to be regular. It must avoid any hint of interaction or variability. Creation does not function like that; it carries in itself the ability to "ring the changes". It has innumerable ways in which its internal capacity can interact on every level.

In scientific terms there are two basic Laws: First, Conservation of Energy; and Second, Entropy. The first says—in a closed system that is not fed from/to the outside—there can be no gain/loss of energy. The second says—within that system—energy can exist in various forms and change between them. These two properties allow that Creation is indeed dynamic, self-sustaining and evolutionary.

If I, as an engineer, design a structure with a dynamic function I am constrained by my materials and knowledge to build a system that can only do certain things given certain inputs. This is a clockwork-type system, invariant. Yet I, its creator, am a changeable being. However, the opposite is true of God, being defined by changelessness. The Creation that God made is perpetually changing.

It is then a natural part of Creation that anything has the potential to interact with anything else. Some interactions are con-structive;

they build relationships that survive and form new partnerships that are beneficial, more capable. Some possible interactions are inert; they would if they could but they can't so they won't; there's no relationship. The only other kind of interactions are de-structive; they effect a change that is not survivable, it's short-lived, a dead-end.

In Genesis 1:26 God determines to make humankind so they may "have dominion" over nature. Interestingly, although the Hebrew

word for dominion has the meaning "to rule" or "to be dominant"; it also has connotations of "treading" or "scraping out" (recall Adam & Eve are evicted and set to toil!). The Greek word the Alexandrian Jews used to translate this Hebrew word has the meaning "to be the start of something new" or "to have authority over" or "to be responsible for"; a far better idea than domination.

God placed humanity in a viable, self-sustaining system. For millennia humanity has been a cooperative con-structive partner in Creation. It would be illogical for God to want humanity to be a destabilising and de-structive influence.

However humanity has intervened, we've become a perturbation in Creation. Our take on "dominion" has become just that: de-structive. We've appropriated the 'right' to use Creation for our own ends. Our misuse of technology and over consumption of earth's resources for profit are de-structive actions the effect of which is to perturb Creation, the result? - Waste. Suns explode, humans die, but we've made plastics that go on for ever! Waste, effectively breaks the First Law, it removes energy from the system: non-recyclable.

Remember, God has intervened per Christum. God is also having to intervene: through the moral conscience.

Our Biblical imperative is to manage our environment and all its assets for the good of Creation; to cooperate in creative cyclicity. It is our obligation,

role, prosperity and calling to synchronise with Creation's innate, fundamental properties. Our creativity should be making technology ready and easily able to give up the energy of which it is made. We should not be making stuff that traps that energy and denies Creation a part of itself.

Simon Lumby is a member of the Society of Ordained Scientists



The Crab Nebula, the gaseous remnant of an exploded star – we're made of that stuff!



The cosmic microwave background: an echo of the energy pattern of the early universe



Plastic recycling codes – grey: won't decay

Bishop Kenneth enthroned in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

by Dean Gary Paulsen

It is a highlight in the life of a Diocese when a bishop is enthroned and takes his place in the 'cathedra', the episcopal chair. Everyone participates in the ceremony itself. The bishop enters the Cathedral with a very dramatic knock on the doors and everyone stands and faces the door. It made me think of everyone waiting at a surprise party for the honoured guest to enter, ready to shout 'Surprise!' when the person came in. This did not happen, of course, but I hope you get what I mean. The drama of the liturgy is very welcoming and embracing of both the bishop and the congregation. Liturgy is the work of the people and the involvement of everyone is a vital component of doing liturgy well.

St Flannan's Cathedral has its unique way of being both a cathedral and a community, which is indeed true of most cathedrals. This was something that we tried to portray during the service. The congregation gathered on a usual Sunday morning worship is small. There is no choir, so community singing is what is done each week at St Flannan's. It was therefore wonderful to include this aspect of community participation as a way of saying this is what we do week by week, and to share part of this cathedral's identity. We hope that people had that sense of participation in both singing and 'doing liturgy'. The Nenagh Church choir sat at the back of the cathedral and boosted the singing - we are grateful for their presence and willingness to be part of the congregation to emphasise community singing.

The planning of the service was made easier for us by using the same format as the wonderful enthronement service at St Mary's

cathedral. We could take what was done so beautifully in that context and use it in our local context. When we were planning the service and the tea afterward we discovered that all the local venues were booked as there was confirmation happening in the village at Ballina and the hotel was fully booked. It was then decided to use the local school of St Anne's Community College. This worked out well for us, and also helped connect the greater community to the event of having the bishop enthroned. The school are putting on the musical Les Miserables and performed a song for us at the tea. We also had Owen Powell, a young student from the school, playing for us on the piano throughout the tea. A big thank you to the school principal, chaplain, caretaker, staff and students for their involvement in this wonderful occasion.

It was my first time to have the privilege of being part of the enthronement of a bishop as Dean of a Cathedral. The Chapter of the cathedral is greatly depleted but this also gives new opportunities of a 'new chapter' in the life of the diocese and St Flannan's Cathedral as St Flannan's also defines its own identity in the United Dioceses.

A big thank you to all who participated, including the political, community and ecumenical leaders who attended.

The bishop has taken his place in the episcopal chair of this cathedral church. The bishop is placed on his throne and in the words of the liturgy, '*(We) leave you in full, clear and peaceable possession of the same; and may the Lord preserve your going out and coming in from this time forth for evermore.*'



Bishop Kenneth blesses Killaloe & its people



The cast of *Les Misérables* from St Anne's Community College, who entertained at tea after the service



The ornate Episcopal Chair or Throne in St Flannan's Cathedral

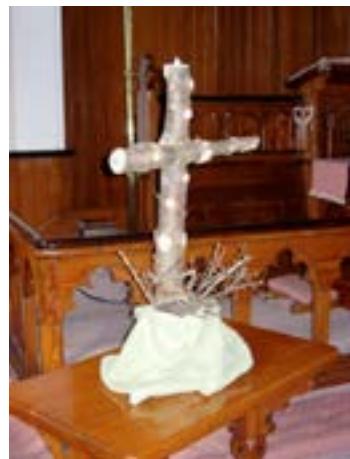


Bishop Kenneth with clergy & Diocesan Readers in attendance

Thoughts on Easter

By Gillian Kingston, Vice-President of the World Methodist Council

When I was a little girl, Easter Day was the day when we could have sweets again! The blue-and-white striped jar came out of the cupboard after its Lenten seclusion and we could each choose a sweet after lunch. And there would be Easter eggs. However, we all move on: it may not be any easier to 'give up' chocolate, but now I choose to do it myself!



The Good Friday cross...



...becomes the Easter cross.

We are all on a journey in things of the faith, and if we're not, we should be. A very significant part of my personal journey has been eighteen years of writing the monthly Lectionary Notes for the Methodist Newsletter; this has given me a real appreciation of the 'shape' of the Church Year. Easter is not just a calendar marker for the beginning of summer and holiday time, it is a high point of the Christian celebration of God's dealing with God's people in God's world through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of God's Son.

Commencing with Advent, moving through Christmas and Epiphany to Lent, Easter comes as that link between time and eternity through which Christian believers are assured of life everlasting. On to Pentecost and believers are further assured of the person and presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

But how can anyone explain Incarnation, Resurrection, Ascension, the events of Pentecost? Charles Wesley refers in one of his Christmas hymns to '*Our God, contracted to a span/ Incomprehensibly made man.*' The things of the faith are fundamentally inexplicable.

Words can't always do it; there are times when we need more, something to see, touch, feel; John acknowledges this need to his early readers when he refers to

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. (1 John 1:1)

And Thomas, the one brave enough to leave the Upper Room and thus miss the first appearance of his Master, needed to see and touch, didn't he?

Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.

And Jesus told him to go right ahead...

Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.

