



# NEWSLINK

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

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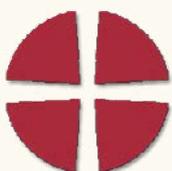
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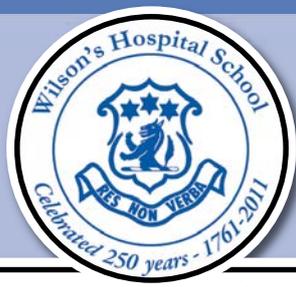
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*Baptism, by Tony Mackessy*

(Photo: Sean Curtin)



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# Bishop Kenneth writes

I am writing this as news of the tragedy in Berkeley, California, is coming through. Six young people dead, others very seriously injured, television pictures of candles and vigils and of the fateful balcony; interviews with bewildered young people at a loss for words; wreaths, flowers, condolences – all inadequate to express the sadness all are feeling.

The sadness has struck everyone in the country, even though we don't know the young victims, because we can all imagine ourselves in that situation. We all know family or friends who have got a J1 visa and headed to the United States, full of hope and adventure, ready for hard work, parties, friends and new experiences. The whole world lies before them, and their time in the U.S. will broaden their horizons like never before.

We put ourselves in the shoes of the relatives, making that indescribably sad flight across the Atlantic, trying to avoid the media, trying to make sense of what has happened, and trying to make decisions.

What does our faith say in the face of such awful tragedy? It speaks of a God who cares deeply and profoundly for all, no matter what the situation, no matter what the circumstances. It expresses certainty that nothing, neither life nor death, not anything in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. That absolute certainty of the presence of God in every situation doesn't make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of Lazarus, his friend. Our faith tells of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that because he lives, we too shall live.

Such faith stands against the pious platitudes that are sometimes uttered, even religious platitudes. The Christian faith brings us

alongside the mystery of death, the reality of sadness and sorrow; it enables us to put our arms around the bereaved and say very little, and yet assert that despite it all "I know my Redeemer liveth".

How do we pray in such a situation? We each have our own way, but perhaps sit quietly, think of God and bring yourself into God's presence, then think of those who have died and those who are injured, and the bereaved, and bring them too into that same presence of God, and hold them there in love.



God of all consolation,  
Whose Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears  
At the grave of Lazarus his friend;  
Look with compassion on all of us in our loss;  
Give to our troubled hearts the light of hope,  
And strengthen in us the gift of faith,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sincerely,  
+Kenneth.

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## Bishop Kenneth's Address to Diocesan Synod

*Summarised by Rev. Doctor Keith Scott*

Bishop Kenneth began by thanking the people of our diocese – and many others locally – for the warm welcome he has been given to the mid-west of Ireland. He also paid tribute to the work of the two archdeacons, especially Archdeacon Wayne who was the Archbishop's Commissary, in carrying the diocese safely through the interregnum.

He acknowledged that the Church of Ireland had failed in the debate leading up to the Marriage Referendum and failed in its subsequent response. There was, he said a tendency to "keep the head down" in the debates and aftermath". Anglicanism follows an incarnational model of Church, and we did not do that well in this matter.

The Bishop turned to matters facing this year's Synod, especially concerning the future shape of the Church of Ireland. He spoke about the concept of "Long Term Church" which must lead us into asking questions about the mission and ministry to which we are called. He remarked that we should not ask "Where is the next generation?", but rather "Where is our own generation?" Comparing census and Church attendance figures make the thrust of this question clear. Only about 11.7% of the people who claim to be Church of Ireland actually attend Church. We need to do two things:

- Do "Traditional Church" and worship better.
- Try new things, and if they don't work out do not talk of "failure", but try something else more innovative.

The basic elements of these are already in place, but do need to be further worked out. To that end Bishop Kenneth intends to establish a small group to explore these issues further.

Bishop Kenneth went on to pay tribute to various groups and people who do so much to further the life of our diocese, from parish and group treasurers to Youth Council leaders. He also referred to the work the Board of Mission has done in the support of Luyengo Farm. While we are taking a break from the work of supporting the farm, the Board wishes to keep a link with Swaziland and we will explore this matter further.

Bishop Kenneth also raised two challenges which face us in the immediate future.

1. How do we respond to the 1916 centenary next year? The Church of Ireland involvement in the events leading up to 1916 and beyond was complex and we need to think through ways of dealing with our own complex and ambivalent feelings about our past today.
2. How do we use our heritage for the work of the Kingdom of God today? We have many beautiful old buildings and sites: how can we best welcome people to these as a means of bearing a continuing witness to God in Christ? There is already work being done in this area, but again we need to be innovative and courageous.

# Editorial - Care for our common home

Thank God for Pope Francis! In his recent encyclical "Laudato si" he makes an urgent appeal to care for our common home, the Earth. In describing the present ecological crisis, he speaks of "climate change as a global problem with grave implications ... one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day". He speaks too of pollution, waste, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, social breakdown and global inequality. After reviewing what the Bible and Christian tradition have to say about humanity's relationship with creation, he considers the underlying causes of the crisis, and advances broad proposals for dialogue and action. Finally, he points to the treasure of Christian spirituality which support the lifestyle changes we will all have to make (see his prayer on page 5).

It is a remarkable document, well worth reading. It is good to hear a Christian leader of his stature and influence speak with such clarity on the challenges we face. But Pope Francis is not alone.

Anglican leaders have been calling for care for the earth since as far back as 1990, when the Anglican Communion committed itself to the 'Fifth Mark of Mission':

*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

On Good Friday last seventeen Anglican Bishops issued a call to urgent action for climate justice entitled 'The World is our Host', as reported in the May Newslink. In June Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby joined leaders of other British churches and representatives from the Muslim, Sikh and Jewish communities in Britain to sign the 'Lambeth Declaration', calling for urgent action to tackle climate change.

The reason all these appeals are being made now is that this December negotiators from more than 190 nations will gather in Paris at the international climate change talks in an effort to achieve a global agreement to contain damaging climate change. We must pray for the success of these talks. 'Creation Time' in September would be a wonderful opportunity for parishes to join with Christians of other traditions and people of other faiths in common witness to call on Irish negotiators to play their part.

This month Newslink includes a new section called 'Care for Creation', where you can find the Environmental Charter adopted by the Church of Ireland at General Synod 2015 – see page 7. This section will continue in future issues, at least until the end of 2015, with relevant articles and news.

ST. FLANNAN'S CATHEDRAL, KILLALOE, CO CLARE

## Organist required for Sunday duties and occasional services

Please send details with application to the Secretary of the Select Vestry:  
Diana Whitehead, Loughtea, Killaloe, Co Clare  
(email: [dwjyc@eircom.net](mailto:dwjyc@eircom.net))

# Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardferd, 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](http://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

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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

# Prayer Corner

## Partners in Prayer

### July 2015

#### Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry and Bishop Patrick Rooke.

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

#### 5th July, Trinity 5, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Oyo, Ibadan, Nigeria and Rt Revd Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe, Bishop of Oyo

Diocese: Visitors to our diocese during the summer holidays, that they may travel safely and return home refreshed

#### 12th July, Trinity 6, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Peru, the Bishop of Peru Rt Revd Dr Harold William Godfrey, and the Suffragan Bishop of Peru Rt Revd Michael Alexander Chapman

Diocese: Schools in the diocese and their staff during the summer holidays, that it may be a time of rest and refreshment for all

#### 19th July, Trinity 7, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Port Elizabeth, Southern Africa and the Bishop of Port Elizabeth Rt Revd Nceba Nopece, Bishop of Port Elizabeth, and the Diocese of Pretoria, Southern Africa and Rt Revd Dr Johannes Seoka, Bishop of Pretoria

Diocese: Our young people and leaders attending the Junior Youth Camp beginning today at Spanish Point, and the Senior Youth Camp beginning on 2nd August at Lissadell

#### 26th July, Trinity 8, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Quebec, Canada and Rt Revd Dennis Paul Drainville, Bishop of Quebec

Diocese: Drumcliffe Union of Parishes with Kilnasoolagh and Rev Chancellor Bob Hanna

### August 2015

#### Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough and Archbishop Michael Jackson.

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

#### 2nd August, Trinity 9, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Renk, Sudan and Rt Revd Joseph Garang Atem, Bishop of Renk

Diocese: Holiday Chaplaincies throughout the Dioceses and all who join our congregations during the summer months

#### 9th August, Trinity 10, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Rochester, NY, USA and Rt Revd Dr Prince Singh, Bishop of Rochester

Diocese: Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes and Rev Dr Keith Scott

#### 16th August, Trinity 11, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ruvuma, Tanzania and Rt Revd Dr Maternus Kapinga, Bishop of Ruvuma

Diocese: Church and cathedral choirs and organists throughout the Dioceses, that through their music we may glimpse the divine harmony

#### 23rd August, Trinity 12, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of San Diego, CA, USA and Rt Revd James Mathes, Bishop of San Diego

Diocese: Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes and Rev Michael Cavanagh

#### 30th August, Trinity 13, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Sebei, Uganda and Rt Revd Paul Kiptoo Masaba, Bishop of Sebei

Diocese: Teachers and students throughout the Dioceses as they prepare to return to their studies.

#### 6th September, Trinity 14, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Sialkot, Pakistan and Rt Revd Alwin Samuel, Bishop of Sialkot

Diocese: Hospital and nursing home chaplains throughout the Dioceses, that they may bring the healing touch of Christ to those who suffer

## A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,  
you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor, help us to rescue  
the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world, not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

*Pope Francis, from his encyclical "Laudato Si"*

## Diocesan Calendar

(for updates see Diocesan web site – [www.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.limerick.anglican.org))

Sun 8th July, 6pm

Limerick City Parish BBQ

Sun 19th – Sat 25th July  
UDYC Junior Summer Camp.

Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point,  
Co. Clare (10-13)

Sun 19th July, 2.30pm

Aghancon Parish Fete

Thurs 23rd July, 7pm

Borridnafarney Fete

Sun 2nd – Sat 8th August

UDYC Senior Summer Camp  
Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell,  
Co. Sligo (13-17)

Sun 9th August

Killorglin Fete

Sat 26th September, 9.30pm–1am

Roscrea Harvest Supper Ball,  
Roscrea Rugby Club.

Bar facilities & door prize.