Some years, we have kept our Christmas tree, stripped off its branches, sawed the trunk in two and made a simple cross. On Good Friday, it has stood in the church, completely bare and stark. Rough and ugly, with thorns around the base, it is a silent and tangible reminder of the death of Jesus of Nazareth.

By Easter Sunday morning, however, it is decorated with greenery and flowers and stands there symbolising new life. Children may add more flowers as they are reminded of how, in Jesus Christ, all things come together for our salvation. Incarnation leads to Passion and on to Resurrection.

The Child whose coming we celebrate at Christmas is the One who, baptised by his cousin, becomes the teacher and healer and, ultimately, the One who, tortured and crucified, rises from the dead to become the Redeemer of the human race. It is the same Jesus Christ.

And there, in the background is the Communion table, bread and wine, reminding us of the body broken and of the blood shed and of the real presence of Jesus the Christ among us as we celebrate Resurrection.

We, who are blessed to live in this part of Ireland see, every year, new life springing up around us. Life appears out of the cold damp soil; the seemingly impossible happens and the green shoots herald growth and ultimately harvest. That is the hope of Easter, and it is so well expressed in these verses...

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Then your touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.*



Green shoots herald growth & ultimately harvest.

As we look and see, we say with Thomas, '*My Lord and my God'* This is Easter.

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Deans Gary and Sandra, Bishop Kenneth, Chancellor Bob

The world day of prayer took place in the cathedral on 6th March and St Anne's Community College students participated in the service and played a big part in the liturgy. The school chaplain Veronica Sheehan organised the participation of the students, and made posters and they all were dressed up in beautiful costumes to show off the colourful Bahamas for whom we are praying this year. The usual tea and snacks were had after the service and again a big thank you to all who helped.

The 15th March was Mothering Sunday and we had one service that day at the cathedral. Barbara Hartigan supplied the posies to all the mothers this year again and it added such a warm gesture to those present. As part of the enthronement of the bishop these words form part of the enthronement, 'be the church your mother'. This was the emphasis of the service, that the church has a nurturing role to play

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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 www.adarekilmallock.org

and certainly the Cathedral church should be seen as that within the Diocese. Our garment that we should wear is love, as the reading from Colossians emphasised on the day.

Eucharist was celebrated in the cathedral on St Patrick's Day and followed by various parades in our different villages. Thank you to Martin Cooper who covered our cathedral floodlights lights with green so that the building could go green for St Patrick's Day. It is helpful to remember that St Patrick brought the gospel to Ireland and the celebrations remind us of the good news. At all these times when things have gone secular, like Christmas, Mothering Sunday, St Patrick's Day, we as the faithful are called to place the emphasis on what is important in these Christian celebrations.



Fr Ted, Balina, Dean Gary and Fr James, Killaloe

On Saturday 21 March the annual GFS service and prize giving took place at St Flannan's, Killaloe. Bishop Kenneth also inducted the new officers for their three year term. Parents and children travelled from around the diocese to be in Killaloe and indeed all of them made it a special day with participation in singing and bringing the scripture readings to life with their dramatic portrayal of the texts. We trust that GFS will know that they are always welcome at the cathedral.

Confirmation is set for Pentecost and we have four candidates this year who are undergoing preparation for this big event in their own spiritual journey. Our congratulations to Pat and Annagh on the celebration of their wedding.

Tembre has kindly offered for her choirs to have a concert at All Saints Church Castleconnell on 26 April at 5 pm as a fundraiser for the church so please do support this initiative. Scarif is the venue for the 68th Clare Drama Festival, so best wishes to all Mountshannon and Tuamgraney parishioners involved.

Palm Sunday is upon us and there will be church services each day in the various churches in the union all through Holy week up to and including Easter.

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Birr Group of Parishes

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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

A reminder that the Sunday service time for Birr will continue at 11:30 am for the foreseeable future. We may be able to change the time back to 11:00 am later in the spring or summer, if circumstances permit.

PASTORAL

Violet Harding has been back in hospital; we keep her in our prayers, along with Pam Reid, who has not been well.

THE LATE CHARLIE ARDILL

Charlie was born on the 21st December 1921 at Little Longford, the eldest of four children. He spent his working life on the farm in Dromoyle, eventually moving house to Sandymount, where he was able to continue with the friendships he had made in Birr. He was a regular presence in church and always interested in what was happening in the parish. Thanks to the dedicated care of his home helps, he was able to stay in his own home for as long as possible. He finally moved to Mount Carmel Nursing Home, Roscrea, where he was wonderfully well cared for by the matron and staff, and many people from Birr kept in touch with him there. He died on the 28th February. He was a cheerful man and grateful for the friendships he enjoyed and this was borne out by the large attendance at his funeral service which was held on the 4th March 2015. The service was conducted by the Revd Ruth Gill, assisted by the Revd Jane Galbraith and Fr Tony Cahir.

GFS

Congratulations to all the girls and leaders from the Birr GFS group for doing so well in the various competitions which were judged for the Diocesan GFS Service and Prize-giving on Saturday, 21st March. They also did a great job in acting out the Gospel reading in the service. Congratulations as well to Norma-Jean Carney, commissioned by Bishop Kenneth as the new Diocesan GFS President, and Linda Gill, new Diocesan GFS Treasurer.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth will be coming to Birr for a Confirmation Service for the Birr, Shinrone, and Clonfert Groups of Parishes on Sunday, 22nd June. The time will be announced later. Confirmation Classes will start after Easter; please contact the Archdeacon if your children desire be confirmed this year.

COUNTRY/GOSPEL CONCERT

Come and enjoy an ecumenical Country/Gospel concert with Michael J Ramplin and Friends in St Brendan's Roman Catholic Church, Birr on Tuesday, 21st April at 8:00 pm. Tickets €5 available from the RC Parish Office from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday- Saturday (except Wednesday) or from the Archdeacon. Proceeds to Birr Churches Together, our ecumenical endeavour for the Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Church of Ireland parishes in Birr.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourne, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Rev Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan's Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

'Spread the good news throughout the earth, Jesus has died and is risen! Happy Easter to one and all!

PRESENTATION TO MR.NEVIN ALTON

Marking his retirement from active service of over fifty years, a presentation was made to Nevin. Mr. Des Young spoke of the many spheres of office held by Nevin and particularly the last fifteen years in the role of sexton of St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea. Des said Nevin will now be known as 'The Consultant'. Asked what kept him going, Nevin said, 'it was my love of God, to serve God was my pleasure, therefore whatever I could do, I did!' Mrs. Daisy Alton was presented with a bouquet of flowers and the ceremony concluded with a spirited rendering of Alton's favourite hymn 'Will Your Anchor hold in the Storms of Night'.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick's Day was celebrated with Holy Communion, completely in Irish, with the full text in Irish and English. Later after the Blessing of the Shamrock at an ecumenical ceremony the parade began. Fr. Tom Corbitt while heartily welcoming the festivities made strong reference to the rebalancing for the day of our national saint to include the real reflection on Patrick's mission and ministry. Mr. Adrian Hewston was a judge helping make very difficult decisions and awarding many 'Best of Parade 2015' prizes.

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GARDEN CHAT MAY 7TH.

Lawlor's Florist and Garden Centre Durrow, are coming to talk things horticultural with a Q&A session on general garden topics. All are welcome to support this fund raising event on Thursday May 7th. in Abbey Hall, Roscrea at 8.00p.m. Small entry fee entitles light refreshments and the chance of a prize.

ADDED TO THE REGISTERS

The Birth and Holy Baptism of Richard Thomas Davis first baby son of Richard and Evelyn and grandson of Dick and Rosemary Davis. Baby Richard was welcomed into the Church at a ceremony in Christ Church, Corbally.

The death of the last of the Misses Hickie - Jane, known as Jen was recorded for March 4th. 2015. Jen's funeral took place in St.Cronan's Roscrea and burial in the beautiful surroundings of Dungar cemetery. Jen lived most of her life in Dublin even into her nineties. A careful and loyal eye being kept on her all the time from her home town. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

DATES OF GENERAL VESTRIES

St. Cronan and St.Molua, April 14th. 8.00.p.m.
Christ Church Corbally, April 15th. 8.00.p.m.
St.Burchin, Bourney, April 16th. 8.30.p.m.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, 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
Templederry: 9.30am 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays
5th Sundays 11am United Service, rotating between churches

On the 22nd March, St Mary's saw the baptism of Anthony James (AJ) Russell, son of Melissa Tallon and Gareth Russell. He was supported by his three godparents - Daniel and Cinty Holmwood and Christopher Deane. AJ didn't like getting his head wet much but did like walking up and down the aisle and being waved at by the parishioners! Welcome to the church, AJ!

On the 2nd March, Reverend Lucy met with the parishioners of Templederry, who welcomed her to the union with lovely refreshments and lots of chat. She also got to meet Fr Willie Teehan, the local RC priest and they were able to do some preliminary planning for the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

If any parishioners, as a group or privately, would like Reverend Lucy to meet them to talk about issues that are important to them, please give her a call and she will arrange a time that suits.

The Three Hours service in St Mary's on Good Friday was entitled "The Seven Deadly Sins!" and people were invited to drop in for a while, even if they didn't feel up to the full three hours.

There were two ecumenical Walks of Witness on Good Friday, one in Nenagh beginning at 4.30pm and the other in Templederry, beginning at 7pm. - based on the Stations of the Cross. Everyone was welcomed to walk along and join in prayer.

Reverend Lucy would like to ask that people keep her informed if they know someone has gone into hospital. Due to confidentiality rules, hospitals no longer give out details of whether they have Church of Ireland patients and as Lucy doesn't live locally, she may not be able to routinely drop in to the hospital to check who might be there. Many thanks.

EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry will take place in St Mary's Church on the 14th April, at 8.00pm

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 913 5341 Mob: 087 948 4402

Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

These notes will have arrived in the pews just after the events of Holy Week and written before they happen. It is hoped that those who have been able to attend the various events leading up to Easter have found it a time of personal growth in their journey with God and of ecumenical value.

As time passes, a pattern for Sunday worship is evolving. It won't be possible to have services of Holy Communion quite as often as previously provided but it will be available in one of the churches in the Group for the first three Sundays in a month. Details will in the Newsletter. It's thanks to the committed dedication of so many people that a full rota can be maintained.

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SERVICES FOR EASTER

Saturday, 4th April – Easter Eve: Ballingarry Holy Communion 8 p.m.

Easter Day, 5th April – Services of Holy Communion:

Borrisnafarney 9 a.m.

Borrisokane 10.15 a.m.

Cloughjordan 11.30 a.m.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

These have been arranged in this order:

Borrisokane, Tuesday 14th April

Cloughjordan, Wednesday 15th April

Borrisnafarney, Thursday 16th April

Meetings will be held at 8.30 p.m., in the usual venues.

Easter Vestry meetings are open to everyone but when decisions have to be made only those who are registered members are eligible to vote. In order to facilitate those who would like to be able to take an active part in parish affairs and are not registered and would like to be, application forms will be available in all the church porches in the weeks beforehand and when completed should be returned either to the church wardens or the relevant parish secretary in time for the Easter Vestry meetings please.

CONFIRMATION

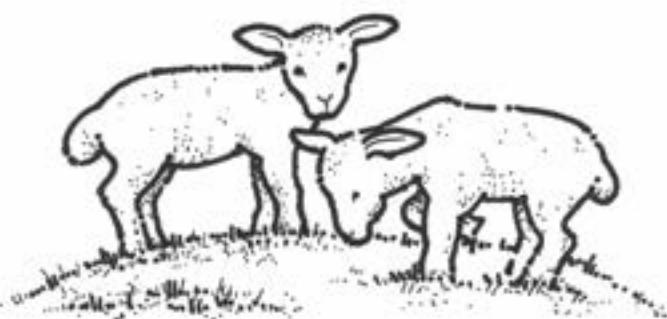
The Confirmation service will be held in the afternoon of Sunday 28th June. Some names have been received and if there are any others who would like to be confirmed perhaps you could let the Revd. Ruth know as soon as possible please?

PASTORAL

It has been a regret that visiting the housebound and the nursing home hasn't been attended to yet. When things hopefully quieten down a bit after Easter, efforts will be made to prioritise this. If there are parishioners who are ill and would like a pastoral visit, the Revd. Ruth is available.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Congratulations and best wishes to couples who have announced their engagements! To Leslie Austin, son of Willie and Frances, Modreeny to Alison Worrell, Mountshannon and to Gillian Austin, daughter of George and Doris, Borrisokane, to Kevin Andrews. Also sincere congratulations to parents and welcome to new babies born recently. To Dorothy and Eoin Woods on the birth of a baby girl. To Aisling and David Goulding on the birth of a baby girl and to Keith and Magda Donovan on the birth of a baby girl, Nadia, a sister for Jake and Kyla.



EASTER

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

Our thanks to Archdeacon Wayne for taking over the care of the parish while our rector is on sick leave.

Please continue to remember Canon Michael and his family in your prayers.

It has been good to see how well attended the united group services have been, and the 'cup of tea' on occasions much appreciated!

The last month seems to have been surprisingly quiet! with nothing startling to report.

Whist drives and table tennis, winter occupations, have come to successful conclusions.

The Mothers Union members joined with Lorrha for a very interesting evening learning about rushwork.

General Easter Vestry meetings will take place after Easter. Please remember that all registered vestry people are eligible to attend, not just those who are currently on the Select Vestries or holding other offices.

The Shinrone Easter Vestry will be held on Thursday, 16th April at 8:00 pm in Cloughmoyle School. Other Easter Vestry meetings in the group will be announced.

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

This Summer, in Ennis and St Columba's Church, will be marked by a feast of floral colour and design when the National Flower Festival comes to town. St Peter and Paul Cathedral and St Columba's are the joint venues for the weekend event hosted by local artists as part of the Association of Irish Floral Artists, with the theme "In Praise and Thanksgiving".

The charity benefitting is the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and the dates for the diary are June 19-21. St Columba's is the proposed venue for a closing worship service of Evensong .

CONFIRMATION

Our prayers might go to Kilnasoolagh teenager Anna O'Neill, daughter of John and Cyreline O'Neill from Cratloe who is undertaking Confirmation training with fellow Villiers students via Chaplain Mr Jackie McNair.

BEREAVEMENT

Mrs Jane O'Neill who died in her Nineties in Ennistymon Community Hospital was for many years a cleaner for Christ Church, Kilfarboy (Spanish Point.) More important still she was a close family friend and support to the Ironside family who remember her with gratitude and affection in addition to the regard she was held in at the church and community.

RETURN

We were delighted to meet American citizens David and Linda Lebenstreit on their return to Christ Church ,Spanish Point after several years away working with the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine , where sadly their work was eventually disrupted by the substantial instability and violence in that country on the edge of Russia. Soon, hopefully, we will get to hear their story but meantime we pray they will be blessed in every way as they settle into a new home at Lahinch.

WISDOM

The famous Wisdom Books of Israel gave much food for reflection as part of our vital source of enlightenment from the Bible when the small Lenten Study Group gathered in St Columba's.

SEATING

The last of the refurbished cushions were laid in the pews in Ennis and thanks to John Donovan for overseeing this. The Rector wishes to extend his gratitude to all officebearers and Readers as we prepare for another Easter Vestry and new appointments.

SICK

We pray rich blessings on Kevin Doherty who has patiently negotiated a difficult process of convalescence and healing following a bad ankle break...and of course his also long-suffering wife Joanne. Very helpful grandmother to their two children is Kevin's mother Catherine.

Mrs Audrey Elliot has entered Cahercalla Nursing Home where hopefully she will have some essential support for her now-exposed dementia.