Thu 1st October

Sale of Work, The Abbey Hall, Roscrea

# A View from the Pew – Visions & Dreams

The 6th in the series by Salters Sterling



In an earlier piece I remarked that the View from the Pew tells me that there are normally between 30 and 40 worshipers in Church. Today I note that about 20% are under 12 and the remainder are over 40. Just occasionally there are one or two in their 30s. There is a huge generation gap and I suspect it is not much different in most of our churches. To both challenge and surprise myself I reconnect with Pentecost. How so? I read Peter's Sermon and particularly how he catches his

hearers' attention. In Acts, chapter 2, read the early verses. "In the days to come it is the Lord who speaks, I will pour out my spirit on all mankind. Their sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. Even on my slaves, men and women, in those days I will pour out my spirit." It is a comprehensive articulation of a comprehensive community. It speaks of mankind and if that is what the totality of humanity is intended to be you can be certain that the Church is meant to be in the vanguard. So the question is where is my parish, your parish, our dioceses, the Church of Ireland... in the context of comparison.

Are your sons and daughters around to prophesy? If they are, do they prophesy? Or have they been turned off by being unheard when they tried to speak about church and faith? Were their teenage years mostly spent away from home and did they simply grow away from church? Did their confirmation encourage them to think for themselves about the faith and faithful living? If not, why not? Did it give them skills to read the Bible imaginatively, understand and appreciate the liturgy, the capacity to think theologically and ethically about their career and their life choices? Was much of this left to the school and/or the home and could these cope? Perhaps even more importantly, if you are over 40, how would you answer these question for when you were teenagers? Tick them off – yes/no. What is the score?

Your young men shall see visions. Let's be inclusive and include your young women. And speaking of visions I am NOT writing of chemically induced seeings! My encounter with young men and young women tells me that they do a great deal of visioning. About relationships, about career, about relaxation and holidays, about making money, about sport and exercise, about sex, I could go on. All this is wise and wonderful and full of much enticing mystery for us and for themselves. Does this visioning include God and Jesus, church and faith? Most of us probably don't know because the sharing of vision requires a really safe space. Do we create such space and does our parish and our diocese? If not we are in big trouble for without vision the people perish. If there is no vision the parish is on the road to perish. Diocese likewise. What's the visioning score?

Your old men shall dream dreams. Let's be inclusive here too. Psychologically we know dreams are intensely important to personal well-being. Without them the church too is deficient. Since I am in the antediluvian age bracket let me be personal for

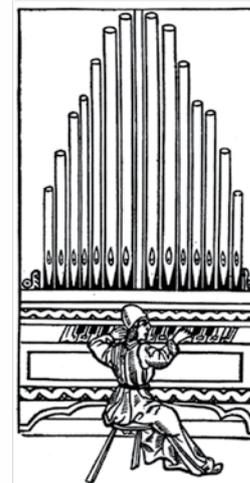
a moment. I dream when I cat-nap. I dream of a planet in which violence disappears and justice reigns. I dream about government that is about fairness and trade unions and pressure groups that include the interests of others equally with self-interest. I dream of an end to domestic violence and hypocrisy about the welfare of children and a health service that is fit for purpose. I dream too of a Church that is about One Lord, one Faith, One Baptism. A Church that is central to the pursuit of Justice. A Church that is the friend of the poor and marginalised and the advocate for them. A Church that is not afraid to be prophetic. A Church that worships joyfully. A Church in which Jesus is present as the Christ who serves. And after all that, a Church that has found a useful use for all its buildings. And then I wake-up, rather sharply I'm afraid! How about you and your elderly? Do they dream or are they preoccupied with keeping furniture, fabric and finance in shape – and are they too tired to dream?

And what about the slaves? Are their equivalent there? And let's give thanks for a Christian Wilberforce when we are about it. Or are we a collection of comfortable people, middle-class, strong farmer and everything North? I cannot, nay dare not, continue. I am out of space. Two things. The clergy aren't meant to do the dreaming, the visioning for us. They may, nay should, share the ministry of prophesy, possibly lead it. They will have their own dreams and visions. That we cannot deny them.

Next time I want to share your own vision with you and I promise you it is going to be very, very positive. Please prepare to sit tight.

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# Care for Creation

## Church of Ireland adopts Environmental Charter

*General Synod 2015 adopted an Environmental Charter for use by all Church of Ireland parishes. It is hoped that the charter, which is based on one adopted by the Diocese of Cashel & Ossory in 2008, will help churches understand their role in environmental stewardship.*

*The charter covers five areas: recognising and reducing waste, increasing environmental awareness, exercising leadership through environmental responsibility, identifying spiritually and practically with the developing world and influencing policy and the Church and State.*

*Eco-Congregation Ireland Chairperson the Ven Andrew Orr said he was delighted to see the production of broad outlines of what could be done to protect and support the environment. "It is vitally important that parishes and dioceses don't leave this report to gather dust," he said and highlighted the work of Eco-Congregation in helping parishes to take environmental steps. Resources are available from <http://ecocongregationireland.com>.*

### An Environmental Charter for the Church of Ireland

As with all Christians, members of the Church of Ireland are charged with stewardship of God's creation, locally, nationally and internationally. All members of the Church, as individuals and as part of the worshipping community, are called to that duty of environmental stewardship through:

#### Recognising and reducing waste

Church bodies and parishes should identify practical steps to reduce waste through simple steps such as monitoring energy use, draught proofing and recycling.

#### Increasing environmental awareness across parishes

Parishes and individuals can only make good choices about environmental issues when they are informed choices. Awareness of these issues should be developed by individuals and Parishes, and may include reflecting the significance of the created order through our worship, exploring alternative energies and exploring resources which promote this awareness tailored to particular constituencies e.g. Youth and Children's Ministry and across Parish Organisations. Eco-Congregation Ireland produce resources that Parishes may find useful.

#### Exercising leadership through environmental responsibility

It is only through actions that results will be forthcoming. The environmental factors in decision making processes within parishes should be highlighted to parishioners e.g. websites and magazines. Conversations about environmental lifestyle choices should be encouraged between parishioners and within parish groups.

#### Identifying spiritually and practically with the developing world

Variation in climate is felt most keenly by those who are encumbered by poverty. Parishes are encouraged to take steps to mitigate the impact of climate change. Parishes are encouraged to continue to support projects that work in such places, and to develop relationships with overseas churches to show solidarity. The Synod remains mindful of Motion 3 passed by the General Synod in 2006, recognising the contribution made by Fairtrade practices to the achievement of justice for the poor.

#### Influencing policy and the Church and State

Big changes start with small groups. By raising awareness and expectations within the Church, members can be better equipped to influence policies through lobbying and elections.

In all of this, prayer for decision makers and those who are impacted by environmental issues should be at the heart of the Church's response.

## Lambeth Declaration on Climate Change

*On 16th June 2015 Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby joined leaders of other British churches and representatives from the Muslim, Sikh and Jewish communities in a call for urgent action to tackle climate change. The call comes ahead of the international climate change talks in Paris this December where negotiators from more than 190 nations will gather to discuss a new global agreement on climate change.*

As leaders of the faith communities we recognise the urgent need for action on climate change.

From the perspective of our different faiths we see the earth as a beautiful gift. We are all called to care for the earth and have a responsibility to live creatively and sustainably in a world of finite resources.

Climate change is already disproportionately affecting the poorest in the world. The demands of justice as well as of creation require the nations of the world urgently to limit the global rise in average temperatures to a maximum of 2oC, as agreed by the United Nations in Cancun. We have a responsibility to act now, for ourselves, our neighbours and for future generations.

The scale of change needed to make the transition to a low carbon economy is considerable and the task urgent. We need to apply the best of our intellectual, economic and political resources. Spirituality is a powerful agent of change. Faith has a crucial role to play in resourcing both individual and collective change.

We call on our faith communities to:

- Recognise the urgency of the tasks involved in making the transition to a low carbon economy.
- Develop the spiritual and theological resources that will strengthen us individually and together in our care of the earth, each other and future generations.
- Encourage and pray for those engaged in the intellectual, economic, political and spiritual effort needed to address this crisis.
- Work with our communities and partners in the UK and internationally to mitigate the effects of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world;
- Build on the examples of local and international action to live and to work together sustainably,
- Redouble our efforts to reduce emissions that result from our own institutional and individual activities.

As representatives of the vast numbers of people of faith across the globe we urge our Government to use their influence to achieve a legally-binding commitment at the international Climate Change talks in Paris, and with the continuing programme beyond. Through our various traditions we bring our prayers for the success of the negotiations.

We call with humility, with a determination enlivened by our faith and with awareness of the need for courage, justice and hope. We are faced with a huge challenge. But we are hopeful that the necessary changes can be made - for the sake of all who share this world today - and those who will share it tomorrow.

# Diocesan Organisations

## Girls Friendly Society

### DIOCESAN CAMP

Camp was held on 12-14 June in Castledaly Manor, Athlone. The weekend started with Zomba Dancing on Friday night when all the girls and leaders joined in the dance class. Once everyone settled into Castledaly Manor it was time for supper. On Saturday we departed by bus to Bay Sports at Hodson Bay in Athlone. The weather was kind to us, as girls took part in survival skills, canoeing, rafting and enjoyed a boat trip to Water World just a short trip away from the pier. There were lots of water sports, games on land and water as well as marshmallows toasted over the open fire. The glorious sunshine and the sound of laughter made it a memorable trip. After lunch in Castledaly Manor we returned to Athlone for shopping, it never fails to amaze us how much enjoyment girls can get from spending their savings in Penney's – GFS should really get shares in the company! The exhausted shoppers returned to Castledaly for a lovely supper. Later that evening girls and leaders started preparation for Sunday lunch by making banners, posters and decorations for the celebration of 25 years of GFS Camp in the Diocese. As usual the crafts and work was wonderful – everyone enjoyed the chance to relax while making, painting, gluing & generally making the dining room look pretty. On Sunday we travelled by bus to Athlone for Church where we enjoyed lovely Morning Prayer in St. Mary's Church.

### 25 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Lunch was a great occasion with many leaders from camps over the past 25 years attending. The spacious facilities at Castledaly meant we had plenty of room to accommodate our large party. The occasion was made extra special by the presentation of a beautiful celebration cake from Valerie and Charlotte Lewis. It was wonderful that so many gathered to mark this milestone in our history. Freda Kenny recalled the first camp held in Villiers School in 1991. The idea came about after Carol Talbot was invited to bring a group of Killaloe girls to join the Cork Diocesan Camp in 1989. Special thanks to Carol Talbot and Grace Healy for preparing the albums of photographs over the past 25 years. It was a joy to hear the many stories and memories recalled by leaders past and present. During the weekend girls enjoyed the usual games, competitions (guess the number of sweets, name the doll, mystery parcel) and colouring pictures. These were all prepared by Grace Healy, Cloughjordan.