PRESIDENT

The Rector joined the reception parties for the visit of President Michael and Mrs Higgins to The North Clare Coast where he opened a Life Saving Training Centre run by Clare Water Safety at White Strand Beach near Milltown Malbay-Spanish Point where he shared prayers with native Spanish Point son Fr Desmond Hilliary, now Bishop's Commissary for Killaloe Diocese.



Canon Bob Hanna and Fr Des Hillary at President Higgins' visit to County Clare

Later he joined Fr Ned Crosby at Kilfenora for the official opening of a special room in the Interpretative Centre in honour of the famous Kilfenora Ceili Band. The "Parlour" features musical instruments, photos, historical artefacts, interactive displays that give visitors a fascinating, educational and unforgettable firsthand look at the Kilfenora Céili Band's journey over the last hundred years. The Centre borders on St Fachnan's Cathedral whose High Crosses are outshone only by the internationally famous Ceili Band.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Vacant

Priest-in-charge: Very Rev. Maurice Sirr,

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

Email: msirr@iol.ie

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

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Wednesday	1st April	19.00: Ahascragh. Tenebrae Light to Darkness;
Good Friday	3rd April	19.30: Aughrim Service of the Word;
Holy Saturday	4th April	16.00: Woodlawn HC 18.30: Ardrahan HC
Easter Day	5th April	10.00am Ballinasloe HC 1.30am Clontuskert HC

BEREAVEMENT

Members of the parish were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Susie Gossip of Ballinderry Park, Kilconnell, wife of George Gossip, mother of William, and daughter of the late Luke and Audrey Dillon-Mahon, formerly of Clonbrock. She died after a life-long illness bravely borne. Her funeral was held in St. Catherine's, Ahascragh, with burial afterwards in the adjoining churchyard. There was an outstandingly large attendance at the very moving funeral service, conducted by the Reverend Maurice Sirr, former Dean of Limerick, now priest-in-charge of the parish, assisted by the Reverend Robert McCarthy, former Dean of St. Patrick' Cathedral Dublin. The parish offers sincere condolences to the family.

CLONTUSKERT

Noah Alexander Sheppard's Baptism took place on 14th March in St. Matthew's Church, Clontuskert. Noah is the son of Damian and Niamh Sheppard. The Service was conducted by Rev. Ruth Gill. The Godparents were Edward Sheppard and Michelle Kavanagh. It was great to see the two great- Grandmothers in attendance on this special occasion.

Another phase of refurbishment of St. Matthew's Church has been completed with the installation of two new windows. Thanks to the Heritage Society and Architect Gerri McManus for their expertise and funding.

The Parishioners of St. Matthew's are grateful to Rev Maurice Sirr for travelling from Ardrahan on the first Sunday in March in extremely difficult snowy conditions. Rev. Maurice gave us food for thought when he suggested that the prayer desk should be relocated beside the pot-belly stove!

AUGHRIAM

Congratulations to Simon and Elaine Hyde on the birth of a son Michael Donnchadh Rochfort and to the proud grandparents Anthony and Mary, not forgetting the even prouder great- grandparents Michael and Ann. Confirmation:- Any Candidates please contact Rev. Sirr or any of the Readers.

A vestry meeting was held at the rectory on the Wednesday the 18th March for the purposes of reading the accounts for the Easter Vestries. Ballinasloe Easter Vestry will be held in Gullanes Hotel on Tuesday 7th of April at 7.30pm and Aughrim's will be held on Thursday 9th of April at the Rectory at 7.30pm. It is hoped that as many parishioners as possible will attend these important meetings. Thanks to Reverend Maurice Sirr for arranging these events and also for his pastoral care in the past month.

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.patrick@gmail.com

BRONTE SOCIETY.

It was a delight to welcome members of the Bronte Society to St Paul's Church for the Service of Morning Prayer. They visited the grave of Charlotte Bronte's husband which lies in the Churchyard.

It was a fascinating discussion that ensued on the nature of the novel as a form of literature and the Protestantism that informs it. Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre was quite naturally under discussion but so was Charlotte's more superior 1853 novel Villette, with its charged anti-Catholicism. We touched on Jane Austen, her romance with Limerick born Tom Lefroy and her very protestant exploration of feelings and thoughts.

Daniel Defoe's name came up too in connection with Robinson Crusoe but whilst his very distinct Protestantism, the journey within, was at the heart of that great story it was difficult to see where Defoe connected with Ireland. One of the more left wing members of the congregation saw that great novel as an instrument for capitalism. No self-respecting Robinsonade would sign up to that!

It is a credit to the people of St Paul's how well their churchyard is cared for and how they cherish their connection with the rise of The Novel.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual service was held in Eyrecourt Church with a fine ecumenical gathering. Fr Declan McInerney, Parish Priest of St Brendan's Eyrecourt attended with several parishioners and was welcomed by the Revd Patrick Towers who then introduced Mrs Freda Kenny who led the Service with Mrs Isobel Finney on the Organ. It was a superbly well-choreographed service with many participants, with lively singing, moving prayers and brought to a conclusion with tea and long conversations. Despite dropping "Women" from the title of the day there were only two men present: both of whom were clergy!

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL'S WALL

It is greatly to be hoped that work will resume of the extensive repairs to the wall to the graveyard of the Cathedral. This is an extensive project that has to follow strict heritage guidelines. The applications are at present with the Heritage Board.

PEOPLE

Ann Menheneott is at present receiving treatment in Galway Regional Hospital. Val Bertram is now back home following her hip operation. We remember both ladies in our prayers as they suffer the pains and discomforts of bodies that require medical attention. But they are both so cheerful and cheer giving.

There will be a Memorial Service in St Paul's Banagher on Friday, March 20th for Countess Hamilton that will be led by Archdeacon Carney.

PROMISES OF HAPPINESS

Mothering Sunday in Eyrecourt was an example that it is not what everyone likes that is as important as the fact that everyone likes it. And like we did that Sunday morning. The taste of the Eyrecourt madeleines took me back to my childhood with my own mother beside me. The cards and posies given, so lovingly created, telling one that style and character are what distinguishes one, what gives one individuality.

In Banagher the children and their parents, the flowers and the simnel cake are consistent with Mothering Sundays through the decades but with new voices, surprises and novel dispositions the old and the new came together to complete a most beautiful celebration.

The two services promised happiness. And happiness was their reward.

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: 086-3574917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest sympathy to Rosalind Stevenson and family on the death of her uncle, Eric Danne in Youghal on 27th of February 2015 and to Darren & Jenny Devereux (Rev. Edna's son-in-law) and family on the death of his mother, Kay Devereux in Dublin on 1st of March 2015.

In Limerick the two World Day of Prayer services, prepared this year by the women of the Bahamas, were well attended. In Villiers Square residents and members of Thursday Club were joined by members of the congregation of Holy Rosary Church for a shortened version of the service and we were delighted to have to add extra seats in St. James' Chapel in St. Mary's Cathedral to accommodate the larger than expected congregation at the Friday evening service. Our thanks to Dean Sandra who performed the ceremony of washing the feet and to all who participated and helped to make the services so meaningful.

MOIRA GRAY

It was a delight to welcome back to St. Mary's Cathedral on the 4th of March, Moira Gray. A packed cathedral was there to enjoy a great programme of piano duet (with Geoffrey Pratley) and we hope Moira will return to us again soon.

CONGRATULATIONS to St. Mary's Cathedral Chorister, Zoe Stedje who has won two prizes playing cello in Cork. Zoe won first prize in class 133 "The Rotary Club of Cork Perpetual Cup" and "Dulux Paints Ireland Ltd. Bursary" and third prize in Class 132 "Violoncello Concerto Senior" at Feis Maitiu. Zoe is also a talented young singer and she won prizes as a singer at our own recent local Feile Luimni. She came 1st in the McCarthy Cup, 2nd in the O Dowda Cup and 3rd in the Efreida Atkinson Memorial.

WHIST DRIVES:

Villiers Square – Saturday 18th April 7.30pm

Entry €6 per person. Everyone very welcome.

Saturday 14th of March was the last Whist Drive in St. Michael's for this Season. There were six tables on the night. The Raffle winners were: – Afternoon Tea for 2 at No. 1 Pery Square – Val Beck; Bottle Whiskey – Pat Moynihan; Wine – Miriam Haugh; Chocolates – Hilda Fairbrother; Plant – Gill Cheatley and Easter Egg – Stephen Cheatley. Gillian & Tracey would like to thank everyone who has donated prizes, made scones and bracks, helped on the night and particularly those who attend. See you all in October.

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 085-707 5880.

CONFIRMATION 2015: is taking place in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 17th May at 11.15am. We pray for those preparing for Confirmation – Anna, Amy, Ellen, Grainne, Lucy, Teresa and Tracey. Confirmation Classes take place in Villiers School on Wednesdays at 4pm.

MOTHERING SUNDAY/FAMILY SERVICE IN ST. MICHAEL'S.

For the occasion Revd. Edna baked a traditional Simnel cake which we all shared over tea and coffee after the service. The interactive sermon at the Family Service spoke about the traditions of Mothering Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday. Various visual aids were used to demonstrate what good mothering/parenting involved in showing our children just how much we love and care for them. The children participated by reading the Bible passages and leading the prayers confidently and competently. Towards the end of the service they distributed flowers to their mothers and all the ladies in the congregation and also cards they had prepared in Sunday School. The informal service was well attended.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

St Mary's Cathedral is organising a Flower Festival to be held in the Cathedral on the 5th to the 8th of September. The theme is FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH.

A fundraising dance in aid of the Flower Festival will take place in Caherconlish, on Sat 29th August. More information in next month's Newslink.

It is also time for Easter Vestry. The Easter Vestry for Kilmallock was on Tuesday, 24th March, in the church at 8.00pm. For Adare, Croom, and Kilpeacon, the date is Tuesday, 21st April, in St. Nicholas, Adare, at 8.00pm.



The chancel of St. Nicholas.

And as announced last month, we are planning for our Festival of Faith and Flowers, the celebration of the 700th anniversary of St. Nicholas on 22–24 May. Below is the schedule of events, as they are currently planned:

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

10.00 am - 5.30 Flower Displays open in St Nicholas Church
10.30 am - 5.30 Plant stall
10.30 am - 5.00 Tea/coffee and cake served in the Old School Hall
11.30 am - Guided tour of Cloisters
12.00 noon - Flower arranging demonstration
1.00pm - 1.15pm - Music recital in the Old School Hall
2.00pm - Guided tour of Cloisters
3.00pm - Flower arranging demonstration
4.00pm - 4.15pm - Music recital in the Old School Hall
4.30pm - Guided tour of Cloisters
7.30pm - Possible Concert in St Nicholas Church

SUNDAY 23RD MAY

9am - Eucharist
11am - 5.00pm Flower Displays in St Nicholas Church
11.30am - 5.00pm - Tea/coffee and cake served in the Old School Hall
11.30am - 4.30pm - Plant stall
12.00 noon - Guided tour of Cloisters
1.00pm-1.15pm - Music recital in the Old School Hall
2.00pm - Flower arranging demonstration
3.00pm - Guided tour of Cloisters
4.00pm - 4.15pm - Music recital in the Old School Hall
7pm -Songs of Praise and Festival Closing

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 - 414967
FAX: 061 - 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick



Janet Bray discusses details for planning an arrangement with one of the volunteer flower arrangers,

For enquiries and group bookings, please email faithandflowers700@gmail.com. The Festival is posted on the Group's website: <http://www.adarekilmallock.org/st-nicholas-anniversary/>. More information and regular updates can be found on the Festival's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/faithandflowers700>.

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

By the time this reaches the pews it will be Easter and Easter general vestry time. If it was not for the last minute nothing would ever get done, so our General Vestries will take place at very nearly the last minute. The schedule is as follows: Tuesday April 21st Tarbert Vestry at 8:00 p.m. St. Brendan's Tarbert, Wednesday April 22nd Askeaton and Castletown at 8:00 p.m. in the Rectory, Thursday April 23rd Rathkeale at 8:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

Our parishes were saddened to learn of the death of Rathkeale parishioner, Edith Tesky. Edith had been ill for some time and living in a nursing home. We extend our prayerful sympathy to all her family. We also extend our prayers for the family of Noel Hodges, formerly of Kilkee who had been living in Gloucester, and related to members of our parishes.

We congratulate Gerald and Kay Griffin on the birth of their first grandchild, Alex, who was born in Singapore. We also congratulate Norah Fitzgerald on the birth of her first grandchild, Alexander born in Geneva. We have very international families.

WITH EASTER VESTRIES IN MIND

It was not an accident that seventeen of the thirty-six parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. – William James Dawson

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe.' – WH Greaves

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on his being with them. – J Hudson Taylor

I believe in loyalty to the local church. I don't believe in that view of the invisible church that makes you invisible at church! – Vance Havner

Don't stay away from church because there are so many hypocrites. There's always room for one more. – A R Adams

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

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

We have recently welcomed two young members into the church; Ross William, baby son of Heather Groves and Jerry Sugrue was baptised by Rev. Jim Stephens in Ballyseedy Church on Saturday 7 February, and Grace Evelyn, daughter of Peter Hill and Angela O'Donoghue was baptised by Archdeacon Sue in Ballymacelligott Church on Sunday 8 March. We also welcome Jovia; daughter of Anna and Sam Kilwanuka, born on Saturday 28 February. We welcome Ross and Grace into the family of God's people and look forward to welcoming Jovia to the fold in due course.

Last Easter was the first for fifty years that the Eucharist was celebrated in Ballyseedy Church. This year we will again hold a Vigil beginning at 8pm on Easter Eve in which we hope to involve members of our Youth Club, Confirmation Class and other young people of the parish. In a departure from recent practice our intention now is to celebrate the Eucharist in Ballyseedy Church on the evening of the fourth Saturday of each month to compensate for the fact that they have not had a service on the fourth Sunday of the month for many years and, since we are presently short of a Priest, there are fewer Communions across the parish. In this way Ballyseedy Church will be assured of a Saturday evening Communion on the night before each fourth Sunday. The next one of these services (after Holy Saturday) will be on the night before Pentecost, 23 May, but on this occasion it will be at an earlier time (to be announced) and will be followed by a BBQ.

We are pleased to report that the Bishop will confirm our two candidates; Jordan Mason and Johann Maritz on Sunday 5 July. Please remember both young men in your prayers as they begin their preparation.

A big 'Thank You' to Michael Latchford and Godfrey Blennerhassett who so willingly took up the challenge to catalogue all the old books and other parish artefacts in St. John's. The task took three afternoons to complete so, once again, many thanks for a job well done.

A good deal of work has been completed in the porch outside the West Room of St. John's. The exterior doors have been refurbished and draft proofed and had new locks fitted; the floor of the porch has also been tiled. Some plastering around the door has yet to be done when the walls are less damp but it already looks amazing. Another big 'Thank You' is due to Alan Boyle, James, and all involved.

Last year we were able to source grants for work to the tower and had hoped that the scheme would continue into this year but we have recently heard that this is not to be the case. This means that work to the interior of the East Chancel, which has been severely water damaged, will have to wait until alternative funding can be found.

Tax back forms are available at the back of the churches in the Tralee and Ballymacelligott Union, as are the flower rotas for the year.

HEALER PRAYER

Because of the Holy Week evening services in Ballymacelligott the April meeting will not take place.

SUNDAY CLUBS

A report on the Sunday Club outing to the cinema by 8-year-old Emma Tarrant.