Leaders give freely of their time and energy to make camp possible so thanks to all the leaders who provided wonderful food all weekend, crafts, competitions and made preparations over the last few months. It was a lovely gathering of 40 girls and 15 leaders and guests on Sunday in the beautiful venue of Castledaly Manor. Best of all we all enjoyed lots of fun, fellowship and friendship together which we have done for the past 25 years and plan to continue doing for many more years to come.

See page 18 for photos.

### ROSCREA BRANCH

... held their last meeting of the season when the Parents came to view the work of the girls completed during the year and enjoy refreshments. Rev Jane judged the Badge work and presented the badges. Congratulations to Emma on winning a scholarship to

Villiers. The girls who attended camp had a great time and came home exhausted. Some of the branch girls went to The Kildare Maze and Activity Park for an outing in June. A big 'thank you' to the Diocesan Leaders for a wonderful year of Diocesan activities.

## Boys' Brigade

### 1ST TRALEE BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys and Girls of the 1st Tralee BB Company put on a varied programme of Singing, Marching, Games and other activities for Parents & Friends in Teach an tSolais, for the end of the season.

The Ven. Sue Watterson opened the evening with prayer and thanked all the Leaders for their time & commitment – Mrs. Collette Price, Captain, Mrs. Dawn Roberts, Mr. Colin Boyle, Mr. Gerhart Maritz and Mr. David Tough. Sadly we said goodbye earlier in the year to our Chaplain, Rev. Jane Galbraith, and we wish her well in Roscrea Parish. We also say goodbye and thanks to Mrs. Dawn Roberts for her time with the Company.



*Jack Reidy winner of William Fitzell Anchor Boy Cup and Megan Slye, winner of Pam Cooke Junior Section Cup along with Mrs. Collette Price, Captain 1st Tralee Company.*

## Annual Open Air Service at Clonmacnoise Sunday 26th July at 4pm

**Preacher:** Ven. Leslie Stevenson, Archdeacon of Meath and Kildare. A field is available for parking, and for a picnic after the Service. All are welcome at this annual service, which makes a delightful family day out.

## BALLINASLOE MOTHERS' UNION

The members of St. John's Ballinasloe welcomed local historian Gerry Devlin to their April meeting. He spoke of the involvement of large numbers of Ballinasloe men in the World War 1. It was a very informative talk and was well received and enjoyed. Interesting questions were asked and Gerry showed us replica memorabilia and many photographs and service records of that period. At the conclusion of a very pleasant evening Gerry was invited to come back again.

Members looked forward to their outing to Parker's Restaurant in Birr for dinner followed by a visit to the theatre.

Our ongoing projects are proceeding as always. Muriel Cobban brought two beautiful hand knit blankets to the meeting. These are for the Women's Refuge in Athlone. If any readers have leftover balls of DK wool, St. John's MU would be very pleased to use them for this project.



*Jean Talbot and Ina Blackwell at the Diocesan Service in St Catherine's Church, Eyrecourt*

## United Diocesan Youth Council

### CONFIRMATION WEEKEND By Maud Eadie

The weekend got off to a great start with a fun-filled bus ride and games to break the ice. Saturday began early as we headed to Star Outdoors in Kenmare for a day of activities ranging from kayaking and raft-building in the water to land based activities like archery and mountain biking. We returned to Muckcross Venture Centre tired after an enjoyable afternoon, where we were enlightened through a wonderful session with Damian. We were welcomed warmly by the parish of St. Mary's in Killarney for a lovely service followed by delicious snacks and friendly conversation. The Bishop kindly joined us answering any questions the participants had, after enjoying a beautiful lunch courtesy of Rachel Davis. Then the group enjoyed a trip to Killarney High Ropes before returning to the centre for dinner and a disco. Monday morning held a trip to the Aquadome before finishing our weekend with worship and workshop, led by Damian. The weekend was very helpful to the participants regarding their confirmations and very enjoyable for all involved.

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### Junior Summer Camp

Sunday 19th July – Saturday 25th July 2015

Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare

10- 13 year olds

#### Senior Summer Camp

Sunday 2nd August – Saturday 8th August 2015

Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo

13 plus year olds

The two weeklong summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to rejoin and make new friends, enjoy fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today don't delay! Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 10th July and for Senior Summer Camp is Friday 24th July. There will be transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Birr ( senior camp only ) to both camps.

Our action packed programmes on both camps include the following: Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Waterfights, Campfires, Variety Show, Team Challenger, Man-hunt, Discos

In addition, the Junior Camp will include a range of activities at Burren Outdoor Education Centre to include: caving, rock climbing & abseiling. Watersport activities at Nevsail Watersports include the following: kayaking, coasteering, raft building & windsurfing . Overnight Camp Out at campsite in Fenor, Co. Clare to include hill walking in great outdoors, sandcastle competition, bar-b-que, camp fire and sing- a- long. Other activities include: Doolin Caves, Bowling, Quazar & cinema, swimming at Lahinch Seaworld.

On the Senior Camp there will be activities at Donegal Adventure Centre including the following activities: surfing, kayaking, cliff jumping, High Ropes Course, Archery/ Orienteering. We hope to have a magnificent hill walking experience in local mountains. Finally a trip to Lough Key Forest & Activity Park to include Zip it Forest Adventure Tree Top course (climb it, swing it, surf it zip it !!) finishing with a trip to Bundoran for swimming at Waterworld, bowling and amusements at Glowbowl, shopping, fast food at KFC cinema

How Much? The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee will be €220 for 7 days. SPECIAL OFFER – €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family. Non-refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Henry on 086/2235735, Email: [udyc@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:udyc@limerick.anglican.org) our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,  
Sophia Levie



*Mountain Biking Trip at Diocesan Confirmation Weekend*

# Diocesan Board Of Mission

MISSION EVENING REPORT BY MARTY SANDERS, NENAGH UNION

*'Mission: the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith' (OED).*

We've all seen the movies or perhaps read the books about missionaries of different Christian beliefs going to save the souls of the heathens. But in this day and age, is this even relevant? For one thing, we have developed greater understanding and sometimes tolerance for the beliefs of others. Is it even polite to try to 'bring them to Jesus'? Greater communications by people everywhere means most of us know more about ourselves and others—the 'ignorant savages' may not accept that title or being treated in a certain way anymore. After all, they probably have mobile phones and access to the Internet. So what role does the word 'Missions' even play in the church of today and what does the word mean now? Sadly, 'missions' seems to have fallen on hard times.

Speaking on Global Mission within the Anglican Communion on June 10th, Bishop Kenneth and Archdeacon Wayne led us in an intense discussion on the very meaning of 'mission' and how it is relevant to our church and lives today. Is mission giving money as we have been doing to Swaziland? Should it be more? Should money not be the driver at all but genuine friendship and companionship that will last beyond any monetary support?

Bishop Kenneth shared some of his experiences from his time with the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), whose role is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the Provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. He gave us three examples of 'mission' as it has been practiced recently:

1. A man burst into a meeting at a Cathedral and shouted he was 'looking for Jesus'. After calm was restored, the Dean started talking about the mission of the Cathedral, which was surely 'to show Jesus'. This began to be talked about and permeated everything done at the Cathedral. The courtesy of the ushers, the kindness to strangers who visited the Cathedral for worship or to visit, the attention to detail by volunteers—all marked with the mantra 'to show Jesus'. This local outreach is surely day-to-day mission and touches thousands every year.
2. The Province of Canada wanted to help somehow when the Ebola crisis hit West Africa last year so they contacted the Anglican authorities to see how they could help. It transpired that the Mothers' Union was providing contact and support to people quarantined for 21 days in their homes. Money was transferred directly to the Mothers' Union to help them help people in need.
3. In a third project, goats and pens were provided to families in a village in Malawi, working much as we are used to Bóthar here. The first-born kid has to be given to another family but the goats leave the family self-sustaining with no further contact from the givers.

These are all 'mission projects' but none of them could be called proselytising. All 'show Jesus', as indeed everything we do should. None create a situation where one party feels dependent on another for a long time. Each enables the recipient to retain dignity and self-respect—there is no sense of superior and inferior, just a helping hand.

Is this the modern missionary work we can see as valid, something we can support? We as a diocese need to address our future as instruments of Jesus, doing God's work for others. We have been

supporting the Luyengo farm in Swaziland for four years now and we can probably support it for four years more or forty—there will always be a need. We can turn our focus towards Ireland more than we have been doing. Many here, including refugees, need assistance of various kinds. Indeed, the needs are so great in so many countries, including those now teeming with 'boat people' fleeing war and repression, that it wouldn't be hard to find places that need our help, financial and otherwise.

But are we willing not only to give that help, but make it a priority in our Christian lives? Do we still see this as a way to 'show Jesus' to the world? The meeting with Bishop Kenneth and Archdeacon Wayne was just the beginning of a dialogue needed in our dioceses. How important is 'mission', and how can we best fulfill it?

## SHIPMENT TO AFRICA THROUGH UNITED SOCIETY

The items, totaling 120 boxes, were sorted, packed and labelled last week in Teach an tSolais, Tralee Parish. These, along with the vegetable washer, are now awaiting shipment to Dublin/Cork for packing into a container in August. Many thanks to local organiser David Frizelle, David Tough and his family, and the Youth Section of Tralee Red Cross for their assistance, also to Tralee Parish for the use of their facilities.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

#### SCHOOL TOURS

This year we were very fortunate to have beautiful sunny weather for both school tours. The junior pupils took a trip to Crag Cave where they had a very enjoyable day. The seniors headed off bright and early to Killarney to be on time for milking at Muckcross Farm. This was milking with a difference as it was all by hand, which came as a bit of a surprise to some of the pupils! Then it was a quick walk to Muckcross House where we were given a guided tour. Our final stop was in Tralee where everyone had an hour and a half of fun in the Aquadome. Thank you to the parents who accompanied us on both tours.

#### CHESS NEWS

Well done to all our chess teams who competed in the Limerick Chess League. Congratulations to our champions' team who were runners-up.

#### ST NICK'S BUZZ

The final edition of St. Nick's Buzz was circulated at the end of term with some wonderful reports and interviews. 5th class pupils were given the task of interviewing 6th class pupils to hear all about their time in St. Nicholas' before they leave.

#### RAISE THE FLAGS!

Monday 22nd June was a busy day in school. We held our Sports Day in the school grounds and in the afternoon we raised our two new flags.

We invited Andrew Tutty, a past pupil, to raise our Active Flag. Andrew has represented Ireland in hockey at under 18 level. Jayne Benson, our green-fingered school secretary, raised the school's fifth green flag, for biodiversity. The student members of our Active Flag and Green Schools' Committees welcomed everyone to the event and afterwards guests and pupils were treated to a slice of cake and refreshments in the school.