On the 1st of March 2015 at 11.45 the Tralee and Ballymacelligott Sunday Clubs had a great meeting of clubs for the first time ever. There were 27 of us and there were 9 grown up people, some of them were our Sunday Club leaders and some were the mums and we even had a dad with us too. We got to go to the cinema in Tralee where we went to see 'The Penguins of Madagascar' it was a really brilliant movie and everyone enjoyed it, even though it was funny it showed that team work works and you get results because of it. It also showed us that friends are good to have. We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to the leaders who are just great every Sunday Club day and also thank you to the mums and dad who came with us on our day out. Can we do it again???

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

LENTEN WILDERNESS WALK:

In last month's notes I alluded to the wilderness experience of Jesus and how critical that was to Him as He confronted not only Himself but the devil before His ultimate sacrifice; the devil we all face from time-to-time is often within. The plan was to try our own version of

a wilderness experience by going into it – albeit for only three hours – on Mothering Sunday. Although the group was small, we picked our way through the landscape like a herd of elephants trying to escape a drought; it was a perfect balance. Every living organism that could move, ran, swam, crawled or flew away as if the place was on fire and it probably was for them if you think of the subtle neutral colours we wore. Our vibrant gear colour was pre-determined by the rules of modern society and was all about being seen and rescued if we got lost. But why would anyone get lost on a planned outing less than 20 kilometres from home? The question is: are we already lost and out of our depth if there's no road, mobile phone coverage, public transport or warning signs, etc.?



Lenten Wilderness Walk

If so – and it's only an "if" – what right have we then to pontificate as to how other societies live, many of which were nomadic Bedouins until we caring Christians came to look after them? Whereas our Diocesan involvement abroad has always been well intentioned and comes about because people are genuinely concerned for our fellow human beings, we need to revisit where we actually live and, for once, come to understand what we are doing to our own little corner of the world. We need to understand that living species are disappearing in Ireland, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, on an ongoing basis. We need to understand that how we live causes a lot of the issues affecting every single species on the planet, including our Bedouin partners. We all accept that God created the world, but because some of His species crawl, slither, bite, complicate farming; or worst of all, are not nice to look at, we turn a blind eye and claim ignorance as they disappear because of our lifestyles. And to ease our conscience we contribute €3 a month to the WWF to "save" the tigers and pandas while we ignore the fact that Fomica Lugubris (a wood ant unique to the Killarney and Portuguese oak woodlands with no English name) and several other species have become extinct in the place where we live in the last 3 years.

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Come along to our short presentation and meet with us.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

TRALEE:

Manor West Hotel - Friday 17th April at
7.30p.m.

KILLARNEY:

Plaza Hotel - Wednesday 29 April at
7.30p.m.

Website: www.bandongrammar.ie

E-mail: info@bandongrammar.ie

Tel. 023 8841713



Relaxing during the Lenten Wilderness Walk

Most, if not all, of our diocesan schools have green flag status and this comes mostly from great teachers and students, but it is not enough. We need to dedicate ourselves to ensuring that we do our part to ensure the survival of all species (including the most vulnerable; mankind!) until He decides when it all comes to the eternal end. We're going in the wrong direction now and we have been for a long, long time; but there's still time to put it right, if that's what we decide – but firstly we have to learn to know and understand where and how we live! Jesus took the time; shouldn't we?

GOOD NEWS:

Rev. Simon has recently been invested as a member of the very influential Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce and also takes over from Rev. Brian as Trustee of Muckross House. We wish Simon well on both endeavours and thank Brian for his tireless work over many years.

GONE GREEN:

St Mary's looked very impressive when it was greened at night time during the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

CONCERTS:

It hardly seems plausible that another concert season is upon us already, but Andy has – yet again – stepped up to the plate during the off-season and organised an absolutely fabulous year's entertainment. It goes without saying that support for every concert is what keeps the door open so please make the effort to attend because there's nothing that irritates locals more than paying at the desk and seeing none of the local COI present! Concerts during April include:

- April 1st Napa High School Choir
- April 20th Fontbourne Academy
- April 22nd Algon Quinn
- April 25th Aidan O'Carroll (Kerry School of Music)

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 stiofains@gmail.com

SERVICES

Kiltallagh 9.45 am (except 1st Sunday at 7pm)
HC 1st & 4th
MP 2nd & 3rd

Kilorglin 11.00 pm
HC 2st & 4rd
MP 1st & 3rd

LENTEN EARTH WALK

This took place on Saturday 28th March when fresh air and walking in our countryside was enjoyed, showing solidarity with Trocaire's Lenten Campaign. We walked from St. Micheal's via the Old Railway Line to Cloon and back to St. James (5km). Our "Walk, on Water" offered short talks on nature and reflections on solidarity along the way.

SYMPATHY:

To Mai O'Driscoll of Ballymallis on the death of her husband Joe, Joe died on the 4th March and his funeral service took place in Listry Church on 7th March.

To John and Nora Day on the death of Nora's Mother in her 96th year in Ballyheigue, Her funeral mass took place in Ballyheigue Church on the 13th March.

To Carmel and Matt Murphy on the death of Matt's Brother Michael who died on the 19th March, His funeral took place in Rathkeale on Sunday the 22nd March.

We extend our prayerful sympathy to all those who are grieving for loved ones at this time.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Maundy Thursday: Holy Communion in Killorglin Church at 8pm
Good Friday : Tenebrae Time to be announced usually as daylight ebbs away.

Easter Day: Holy Communion in both churches at the usual Sunday times.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

All confirmation candidates and their parents were invited to the morning service in St Michael's @11am on Sunday the 22nd of March. This marked the beginning of our preparation for confirmation.

Please remember in your prayers, Katie Boyle, Alex Boyle, Ramona Clifford, Grace Daly, Seamus Giles, & Niall Murphy as we make this journey with them towards their confirmation day.

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

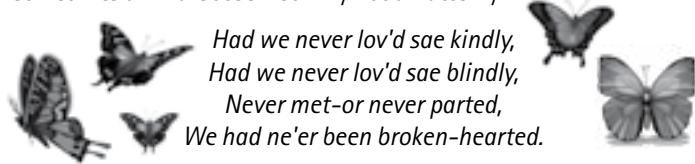
Our 'Christians together in Kenmare' Lent studies this year, shared with our friends from the Gateway and Holy Cross, had very different themes. 'Life of Pi' raised questions about the uniqueness of Christian faith, the nature of 'truth' and the value of story; one 'The Simpsons' episode addressed issues around intercessory prayer, the other dealt with blind faith vs. scepticism. Clips from 'Chariots of Fire' asked questions about the sanctity of Sunday.

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

On March 21st – celebrated as either the Spring equinox or the first day of Spring, depending on where you were brought up – St Patrick's hosted our annual service of Hope and Remembrance for parents and relatives who have lost a child – offering comfort, healing and joy through word, music and silence. Candles were lit as people brought mementos, pictures, flowers – some perhaps just a memory. This service is not a time for glib or easy answers to the age-old questions of 'If God loves us, why did He let this happen', 'Why to me?' – instead, it offers an acceptance that now we see through a glass darkly, and the comfort of sharing with others who have experienced a similar pain (particularly when the well-meaning outside world tends to be too embarrassed or fearful to discuss such tragic loss).

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs!' And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

We were joined by a butterfly in the service. Sometimes a Dove, sometimes a Wild Goose – so why not a Butterfly?



Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

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

This has been a busy month for our Circuit as we move toward Easter.

We had the Annual Meeting of the Methodist Women of Ireland at the home of Rebecca Purser. We met in a room of her home that was an historic Methodist meeting house. They have re-modelled it into part of their home and it gave a special feeling to our meeting. We sang some great hymns and heard a brief programme on the life of Fanny Crosby. This month we also had two services for the World Day of Prayer. One was held in St Nicholas' Church of Ireland with the minister from Roscrea preaching and our Pastor leading a service of foot washing. A second service was in Ballingrane with the District President of the MWI bringing the message. Both services were well attended and several denominations took part.