## TALENT SHOW

Once again 6th class pupils organised our annual talent show when pupils entertained teachers and parents with a wide variety of performances. As usual there was a varied selection of 'talents' on show.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aiyuni O'Grady who was awarded a day scholarship to Villiers and well done to all the pupils who sat entrance and scholarship exams.

Congratulations to Louise Butler who was selected for Cumann na mBunscoil, Limerick. The team played at half-time during the Munster semi-final between Limerick and Tipperary.

## SCHOOL GARDEN

We have been enjoying our new 'quiet' area in school and have been able to use it as an outdoor classroom during the recent fine spell of weather. The flowers are blooming, the vegetables are doing well and there is now a fine collection of bugs in the 'Bug Hotel'!

## GOODBYE TO 6TH CLASS

School closed on Friday 26th June with a service of thanksgiving in St. Nicholas' Church when we said farewell to our sixth class pupils, Louise, Lucy, Jessica, Kristoffer, Darragh, Aiyuni, Leah, Chloe and Michael and wished them every success as they move on to secondary school.



*6th class pupils in Adare enjoying their last few days in St. Nicholas*

School re-opens for the new school year on Tuesday 1st September 2015 and we hope all our pupils, parents and staff have a happy Summer break with lots of lovely sunshine!



*Some soccer action during Active Week in Adare*

## St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Now the end of the school year has arrived. We take down our posters, tidy our classrooms and give the pupils their portfolios. There is a great sense of satisfaction when we look back at all of the work done this past year. Each teacher will reflect fondly upon all of the adventures, dramas and triumphs experienced since last September. Even as they do so, they are already planning for next year. Schedules, calendars and notes are being drafted each evening after long days of School Tours and Sports Days.

We would like to sincerely thank our dedicated team at St. Mary's for their contribution this year. The long list includes our hardworking Board of Management, our dedicated Parents' Association, our friendly secretary, Mrs. Cope, our Special Needs assistant, Mrs Rohan, our facilities helper, Mrs Bacean, as well as the kind parents who volunteer their services regularly.

It has been a pleasure to keep you posted on our school adventures this year. May we leave you with our warmest thoughts and a little reflection from the point of view of a teacher at this time of year.

This Hand I Hold  
This hand I hold I touch it now  
For all eternity,  
And the knowledge that I share  
I give from me to you.  
In hope that all you do and say  
Reflects the lessons learned,  
And all the awards that you receive  
Are ones that you have earned.  
I am your present teacher  
And your true friend,  
But when the year is over  
My thoughts of you won't end.  
For in my dearest memory  
Forever you will be,  
And when you go I hope that you  
Will take a part of me.  
This hand I hold I touch it now  
For all eternity,  
And the knowledge that I share  
I give from me to you.

## St Cronan's National School, Roscrea

2014/2015 was a busy year in St Cronan's NS. We became a two teacher school in November as sadly numbers didn't meet the Department's Magic figure.

We offer our congratulations to Mrs Hogan who became a Mum to Oisín in November.

Pupils raised funds for North Tipperary Hospice and for Christian Aid by hosting a Coffee Morning in September which coincided with the date that our school moved to Rosemount 40 years ago and a Pancake Morning to launch their Lenten Project. The pupils also supported The Shoebox Appeal, were involved in releasing a CD 'Love Came Down' with the other four schools in Roscrea to support Roscrea Stands Up, sang at two Coffee Mornings in the Methodist Hall, and went Carol Singing in the Dean Maxwell Home, in Tesco and in Supervalu.

During the year they enjoyed coaching in Soccer, Rugby, Tennis, Hockey and Swimming. Pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th classes came 3rd in Villiers Interschools Sports Day. A number of boys played in the footsteps of their heroes in the Aviva Stadium at the National Minirugby Blitz.

We entered many competitions and were delighted when Ruby, Jane, Sam, Ross and Rebecca won prizes in the Roscrea Tidy Towns Poster Competition, including the Overall Bernie Colclough Shield.

Hollie Talbot won a scholarship to Kilkenny College.

As the year draws to a close we wish all those who are leaving us to move to Secondary School every success in the years ahead. A Special End of Year Service was held on 12th June to say goodbye to pupils and staff leaving this year. We wish Ms McConville, Ms Slattery, Ms Barnwell and Ms Hennelly continued success in their teaching and hope they enjoyed their time with us.

We look forward to welcoming our 5 new Junior Infants Pupils and 1 new Second Class pupil in September and of course welcoming Ms Hogan back after maternity.

Our Parents' Association continue to work tirelessly raising funds and helping in so many ways. They organised a very enjoyable and successful Cookery Demonstration in March and supported many other events throughout the year.

On behalf of all the staff in St Cronan's NS thank you to all who support our school in so many ways from so many different parishes. We wish you all a very happy and enjoyable holiday.

## Rathkeale No. 2 National School

Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of yet another school year and what a busy one it has been for us in Rathkeale. We welcome back Ms Ciara Looney after her maternity leave and say goodbye and thanks to Ms Maria Moore who has been with us since the beginning of January. She has been a great asset to the school and we wish her well in her future teaching career.

Following on from the great success and enjoyable day at the Inter Primary School Sports Day in Villiers last month we had our own Sports Day earlier this month in Ballysteen where we joined with the pupils from Ballysteen and Coolcappa National Schools for the day. We were blessed with the weather for the day as the sun shone and the rain stayed away. Congratulations to all our pupils for their great sportsmanship and a special congratulations to Cathal in 3rd class for being awarded with the "Sportsperson of the Day" trophy for Rathkeale.

In keeping with our green flag status we visited Grouselodge Windfarm on Global Wind Day and learned about how the turbines generate electricity. We also got to see the turbines up close and personal and it's only when you stand under them that you realise just how big they are!

We celebrated our fourth green flag on Thursday 11th June with a flag raising afternoon. Congratulations to all our committee for their work in this achievement. We thank former principal, Rae Teskey for raising the flag for us and welcomed friends old and new to the school. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Kenneth on his first visit to the school.

As we close for the summer we wish our sixth class pupils, Robyn, Isobel and Evelyn well as they depart and embark on their secondary education.



*4th, 5th and 6th class pupils as they leave for Villiers Interschools Sports Day wearing their new jerseys*



*Roscrea Tidy Towns Poster Competition*



*Bishop Kenneth and Rae Teskey at the Green Flag Ceremony.*



*Pupils with the Green Flag*



*Raising the Green Flag*

## Villiers School

### DOUBLE RETIREMENT

We acknowledge the retirement of both Gwen Cottis and Rosemary Shire from the maths department and café respectively who have given so much to Villiers and its students. They both will be sorely missed by teachers and students alike. We will miss their kindness, happiness, professionalism and words of wisdom. More to follow.....



### SENIOR BOYS HOLLAND TOUR – AUGUST 2015

We wish the senior boys hockey squad well in their upcoming Holland tour from 19th – 24th August. They will receive expert coaching and practice matches throughout their stay. Their main base is Den Bosch Hockey Club in Holland and we thank George Blackwell for all his hard work in organising this excellent opportunity for the squad.

### JUNIOR AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Now that the state exams have come to an end we wish all form 3 and form 6 students success in their exams and good luck to the graduates who seek placement in third level courses.

### REFURBISHMENTS

Mike Kearsley and his team are busily carrying out upgrades, repairs and refurbishments to the school campus alongside the summer camps and Euro language courses. Added to this Derravoher House continues to be upgraded in preparation for student life.

### NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

Things are calming down here in Villiers, Junior and Leaving Cert is over and all the angst, anxiety and worry that has been in the air over the past few weeks is now somewhat lessened. There is of course now just a matter of the results to look forward to! Alongside the anxiety there has also been a sense of excitement as some look to new beginnings and others to a new future. I was privileged to preach in St Mary's Cathedral recently where I asked the question. 'What are you excited about today? Are you excited about the growth that is taking place in your life? Are you excited about the opportunities for service and good deeds that exist all around you? Are you excited about the variety of possibilities that the future holds? What gives your life energy and enthusiasm? The unfortunate fact is that a great many people are not excited about anything. In fact, many people are living lives that are crippled by cynicism, despair and depression. There is a lot that can seriously lower your enthusiasm and dampen the joy of living. It is not hard to find a lot of evidence to justify being cynical, bitter and depressed about life. In fact if you start looking for all the things that you can find to justify a negative view about the world, about self, about others, then you will soon have more than you will know what to do with. If I believe that people are "no good", I can find ample evidence for that. If I believe that nobody should be trusted, I can find lots of evidence to justify that position. And unfortunately some of it is true, some people are not very good. There are people in the world who cannot be trusted. The future will contain some surprises that are not good. But if you believe that this is all there is, then that perspective becomes a prison that limits your energy and restrains your enthusiasm for the future. It's a perspective that leads to cynicism, bitterness and depression. It's a perspective that cuts the energy and joy in your life and keeps you from achieving your God-given potential. Jesus lived His life with a perspective that was markedly different from most of the people with whom He came in contact. The thrust of His gospel was an invitation to view self, others and the world in the light of God's love, power and justice. One of the things that characterized the ministry of Jesus was His ability to see beyond the appearance to the possibility. He viewed others, not so much in terms of what they were, but in terms of what they would become as a result of the liberating power of God's love. An ordinary fisherman became the rock on which the church would be built. A dishonest tax collector becomes a trusted friend and disciple. Outsiders are invited to be leaders. The unclean are restored to fellowship. The hopelessly ill are made well again. An angry Pharisee who is a persecutor of the church becomes the apostle to the gentiles. People who heard and believed the good news of the gospel were liberated from the prison of a negative perspective and given instead a perspective of possibility through the transforming power and liberating love of God. When anyone joins the Villiers community they are encouraged to look for the signs of the kingdom of God in themselves and in others. It may be no larger than the proverbial mustard seed; but if it is nurtured then it becomes possible to live and love with a new perspective; and to offer that perspective in the name of God to people caught in the bondage of disappointment about life and in prisons of negative thinking. Jesus has called us to be His disciples. No matter what our situation or condition, He has something important for us to do. Believe that and it will change how you think and how you live in the world. Believe that and you will receive a new enthusiasm and excitement about life. Believe that and you and the world will be a very different place.