For Lent we have had a Bible Study meeting in the Manse. We studied the Lectionary passages for the coming week. We had a "cuppa" after the study and met Wednesday evenings.

On Palm Sunday we had an exchange with the Church of Ireland in Rathkeale. Rev Keith Scott preaching in our Adare United Service and Rev Bill leading worship in Rathkeale. On this Sunday we are reminded of the Covenant between our two denominations.

We will have an Easter Egg hunt for the children and youth on the Saturday before Easter. Eggs and sweets will be hidden in the Manse Garden and we will have refreshments following

We look forward to Easter services in both Churches and will pray that the Risen Lord continues to be with us as we are led to be His church

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

CERAMICS EXHIBITION

We were delighted to host a wonderful ceramics exhibition in Christ Church. Students from the Limerick School of Art and Design were showing their extremely varied and beautiful work as part of their degree course. We had never had an exhibition like this in the church but it really did look stunning and it certainly attracted a lot of interest.

Genealogy Day was back again on St Patrick's weekend and our guest speaker was Dr Ken Bergin, Head of Special Collections at the University of Limerick Library. We are working with Dr Bergin and John King from the Irish Ancestry Research Centre to archive our own church records and hope to share some of that work at

Genealogy Day next year. Dr Bergin drew our attention to the library's current project following the lives of the Armstrong family from Moyaliffe, Co. Tipperary, during the First World War, beginning in late June 1914. The reader can relive the experience of this family in wartime through weekly updates from their diaries and letters <http://longwaytotipperary.ul.ie/>

At Easter we will be exhibiting the work of second year students from SAUL (school of Architecture, University of Limerick). These students, lead by their tutor Dr Peter Carroll, produced detailed drawings of the Christ Church/Central Buildings complex as part of their studies. The building has an interesting history beginning in the Georgian period right through to Art Deco design in the 1930s. The exhibition will be shown in CB1.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Report by Jean Webster

This year's (Women's) World Day of Prayer service was composed by the women of The Bahamas on the theme "Do you know what I have done to you" from John 13. The booklet was very interesting and gave us a completely new picture of that beautiful country and its many problems.

In Limerick two services were held. On the morning of Thursday, 5th March we had the Seniors service in Villiers Square, Sheltered Housing for the Elderly. Several of the residents attended and members of two Seniors' clubs in the area. The slides, with commentary, were shown first and the simple service was enjoyed by all. Great chat and great food followed.

On Friday, 6th the main service was held in the Chapel of St. James at St. Mary's Cathedral (C of I) at 7pm, led by Margaret Schutz and very well attended by people of all denominations. This service included a drama of the washing of the feet by Dean Sandra Pragnell and several readers representing the Islands. These readers, themselves, were from a variety of European and African countries. An inspiring talk by Noirin Lynch of the Limerick Diocesan Centre was greatly enjoyed by those in a packed chapel. Again the refreshments encouraged folk to stay and chat while the slides were shown without commentary.

The two Bible Reflections were held in the previous weeks and were expertly led by Barbara McCoole, (R.C.) And Rev. Edna Wakely (C. of I.) Twelve people enjoyed these meetings and we got a great insight into the messages in Scripture.

Next year's service will be held in the Church of the Holy Rosary and is being composed by the women of Cuba.

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham

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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. Childrens' 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. Childrens' 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 26th April at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole on the 30th April at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 9th April at 7.30pm.

In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Crageens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our April meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th April.

"No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group meet on the last Monday of the month. The April meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th at 11am.

Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Saturday 25th April.

The film night is on Saturday 4th April at 7pm.

OTHER NEWS

We had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day. In Killarney we had a marquee and a huge bouncy castle/dragon in the grounds of the church. As the children had fun many of the adults enjoyed the worship music and we had a short service after the parade. Also about eight hundred biscuits, six hundred evangelistic leaflets and countless cups of tea or juice or coffee were given out. Outside The Lighthouse in Millstreet there was also free tea, coffee and conversation before and after the parade there. With beautiful weather added to the occasion we'd lots of good conversations too.

On the 20th March we'd a great service with our friends at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Kisbeam. During April and May we're looking forward to having a seven week series of Bible Study Together in Kisbeam Community Centre on Tuesday nights. We will be using some of the material from the Alpha Course. Please pray for these meetings.

In Killarney we're having our Prayer Room for Easter again from Thursday 2nd April – Easter Sunday morning. Feel free to drop in for prayer at any time during this period. Also Kenmare are having a special day of prayer on Wednesday 1st April.

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

A very happy Easter to you and those you love! Often times we believe that "Easter" is over when the children return to school after their break. But such is not the case. Easter is a liturgical season which lasts for 50 days. It ends with Pentecost, the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and early followers of Christ. Easter is a time when we give thanks to God for the risen Christ, for He has conquered the power of sin and death. We celebrate Christ is alive and has saved us for new life in Him. This is the holiest of holy days in the Church! If it weren't for Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we wouldn't celebrate his birth at Christmas. Easter is the vital element of our salvation story. May we give thanks for all that Christ has done for us; and may we grow deeper in faith so that we become more effective disciples who share the risen Christ with others.

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:

MWI Night Out! Ladies are invited to Parker's Restaurant, Riverstown on Tuesday 14th April at 7:30pm for a fun night of food and fellowship. 3 Course meal is €22. Please contact Rev. Shannon if interested.

St. Cronan's Walk at 3pm on Sunday 26 April in Roscrea: All are welcome to join this ecumenical walk stopping at landmarks within Roscrea that are associated with St. Cronan. Reception to follow. Please contact Rev. Shannon for more details.

St. Cronan's Youth Club: This group will meet next on Saturday 25th April, 7pm-9pm at the Methodist Hall Roscrea. €2/head.

Ballyclare Male Voice Choir: This choir hails from Ballyclare, County Antrim and will present a concert on Sunday 3 May 2015 at 8pm in St. Cronan's Church of Ireland. You don't want to miss this! Tickets are €15/adult and €10/student. Proceeds to benefit Methodist Church Funds and Pieta House. Please contact Rev. Shannon for tickets.

"Living Together Well in a Culturally Diverse Society": Corrymeela is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a Dublin weekend event. Friday 8th May – Sunday 10th May. Everyone is welcome to take part in the event. However registration is needed. For more info please go to <https://corrymeela-dublin-event.eventbrite.ie>.

Women's Retreat at Mt. St. Joseph's Abbey Guesthouse: Ladies are invited to a relaxing weekend retreat from Friday 21st August – Sunday 23rd August. Retreat Leader is Mrs. Lisa Frost, Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader from the United Methodist Church in Louisiana. Our hope is for women from Louisiana, Northern Ireland, and Ireland to gather and spend time in God's presence together. Cost is €120 for weekend. Please contact Rev. Shannon for more details.

Easter blessings to all,
Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

Anglican-Methodist dialogue report launched at Downpatrick by Anglican Communion News Service staff (excerpts)



From left: Bishop Harold Miller; Archbishop Richard Clarke, Revd Gareth Powell, Ms Gillian Kingston, Archbishop Justin Welby

(AMICUM), 'Into All The World: Being and Becoming Apostolic Churches'.

On St Patrick's Day at Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Ms Gillian Kingston, Vice President of the World Methodist Conference, together launched the Agreed Statement of the Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission

Peter Murray, and at the most recent ordination of a bishop of the Church of Ireland, Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller, was the Anglican co-chair of AMICUM.

'Into All The World' explores how Anglicans and Methodists have understood mission and ministry. It surveys places around the world where there is already active cooperation, and goes on to provide a 'tool kit' with practical advice for Anglicans and Methodists for ways to witness together in mission. In Rt Revd Harold Miller's words, 'The report is not simply for academics or church leaders, though they will be interested in it. It is for the whole people of God. It is an encouragement to embrace gladly God's future for a church that is seamlessly an agent of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.' The report will be available shortly from shop. anglicancommunion.org at a cost of £10.99, or can be downloaded as a PDF document at no charge from <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/102827/Into-All-The-World-AMICUM-Report-2014.pdf>

A Carnegie Hero from Portumna by Adrian Gordon, Nenagh Union

In her will my mother bequeathed a gift to Nenagh Church of Ireland in memory of my father, Louis George Gordon. In conjunction with this I was pleased to receive the consent of the Select Vestry to erect a plaque in the church in memory of my parents. I felt that any reference to my father would be incomplete without mention of the awards which he received in recognition of his bravery. From time to time I have been asked by various people about these awards.

In common with many people who have performed acts of bravery or witnessed harrowing events my father never spoke directly about the incident. Asked about the citations and mementos recording his bravery, displayed in our house, he might mention he had a metal plate inserted in his right wrist which was designed by a vet, the brother of a surgeon in Barringtons Hospital. Further questions would be deflected by answers about how he had needed both a vet and a doctor to cure him. It was only in later years that I realised the significance of his comment, made to me as a young boy, that some people were allergic to wasp stings, but he himself was allergic to morphine.

With the assistance of the Carnegie Hero Organisation and access to relevant Irish State files I have been able to piece together details of the incident which I outline below.

Before the introduction of the State Rural Electrification Scheme, Portumna where my father lived, in common with many rural towns, had its own electricity generating station which provided the town with electric light and also charged "wet" batteries for radios. My father ran what was known as "The Powerhouse" for The Portumna Electric Light and Power Company.

In October 1946 the coat of a visiting contractor to The Powerhouse, Mr W.J. Martin got caught in the flywheel of the generator engine. He began to be rapidly entangled in the engine but my father managed to seize hold of him, and even in the dry and stilted prose of the various accounts of the incident, it is obvious that a gigantic struggle between my father and the generator ensued - with the unfortunate Mr Martin in the middle. Eventually my father managed to pull Mr Martin free but at no small cost to both men. Both Mr Martin's arms were severely injured and my father's right hand and arm sustained a total of seventeen fractures.

The ambulance arrived six hours after the incident and conveyed both men to Barringtons Hospital in Limerick. It was only when I commented to my mother about the time it took for the ambulance to arrive that my father's comment about his allergy to morphine became relevant, as this meant he was unable to receive any pain relief until he arrived at the hospital in which he was to stay for nearly a year. Mr Martin did recover but unfortunately he lost both his arms.



LG Gordon driving his Bugatti

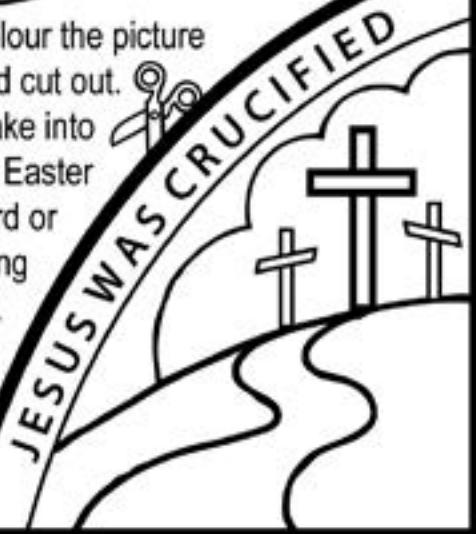
My father's heroism in saving Mr Martin's life came to the attention of both the Carnegie Hero Trust and the Irish Government. The former presented him a certificate and his name and details of the incident are recorded on their Roll of Honour in Scotland. He was also the recipient of the first medal and certificate awarded by the Irish Government for bravery. His fellow worshippers in Christ Church Portumna and the townspeople also recognised his bravery with various mementos.

Thanks to his surgeon, and his brother the vet, the physical injuries my father sustained healed completely and he recovered full use of his right hand and arm. He was a quiet man of deep faith which I am sure sustained him throughout both his ordeal and the years that followed it.



Mouse Makes

Colour the picture
and cut out.
Make into
an Easter
card or
hang
up.



JESUS

SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17

SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

LORD

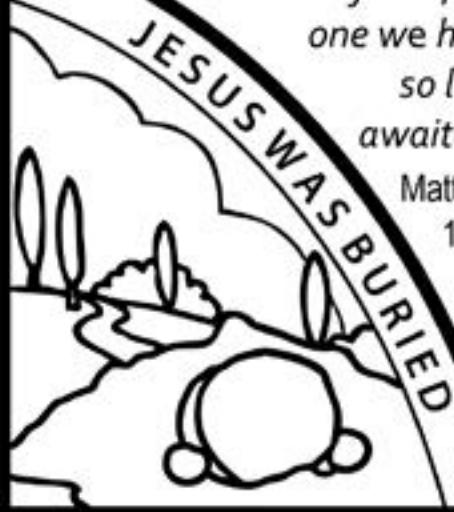
1 Corinthians 1:9

SHEPHERD

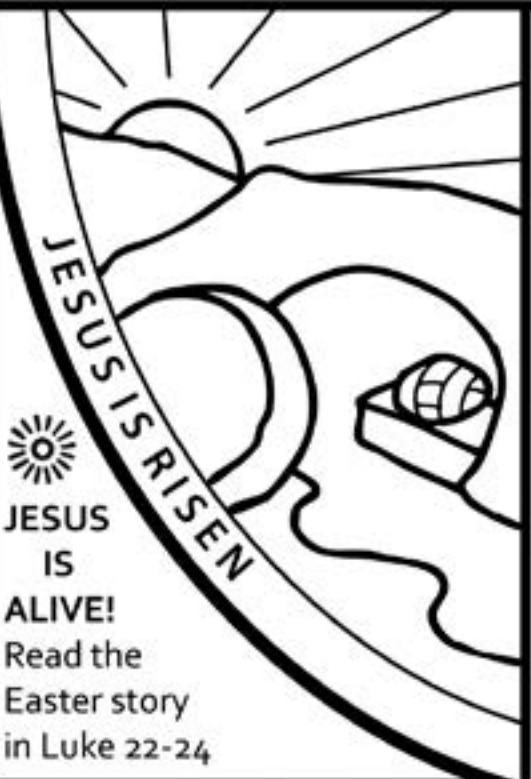
John 10:11

"Yes, Lord," she said "I believe you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one we have
so long awaited."

Matthew
11:25



JESUS IS WITH US



THE WORD

John 1:1-50

THE WAY

John 14:6

THE LIGHT

John 8:12

THE BREAD

John 6:35

THE LAMB

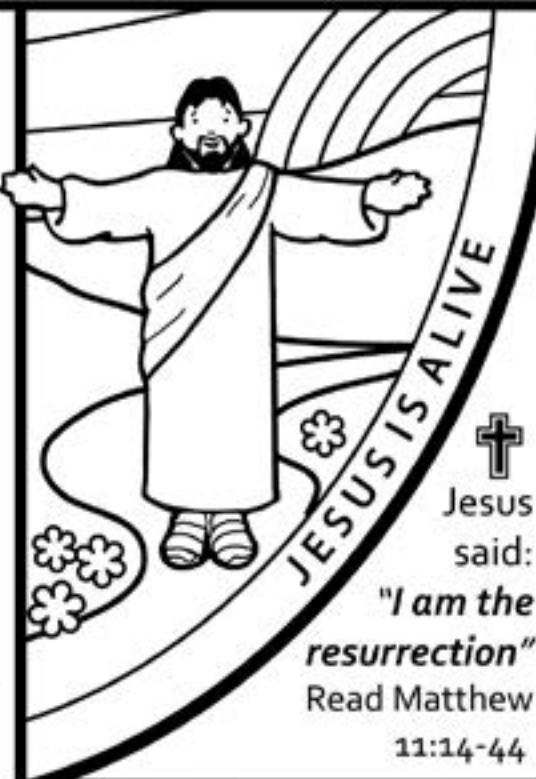
John 1:29

THE DOOR

John 10:9

THE LIFE

John 11:25-27



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