Blessings and Peace to you all until next time.  
Chaplain Jackie McNair

# Killaloe Diocese

## Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

*Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.*

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

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Mob: 085-764 0533

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Two local choirs, the Lough Derg Singers under direction from Froukje Powell and Blue Sky Singers with Tembre De Carteret and a Harp Ensemble performed at St Cronan's Church Tuamgraney on Sunday 14th June as a fundraiser for the church fund. A beautiful collection of songs and styles from around the world was heard. We want to extend our thanks to all involved, volunteering their time and talents and giving to those who attended a lovely evening of entertainment.

Violet Murdock is the senior parishioner in Mountshannon Church and on Tuesday 16th June a short service of thanksgiving was held for her in the church as we gave God thanks for her on her 90th birthday. It was also appropriate that some cake and tea was shared afterward to celebrate the occasion. Violet lives on her own and manages to care for herself and still does a bit of work on her farm with her few animals. A really remarkable women and we wish her many more years and good health. A big thank for all who arranged the evening and to those who came to be with Violet.



*Violet Murdock holding her birthday cake with Jossy Barkman and Dora Benson.*

Helen Robinson and Brendan O'Donnell were married at St Flannan's Cathedral on 19 June. Fr Donagh O'Meara was part of the ceremony. The rain stayed away and the church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. It is always a lovely occasion when family and friends can gather this way in order to be part of this couples' commitment to one another. We wish them a happy and long life together.



*Helen Robinson and Brendan O'Donnell with Dean Gary*

The Killaloe Chamber Music Festival now in its third year took place once again on the weekend of 19th to 21st June under the guidance of Artistic Director Joachim Roewer. Six concerts in three days. Talented local children and renowned musicians who have performed on the world's greatest stages. Included in the festival at the Cathedral was an exhibition by visual artist and RTE presenter Trish Taylor Thompson. It was also wonderful to have Keith Wood open the festival on the Friday. So it was yet again our privilege to host such an array of talent at the Cathedral.

Clonlara church has not been used for a number of years now and needs some TLC. On 11th July a clean-up is arranged at 2.30pm and we hope many will come and help and bring along a mop or a broom or something to hack off ivy. It is our hope to have a harvest thanksgiving service there as well as the occasional service and see if this church can be used and not just become another ruin. The Castleconnell Church fund it at the moment and it is hoped with time it will be a church used more often and be able to keep itself. It is our hope instead of closing this church permanently we can open its doors and expand our missionary work of proclaiming the good news here in this place as well.

  
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# Three Choirs in Concert

## By Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

Sunday 7th June saw the choirs of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, and Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford, come together in St Canice's for a wonderful concert of choral music under the heading 'I was glad'.

The concert began with the three choirs joining together for the very appropriate opening piece, C Hubert Parry's anthem 'I was glad', words from Psalm 122. This was conducted by Peter Barley, with Eric Sweeney on the organ. Then our own St Mary's Cathedral choir, under the direction of Peter Barley, sang three unaccompanied settings of 'Teach me, O Lord' (from Psalm 119, v 33). The settings were by William Byrd (1543-1625); Thomas Attwood (1765-1838), and John Hilton the younger (c 1599-1667). It was fascinating to hear three different musical approaches to the same text, and for this reporter, the singing of the Byrd setting was one of the highlights of the whole evening.



*The choirs performing in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny*

Next, St Canice's Choir, for their first piece, sang a 17th century setting of a responsory from the Catholic liturgy for Holy Saturday – O vos omnes – (from Lamentations 1:12), composed by Carlo Gesualda da Venosa (1566-1613). This was conducted by their Director, David Forde. Current organ scholar, Roisin Rowley-Brooke (ex Nenagh Union!), then conducted a hauntingly beautiful piece by Max Reger (1873-1916), 'Unser lieben Frauen Traum', in which the Virgin Mary is imagined as "dreaming of a tree, whose spreading branches offer shade and protection to all, just as her son and his crucifixion offer salvation to all people." Roisin then moved to the organ to accompany the final piece from the St Canice choir, the anthem 'O thou, the central orb', by Charles Wood (1866-1926), conducted by David Forde.

Then it was the turn of Waterford Christ Church Cathedral Choir, who sang 'The Mass of St Patrick', composed and conducted by Eric Sweeney, with Cecilia Keogh on the organ. The Mass had been commissioned by the Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and was first performed in 2007, conducted by the then Director of Music, Peter Barley. (Members of the Nenagh Union of Parishes will remember Eric Sweeney's visit to St Mary's Church, Nenagh, a few years ago when he provided the musical accompaniment on the organ to the film "Phantom of the Opera" as part of the Nenagh Silent Film Festival.)

Following an interval, the three choirs came together again to perform the Mass in G major, D.167, by Franz Schubert (1797-1828). This lovely lyrical work was composed by Schubert in

just one week, when he was still only 18 years old. The choirs were conducted by David Forde and accompanied by Malcolm Proud.

'I was glad' wasn't 'just' a concert though, it was also an occasion of worship where we, the listeners, were privileged to hear great choral singing in praise of God. In this, the three Cathedrals were providing exactly what Cathedrals should provide, occasions of splendour and heart lifting joyfulness, and these were certainly appreciated by the very large gathering of people who attended – both clergy and lay. We all certainly were glad that we had gone to the house of the Lord! It was good also to be reminded via the programme notes of just how much work is being done to support and encourage young choral singers, and in this also, the Cathedrals continue to display their worth as centres of excellence in music and liturgy.

It would be wonderful to see this 3 Choirs concert becoming an annual Festival!

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# Creation - God is Incarnate

## The 5<sup>th</sup> of 7 articles on Creation by Rev Simon J Lumby, Rector of Killarney Union

The Incarnation; perhaps the most astonishing claim of all! Having looked at the Oneness of God, in which we saw how Creation must exist within God—if it is to exist at all—and in which we said that God cannot exist within Creation, how then can God be Incarnate??



*Jesus was a baby of a Jewish family*

There's a parable in which a 3D entity pokes a finger into a 2D space. The 2D inhabitants are unable to see inside what to them as a solid circle. They see the finger, but they've no idea what it is, and never can.

Since, as we saw, God is intrinsically present in all spacetime the Incarnation is then the visible and comprehensible localisation of all that characterises God. I am as much present in my big toe as I am in my heart. The notion of Sonship is this: that everything about the nature and will of God is present in Christ. The "true image" [Col 1:15]; the "exact imprint" [Heb 1:3 ]; the Word made Flesh [John 1:14 ]. And yet Creation is given the capacity to see it and to know it (aka the Holy Spirit).

God is intrinsically harmonic and Creation is partially harmonic (it has inharmonic aspects to its structure and behaviour). So, in Christ all things are made new [2 Cor 5:17]; ie Christ is harmonic. Therefore, Christ has no capacity whatsoever to perturb Creation; ie Christ cannot make boundaries between things. His only capability is to bridge or remove boundaries. That is his universality. Thus, Christ is innately challenging to discontinuities (aka evil).

This means that Christ is the manner by which God heals the innate limitation of nature to suffer discontinuities or boundaries. Christ acts to bridge all boundaries. In life, he could only do it partially, locally; ascended, he can do it universally. So why don't we see it?



*The Hands Across the Divide statue next to the Craigavon Bridge in Derry*

Well, basically, because we're still of the opinion that, behave as though, the world is unrequited. I can tell you 'til I'm blue in the

face that the sun shines in Kerry. But whilst you persist in the conviction that it's always raining there, my truth has no value for you. You'll always come with your brolly. This is the meaning of "once for all" [eg Heb 10:2]. Jesus did it; we still think it's not yet and are waiting for him to finish it. This is the problem with our theory of Atonement and of Sin. We think repentance is about forgiveness - it's not, it's more than that, it's about rebirth into Christlikeness.

Back in England, at a former church, there's a triptych stained glass window in the Vestry. It is necessary to read the inscription one line at a time across all three windows: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Samuel Frost ... who died [etc] Also of Nanny his wife who died [etc]". However, if the relationship between the windows is ignored or broken then a reading of the first window gives a completely wrong idea: "To the glory of God and in memory of his wife who died February 9 1858"



*A misleading memorial window*

To cooperate with Christ we must be Christlike. To be Christlike we must be reborn; the Orthodox call this theosis. The West has lost this notion in its fixation with sins and their forgiveness.

We are assured that glory-hope subsists with "Christ in you" [Col 1:27, Gal 2:20] ie the 're-incarnation' of God in Christ in Us, through that trust we place in God to do just that: indwell; we call this our faith. This is how the Children of God bind relationships, heal the sick, free the captive and bridge boundaries. It's the innate and inevitable function of the indwelt people of faith to function as Christ did in his earthly ministry. The necessary conclusion is that our lesser death—that death of ego that causes separation and boundaries—must come before our greater death when the energy that comprised our mortal self is recycled.

So. Inasmuch as we act, we act according to two motivations. The one is healing, the other is disruptive. The one is a consequence of God's nature, the other is the inevitable result of partiality. But God is incapable of allowing evil in the divine presence! There is a mathematical impossibility here. What was it, really, that Christ gave up in order to become perfect!! [Phil 2:7] Let's see ...

# GFS Diocesan Camp 2015

Girls and leaders enjoyed lots of fun, fellowship and friendship at the GFS Diocesan Camp held on 12-14th June 2015 at Castledaly Manor, Athlone. For a report of both the Camp and the 25th Anniversary celebrations see GFS notes, page 8.



Zomba dance class



Wet suits on and ready to enjoy water sports in Hodson Bay



That water as so inviting



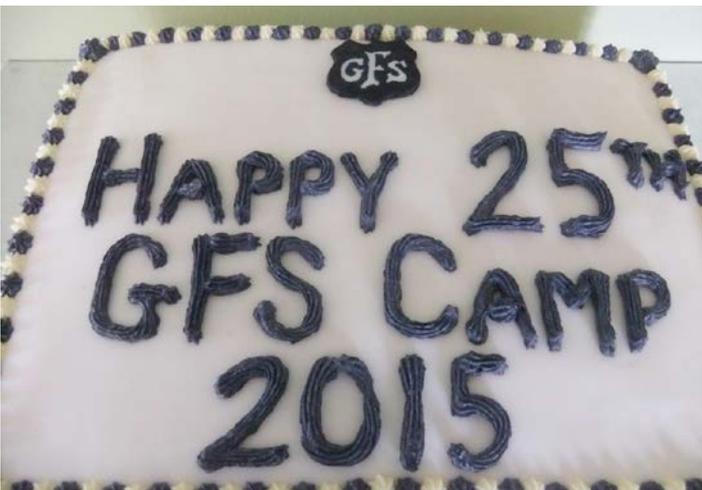
Light the fire and toast the marshmallows



On the boat out to Water World



40 girls having fun at Castledaly Manor



Celebration Cake made by Valerie & Charlotte Lewis



25 years of GFS Diocesan Camp

# Diocesan Synod 2015 Report by Andrew Eadie, Killarney Union

The annual Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 20th June in Aghancon Community Centre, Co. Offaly. For some of us it was a long trek to a beautiful part of rural Ireland. We were greeted by a warm and generous welcome by a highly organised team of hosts who catered for every need during the day. Seating arrangements encouraged good engagement in the business and debates as well as the making and renewing of friendships. Attendance was good and business started pretty promptly for Bishop Kenneth's first Synod.

His first Presidential address to Synod was wide ranging. One point that stood out to this writer was his proposal for "long term church". He plans to set up a group to develop proposals and plans so we can do what we do better and make new and better use of our resources. He also spoke of the recent same sex marriage referendum and the disappointment that the Church of Ireland had seemed to keep its head down rather than be relevant to the debate. Happily he spoke of how he is enjoying settling in the diocese, which is great news.

Unusually, the Synod was presented with a motion for debate on parochial amalgamations by two lay members of Synod (Eric Champ of Kilcolman Union and Adrian Hilliard of Killarney Union). Their opening remarks succeeded in unlocking a most interesting debate with many pertinent points raised by a succession of speakers. An exciting possibility was opened up by several speakers of developing our ancient buildings as part of a Celtic spirituality programme for visitors. Ultimately, the proposer moved an amendment that calls on Diocesan Council to give the matter detailed attention and this was carried.

Following lunch, Synod moved to discussion on Diocesan Boundaries and the document sent from General Synod. A group of 5 Synod members had prepared a questionnaire document and Ed Hardy

opened the debate with a summary of the proposals after which Synod broke into small groups to discuss the questionnaire and prepare feedback. When the feedback came it was overwhelmingly negative with little of merit being seen in any of the proposals. Whether this will suffice remains to be seen and the working group will have more to do before Diocesan Council meets with the General Synod commission. Many wondered where this approach to the subject gained its legs?

Synod then commenced its annual scrutiny of the book of reports starting with that of the Diocesan Council. These were all adopted or received as appropriate with no contention and fairly limited debate. Time was moving on and much of value had been said earlier. For me as proposer of Diocesan Council report this short debate was a relief and I considered myself spared a grilling on financial detail! Seriously, it is good to report that the Diocesan finances remain in reasonable condition thanks to the generous giving of our parishioners and hardworking treasurers. We salute you!

The Synod also heard a presentation on "Dignity in Church Life" by Yvonne Blennerhassett and adopted a motion to establish a Communications Committee. Interesting stands on the fringes of Synod abounded with members visiting these to discuss and learn more on bodies including Protestant Aid, US, Youth Council and Priorities Fund, to name but a few.

Synod concluded with the Eucharist, enriched by the musical talents of Rev. Michael Kavanagh. We went our separate ways after refuelling on tea and cakes following a very interesting Synod, at which Jesus was indeed mentioned, and we trust his guiding hand and the Holy Spirit will drive our endeavours in the year ahead.



*Bishop Kenneth chairing the Synod with Diocesan Secretary Yvonne Blennerhassett*



*Highly organised Aghancon hosts made Synod very welcome*



*Rev Michael Cavanagh's musical talents enriched the concluding Eucharist*



*The catering team treated Synod members to an excellent lunch.*



Ed Hardy, Clonfert Group, introduced the discussion on diocesan boundaries



Synod members taking a break outside



Some of the stands on the fringes of Diocesan Synod 2015

## Six Words About Haiti by Rev Laurence Graham

What a joy to be back in Haiti where I once lived and worked as an agriculturalist with the Methodist Church. It was there that I did my first preaching, in Creole in 1991, and it was there that my call to ministry began. This time I was back with a wonderful team of twelve people from all over Ireland. As well as facilitating a building project at a church-run teacher training college, we ran children's clubs in various places. These turned out to be sanctified chaos and were much enjoyed by over six hundred children! Some of our team facilitated medical clinics and we also had seminars with Haitian preachers during which we learned much from each other about mission in our respective contexts. I could talk for hours about Haiti but let me try to summarize the country and the church in six words.

### HISTORY

Columbus himself arrived in Haiti to begin its colonial history. Within a very short time all of the indigenous peoples were wiped out either intentionally or by European disease. Haiti subsequently became France's richest slave colony and at least one million people were taken from Africa to Haiti to work the sugar plantations in horrendous conditions. However, in 1804 Haiti became the world's first independent black republic after the only successful slave revolt ever recorded in history. The problem with this was that all the other world powers still had their slaves and so they ostracised

this new nation. There was a complete trade embargo against Haiti from its beginnings and the new nation was forced to pay compensation to France for over a century until 1925.

### POVERTY

Haiti's poverty is rooted in its history. There's an official minimum wage of US\$3 per day but 70% of the people have no formal employment and many of those who do don't get the minimum wage. Most people live on \$1 per day i.e. in absolute poverty. It is also estimated that approximately half the population are not properly nourished.

### EARTHQUAKE

Haiti was already the poorest country in the Western hemisphere when on the 12th January 2010 an earthquake killed approximately a quarter of a million people across an area of about forty miles diameter. Five years later the rubble is finally cleared but there are still vast amounts of rebuilding to take place.

The above three words are all rather negative and words that you may already have associated with Haiti. These words describe the harsh reality of life for most Haitian people. But there is another set of words which are equally true of Haiti.

## ENERGY

The one thing you will almost never see in Haiti is anybody sitting around waiting for anything. Everyone is up and at it – buying, selling, working, making – doing whatever they can to survive. Walking down the street you're likely to see a lady with a block of ice on her head selling small pieces, a man with a wheelbarrow (that he has hired for the day) carrying home big bags of charcoal which somebody has bought at the market, a man sitting on the footpath with a pile of wood and a machete making chairs, someone else with a welder making metal beds on the side of the street, groups of ladies sitting on the ground surrounded by fruit and vegetables that they've grown on their farms up in the mountains and have travelled to the city to sell – they will remain there until it's all sold even if that takes several days. Haitian people are industrious, energetic and doing all that they can to help themselves.

## GODLINESS

In Ireland we often talk about the theological concept of depending on God for everything. For most Haitian Christians this is a daily reality. In Haiti you will meet lots of people with a deep faith which is intrinsic to their everyday life. We were there for the fifth anniversary of the terrible earthquake and on that day I sat in awe as I watched a group of women fervently praying for each other and for their nation on that difficult day. I'll never forget the four hour church service high up in the mountains bringing to an end a weekend convention and after which some of the people would walk home for eight hours across the hills. Such was their commitment to be there.



*Inside the Methodist Church in the mountain village of Furcy*



*Earthquake memorial at a mass grav*

## GENEROSITY

Haitian people have a strong instinct to help each other. One of our team was deeply moved by a ten year old boy in a church run children's home who, on meeting a rich lady from Ireland, immediately began to pray God's blessing on her and her family. Then there was the leader of a small home fellowship group which is part of a church in a very poor area of Port-au-Prince. The group meets every week to study the Bible and pray but they are also saving up so that they can buy a grinder and make it available to the local community for a very small charge so that their neighbours can grind their own coffee, peanuts etc. At every level of the church there's an automatic instinct to reach out to do what they can to meet the social needs of their community as well as proclaiming the good news of Jesus. The Methodist Church in Haiti is as poor as the nation but, with help from partner churches around the world runs over a hundred schools (mostly in areas where there would be no school otherwise), numerous health clinics, a forestry project, a goat breeding project and small micro credit initiatives to help people access the tiny amount of capital that they need to get a kick start in generating their livelihood.

So as we continue to pray for the nation of Haiti and our Christian brothers and sisters there, let us also allow ourselves to be encouraged, challenged and educated by the Haitian people.



*Haitians are industrious, energetic, doing all they can to help themselves*

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# Festival of Faith & Flowers in Adare by Rev. Canon Liz Beasley

The Holy Spirit was much in evidence at St. Nicholas' Church in Adare on Pentecost weekend, 22nd – 24th May, when more than 1,000 people attended the church's Festival of Faith & Flowers. The Festival was the main event in the celebration of the church's 700th anniversary this year, since its founding as an Augustinian abbey in 1315 by John FitzThomas FitzGerald, the Earl of Kildare.

The first place one could see the Spirit's work was in the nineteen floral arrangements that adorned the church, created by members of local flower clubs and a few church members and village residents. A catalogue with pictures of the arrangements and explanations of how they illustrated the history of St. Nicholas was available for guests as a guide to the festival.

The flower arrangements were only half of the experience offered to visitors. The abbey's former refectory, now the site for St. Nicholas School's drama and physical education classes, had been transformed into a vintage tearoom. Guests were served tea or coffee, with freshly baked items from Shier's Bakery. Works by local artists adorned the walls. The Spirit was in evidence here, too, as people found it to be a place for good food and good conversation, with both old friends and new acquaintances.

Other enticements awaited visitors as well. Member Patsy Davis led tours of the mediaeval cloisters dressed in period costume. Diana Williams staffed a garden stall in which visitors could purchase a variety of plants for their own gardens. Local experts gave demonstrations in flower arranging.

Since this was a festival not only of flowers but also of faith, we began and ended the weekend with worship. On Friday evening, Bishop Kenneth Kearon officially opened the Festival. In his sermon, he used the architecture of the church – its stones, pillars, and two altars – as metaphors for faith and the church's role in people's lives down through the years.

On Sunday evening, we closed the Festival with a Songs of Praise service, jokingly referred to as "Greatest Hits of the Centuries." We sang seven hymns, each preceded by a brief explanation, one each from most of the centuries since the church was founded, right up to the twenty-first century. The church was packed for the service, and the sound of voices lifted in praise to God was truly inspiring.

We depended on the volunteer efforts of a whole range of people from both St. Nicholas' Church and the village at large, for which we are truly and humbly grateful. A few people should be mentioned by name. The vintage tearoom was the creation of Valerie Shine-O'Kelly, while the multiple volunteers who staffed it throughout the weekend were ably managed by Helen Alfred. Janet Bray coordinated and oversaw the flower arrangers. Janet Ryan put together a fun and active day for village schoolchildren, which occurred the week before (reported on in last month's Newslink). And Meriel Clarke, as Festival Coordinator, did an outstanding job organising the whole weekend, recruiting help and sponsorship, and generally keeping everything together. To all those who helped, to those who attended, and to God, we give thanks and praise.



*Holy Communion, by Patsy Quinn (photo Sean Curtin)*



*Rebirth, by Noreen Storan, Ester Carroll, and Phil O'Neill (photo Sean Curtin)*



*Founding of the Abbey, by Eithne Cussen (photo Sean Curtin)*



*Prayer and Reflection, by Caroline and Kevin deBurca Murphy (photo Sean Curtin)*

# UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT



## Junior Summer Camp

Sunday 19th July  
Saturday 25th July 2015  
Catherine McCauley House,  
Spanish Point, Co. Clare  
10- 13 year olds



## Senior Summer Camp

Sunday 2nd August  
Saturday 8th August 2015  
Lissadell Youth Centre,  
Lissadell, Co. Sligo  
13 plus year olds

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More Info check out UDYC on Facebook or call 087/2907553

## Flower Festival

St Catherine's Church  
Tullamore

4th - 6th September 2015

Friday and Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Sunday 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. followed by Songs of Hope  
and Inspiration at 7 p.m.

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# National Flower Festival in Ennis

The National Flower Festival on the theme 'In Praise & Thanksgiving' took place at the Catholic Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul and St Columba's Church of Ireland in Ennis, Co. Clare over the weekend 19th–21st June. It was organised by the Association of Irish Floral Artists. See Drumcliffe Union notes on page 29 for a report. Here are some photographs of the exquisite floral arrangements, all by Edwin Bailey.



*Peace*



*Music*



*Friendship*



*Deirdre Barry and Peggy Walsh who created all the bouquets in isle of the Cathedral*

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## Thanks & Praise – New Church of Ireland Hymnal Supplement by Revd Dr Peter Thompson

Editor: Peter is the Rector of St Michael's Castlecaulfield & St Patrick's Donaghmore, as well as Succentor & Assistant Organist at St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh, and the guiding spirit behind Thanks & Praise.

It is now 20 years since a committee was called together to produce a new edition of the Church Hymnal. During that time many new hymns have been written and popularised, and some older hymns have returned to regular use. Thanks & Praise has been compiled as a supplement to the Church Hymnal to respond to these changes, and to further resource parishes and congregations to offer the best they can in worship to God through song.

As Augustine is often quoted as saying, 'He who sings prays twice.' I think this is true for two reasons. Firstly, singing is deliberate and intentional, and involves not just the mind and the lips, but the whole body through posture, breath control and so on. Secondly, singing has a power to impart words to the mind and soul, which, to quote St Paul, allows the word of Christ to dwell in us richly.

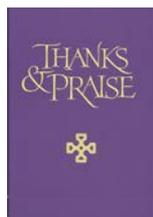
To use a rather blunt analogy, it is not uncommon to hear worshippers humming a hymn tune as they leave church, it is much less common to hear them quoting the sermon (unless there was something controversial said which they disagree with)! Through music, words become embedded into our minds and hearts, and create a repository of devotion for us to draw on. I would almost

be afraid to speculate how much of our doctrine and theology is imbibed through the hymns we sing. It certainly places an immense responsibility on the person responsible for choosing the hymns.

a guide to choosing appropriate hymns for each Sunday. Alongside this most of the hymns will be recorded for churches who cannot rely on live music each week.



At the Thanks & Praise roadshow in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick – Peter Thompson at the piano



The books will be launched and distributed in September, but a series of roadshows during May and June have introduced the book to local parishes and congregations, including St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on 9th May. Orders are being collected by Church House, Dublin, and full details are available on the website: [www.ireland.anglican.org/hymnalsupplement](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/hymnalsupplement).

Thanks & Praise is a collection of 227 hymns, songs and liturgical settings. Many of the items included are already familiar, or are texts which can be sung to well-known tunes. Some are new compositions which deserve to become more popular, and some have been written by members of the Church of Ireland, to continue a tradition of hymn-writing which began in the days of St Patrick. A special emphasis has been placed on music for children and young people.

A sampler, containing a selection of items from the book, has been sent to all incumbents, along with order forms and a complete list of contents – these are also available on the website.

There are two main editions, full music, and words only (large print). There is no melody edition on this occasion. There are also kindle, electronic and Braille editions available. A Companion gives the stories behind the hymns, and there is an enlarged Sing to the Word,



The hard core fans were at the back, playing air-organ

Continued from page 14

## Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: [mapleire@eircom.net](mailto:mapleire@eircom.net)

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes](http://www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes)

### BIRR SUMMER FETE

The annual Birr Summer Fete was held on the 7th June in Oxmantown School. Along with the traditional teas and stalls were barbecued burgers, face painting, and a whole range of activities for children. Many thanks to all who contributed so much to making this a great day.

### PET BLESSING

The Archdeacon was present at Oxmantown School on Friday, 19th June for the Service of Blessing of Pets. Along with children, parents, and teachers were innumerable dogs, a number of cats, various assorted small animals in cages, and one very large ewe named 'Greedy'. Though we encouraged children not to bring any vicious or uncontrollable animals, there was one casualty when a child was bitten by a hamster. The child is fine, and we hope the hamster will recover soon!

### CONGRATULATIONS

Also on Friday, 19th of June, Birr Church was the venue for the wedding of Elma Jackson (daughter of Arthur and Barbara) to Graham Weekes. Elma's rector in Clontarf, the Revd Lesley Robinson was the celebrant, assisted by the Archdeacon. The reception was in

Castle Durrow in Co. Laois. Congratulations and best wishes to Elma and Graham, as they begin their married life together.

### CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth came to Birr Church for Confirmation for the Birr, Clonfert, and Shinrone Groups of Parishes on Sunday, 21st June. The six candidates took a full part in the service, reading lessons, carrying candles in the Gospel Procession, leading the Exchange of the Peace, bringing up the bread and wine at the Offertory, helping to prepare the Holy Table, reading the questions that are a part of the Children's Eucharistic Prayer, helping with the Ablutions at the end of Communion, and giving the Dismissal. The candidates were: Andrew Coghlan (Banagher), Adam Fletcher (Banagher), Emma Mooney (Shinrone) Jessie Pyle (Birr), Robert Reid (Lockeen), and Ronan Serviss (Kinnitty). Please keep them in your prayers, as they show forth in their lives the vows they took on for themselves on the day.



Archdeacon Carney meets Greedy the ewe.

## WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome David and Joy Frizelle, who are moving to Birr Parish from Tralee this summer. David has been a Diocesan Reader in Kerry for many years, and will be continuing in that role with us. We hope they will enjoy many years of quiet retirement in peaceful Co. Offaly, away from the hustle and bustle of busy life in the Kingdom of Kerry.

## SUMMER SERVICES

Because of the challenges in arranging cover for services over the summer months with so many vacant parishes in the area, there may have to be some changes in the schedule of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer in our Group of Parishes. Many thanks to the Revd Janet White Spinner, Paul Fitzpatrick, and Suzanne Corcoran for helping out.

## Roscrea Group of Parishes

*Roscrea, Bourney, 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

RTE TELEVISED SERVICE featuring the Methodist Church, Roscrea and some of our 'Group'. By now this will have been viewed by us all and replayed a couple of times! Rumour has it that everyone enjoyed their visit to the studios. This service provides a most valued link to church for our frail elderly parish members who must number being some of the most ecumenically aware and alert people in our midst. Many thanks to Revd. Patricia McKee Hanna for helping us out on the Sunday of the recording for the service.

THANKS AND PRAISE at St. Mary's Cathedral. Roscrea Group of Parishes found itself very well represented in Limerick. It was a real treat to be introduced to the supplement to Church Hymnal by one of its compilers, Revd. Dr. Peter Thompson. Already some of the new tunes are wafting their way through the air before and after services in St. Cronan's.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS is due to take place during the Family Service in St. Burchin's Bourney on Sunday July 19th. at midday. Bring lunch if the weather looks like holding. Refreshments will be served. All animals welcome with their handlers.

HARVEST SUPPER BALL We are busy organizing this event for Sat. September 26th. Trads. Will provide the music. The venue is Roscrea Rugby Club. Come and enjoy the dancing and the supper from 9.30 till 1.00. Tickets €10.00. Bar facilities, door prize and raffle are available to the tempted. Do join us!

ADVANCE NOTICE SALE OF WORK October 1st. Details to follow.

HEALER PRAYER SERVICES are taking a break until September when the evening service will resume. Very many thanks to Margaret Connors and her team of faithful people who continue to update our list and keep in touch with those on the list.

ST. CRONAN'S NS END OF YEAR SERVICE took place in St. Cronan's Church on Friday June 12th. It was a wonderfully musical event with lots of happy faces turned towards the congregation from the front pews as they sang. The Principal Mrs. Ann Powell and her staff led the evening and introduced the sixth class pupils graduating this year. These pupils left the church under an archway made by all the other pupils. A nice touch! Tea and buns were enjoyed by all provided by the Parents' Association. It has been a great year for the school with prize winners hitting the newspapers for different activities and awards gained.

## Nenagh Union of Parishes

*Nenagh, Templeberry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan*

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green

Tel: 062 79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Diocesan Readers:

Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc\_sanders@iol.ie

Audrey Clarke Gordon

087 742 8901, audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

SERVICES

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

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

Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

5th Sundays: 11am United Service, rotating between churches

Every best wish to Susan Howard and Henry Mooney who are due to be married in St Mary's with Canon Stephen Neill officiating.

April, Lauren and Dillon will have been confirmed by Bishop Kenneth on 28th June and we ask you to keep them in your prayers.

We keep in our prayers Ian and Kelvin and all who loved their father Tom Ruttle, as they come to terms with his loss.

Please remember all those who are unwell, in hospital or recovering from procedures, in particular Bertha Armitage, Stuart Hamilton, Adrian Gordon, Joan Larke and Mary Ryan, and also those among us who are confined to their homes.

Work is due to commence on the Rectory refurbishments on 13th July.

We hope that you all will have an enjoyable summer – safe journey to those travelling and happy days to all.

## Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

*Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.*

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Ruth Gill

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CHANGES TO SERVICES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

There will be a couple of changes to the time of services in Borrisnafarney and Templeharry in July and August.

The 19th July: Templeharry at 11.30 a.m.

The 9th August: Borrisnafarney 11.30 a.m.

Ballingarry remains at 10.00 a.m.

Borrisokane at 10.15 a.m.

Cloughjordan 11.30 a.m.

The usual details of all services will be included in the Newsletter.

BORRISNAFARNEY FETE

The Fete will be held on Thursday 23rd July in the hall in Moneygall starting at 7 p.m. All welcome.

## SUMMER FETE

The Cloughjordan & Ballingarry Annual Summer Fete and Fun Day was held on the 21st June in Cloughjordan. It was a very successful and enjoyable day with lots of activities for everyone.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Robyn Fitzgerald, Aimee Fitzgerald, Lucy Fitzgerald, Laura Hayes, Andrew Hayes, Tom Larke, Tabitha Larke, Lisa Mooney, Ross Austin and Andrew Austin who performed so well in Co. Tipperary Community Games recently. Aimee Fitzgerald and Tabitha Larke won gold and qualify for the National Games in August. Laura Hayes and Lucy Fitzgerald brought home Bronze in their events so well done all.

The children attending Sunday School in Borriskane were given their awards at morning service recently. Many thanks to Mrs. Sandra Hayes who organizes the Sunday School and also to the team in Cloughjordan.

## PASTORAL

Deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Anne Clarke, Sandymount on the recent death of her niece, Yvonne and grandniece Ella in a tragic road accident in Poland.

We continue to remember Buddy Powell and Bob Kelly as they continue their medical regimes and also Patricia Hodgins and Geri Burn and others who are ill at this time. May God grant them healing and peace of mind.



Sharon Davis, Betty Powell & Tara Gaffney assisting at the plant stall.



Sunday School with Mrs Sandra Hayes

## 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](mailto:mapleire@eircom.net)

## DIARY DATE

Aghancon Sunday 19th July Parish Fete. Starting at 2.30pm

Sunday the 21st was a big day in the lives of the 6 young people who were Confirmed by Bishop Kenneth in Birr Church. Amongst them were Ronan Serviss from Kinnitty and Emma Mooney from Shinrone, also Robbie Reid, whose grandmother, Pam is a Shinrone parishioner. Congratulations to you all, may you all know God's richest blessings as you grow daily in faith.

Aghancon pulled out all the stops to make themselves the perfect venue for the Diocesan Synod! A great deal of preparation work was done by many people in the days before and preparing the food on the day. Thank you and well done to everyone. A true Aghancon 'Welcome' I'm sure the event gets greater coverage elsewhere.

And now that you all know the way there! do come back on Sunday 19th July at 2.30pm and see what bargains you can find and enjoy the same welcome at the parish Fete.

Shinrone had a most successful Fun Dog Show and Fete on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon. 74 dogs came from far and near, all were extremely well behaved, accompanying their owners into the hall for tea and to be tempted at the stalls! We had a class for the best local dog, living within the parish bounds, and one for the dog from furthest away! Shannon, Sligo, Abbeyfeale and all places in between!! But none of this could have happened without our 'Friends of the Parish' 3 wonderful people who worked tirelessly before the show and on the day, getting great sponsorship for prizes, putting up posters all around the countryside and generally making sure everything was in order. To Joe Bergin, Lorraine Malone and John Browne, a big Thank You from all the parishioners. That is not to say that the parishioners did nothing! This was a real 'team' effort and everyone worked together. €500 from the raffle has been donated to the Birr Community Care Unit. It was all repeated in Dunkerrin on the 28th!

Hospital and Libraries and other places have their 'Friends of...' associations, I think we have one going here in Shinrone Group!! Wonderful to have such friends who are so generous with their time and expertise.

Stephen and Heather Kenny would like to thank everyone who supported their recent Coffee / Garden day in aid of 'Share a Dream' €1150 was raised. A fabulous amount to help a sick child's dream come true.

Big congratulations to Emma Mooney, not only on making her Confirmation, but on winning a scholarship to Villiers School. Very Well Done.

All the Kinnitty parishioners were invited to share in the Bicentenary Celebrations of St Flannan's Church in Kinnitty. A very happy Community occasion. Lacking in local history, I was left wondering

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whether we had the Roman Catholic community to thank for our church of St Finnian being built! Apparently there were only 5 families in Kinnitty 200 years ago when they built their church! But I do believe St Finnian had a monastic foundation where ours is, long before!!

Just a PS ! I (Rev Janet) collect used postage stamps all the year round. When I go to England with the car, I deliver these to my sister, Annie Standen, some of you might have seen her with her husband Derrick on the recent programme 'Me and my Guide Dog'. She gives them to Canine Partners who turn them into cash! On principle, do not add postage or petrol to delivering them to me! I will be going to UK in August. No rush, I'll be going again!! Thank you. Last year when I handed them over I was told that Branch had trained 10 assistance dogs from the money raised from used stamps. Don't throw them away, please!



*Busy at the gate*



*Dogs on Parade!*



*The best dressed couple!*

## 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](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

### FLOWER FESTIVAL

As befitting the high sun on Sunday June 21st – the Summer Solstice – the Church of St Columba in Ennis was filled to over-flowing with flowers and people for a momentous completion of the three day AOIFA National Flower Festival – see page 25 for photos of some of the exquisite floral arrangements. Befitting, as Evensong was the last act of this major national event whose title anyway was – "In Praise and Thanksgiving". And the synthesis of art, music and ecumenical gathering, plus the focus of fundraising over the few days for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, saw a crescendo towards a memorable climax with All-Ireland Chairperson Mrs Brid Coonan pouring thanks on the many who made this once-off opportunity an unforgettably creative and joyous Festival.

The solstice sun may have been obscured disappointingly by cloud, but cheer was in abundance amidst the creativity in the two display centres, St Peter and Paul Pro Cathedral and St Columba's. Ennis Town was packed with literally thousands of visitors for the three day event. Ecumenically speaking the capacity to share in the Irish Floral Artists showcase was a wonderful honour for our small Church of Ireland community. Well done the industrious coterie of workers who prepared St Columba's and to the Community Service organisation for their work in painting the inside of the church beforehand. Mrs Jennie Shaw and Mrs Marjorie Normile stand out for special praise, as does Nigel Bridge whose gifts in music and presentation throughout the festival were prodigious.

The Festival opened on Friday evening in the Cathedral when broadcaster Marty Morrissey was the official guest to launch proceedings. Also present were Mrs Una Fleming President of AOIFA and Ms Marie Reavy, Irish Motor Neurone Association. Soprano Marie Neenan led beautiful musical moments with Nigel Bridge on organ. Over in St Columba's on the Sunday Ms Leeane Bradley, a local teacher who has already featured on the national musical scene through her flute playing, enriched Evensong with Rutter's "For the beauty of the earth" and the Taizé setting "Bless the Lord my Soul." Nigel Bridge led on organ and Canon Bob Hanna introduced the liturgy along with Fr Tom Hogan, Parish Priest of Ennis Cathedral Parish.

### BIRR OUTING

The annual Kilnasoolagh summer outing was due to take place to Birr Castle on Saturday 27th June with the usual expectation of a lovely time of sightseeing and fellowship. Thanks as always to Edwin and Frances Bailey for their careful preparation for these outings. Pictures no doubt in the next issue. Meanwhile – stand by for an announcement on a Parish "camino" by car between our churches in September, most likely amidst a weekend visitation by Bishop Kenneth.



# Clonfert Diocese

## Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

Vacant

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

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Email: [msirr@iol.ie](mailto:msirr@iol.ie)

Parish website: [www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org](http://www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org)

**ARDRAHAN** We recently held a successful LENREC collection which added some much needed funds to our coffers. We had a concert which will be held in the Church on Saturday 27th June and we are looking forward to holding a series of such events in the Church.

On Saturday 13th June some of our parishioners attended a concert in St. Nicholas' Church in Galway City and were treated to a wonderful evening of music. Ailve McGovern's husband Evin is a member of the Marine Institute Singers who in partnership with COPE Galway organised the event, and which included a Choir from Sligo and Bel Canto (3 Galway sopranos). The proceeds of the evening went to COPE Galway, and it was an education to discover just how much help this organisation gives to so many people including such areas as the homeless, women and children suffering from domestic violence and meals on wheels. Volunteering figures hugely in their operations.

**AHASCRAUGH** the funeral of Madeline Elizabeth Castles [93] took place on the 10th of June in St Catherine's. The service was conducted by the Rev Tanya Woods from Belturbet Co Cavan and the internment took place in the family plot. Madeline was born and reared in Ahascragh and spent her adult life in England. In later years she came to live with her niece in Castleblaney Co Monahan. We extend our sympathy to her brother, sisters, nephews and nieces.

**WOODLAWN** Congratulations to Dermot and June [nee Seale] Morrissey on the birth of a daughter, Rachel Claire and to Shane and Agnes [nee Seale] Martyn on the birth of a son, David. Congratulations to Ali Dawes and Helen Kirby who were married in Woodlawn church recently. Ali and Helen are residing in Mountbellew.

Mostyn Breaknell's funeral was held in Woodlawn and Kilconnel on June 17th. Originally from Shrewsbury. Mossey, as he was affectionately known, grew up in the Baptist tradition and qualified as a dental technician. As progressive MS took its toll he worked at Ballinderry Nursing Home as a care assistant where his cheery disposition endeared him to staff and patients alike.

His inimitable sense of humour made him easy company even in his latter incapacitated days when he could still recount his wheelchair fishing exploits.

A memorable funeral address was given by his brother Christopher - a lay pastoral assistant in an Anglican group of parishes and ecumenical congregations Shrewsbury.

Thanks to Tom Seale who assisted Canon T Sullivan, to the good people of the Woodlawn congregation for the use of the church and to the wider community of Kilconnel who made Mossey's funeral service alongside his beloved donkeys a memorable event.

The funeral took place on the 17th June of Mossie Breakwell of Ballinderry, Kilconnell and late of England. Service in Woodlawn Church was conducted by Rev. Trevor Sullivan and burial took place in Kilconnell Cemetery. To his partner Jean, his parents, brother and sister we extend our sympathy.

**CLONTUSKERT** after the installation of the new windows, the church got a well-deserved facelift. The interior of the church has now been painted. It is hoped to carry out further refurbishment on the sanctuary when the fund-raising machine gets into gear again? A Sale of work was held in the old schoolhouse on Friday the 12th June. A sum in excess of €1600.00 was raised. Well done to all concerned.

Holy Baptism on May the 24th in Aughrim Church- Poppy Belle, daughter of Ashley and Sarah Weily of Mackney Ballinasloe. Rev Ruth Gill officiated.

Sick list; our prayers are with Claire Besnyoe who while on holidays in Vienna contacted pneumonia, thankfully she is now recovered somewhat and is looking forward to coming home. Also Michael Cruise is recovering from an operation to have damaged ligaments repaired.

Robert Cruise aged 8 has won an art competition which is run in conjunction with the community games and now goes on to represent Galway in the All Ireland finals.

Well done to Jackie Eastwood and the Coachhouse Art Group who held a fundraising Coffee Day and ART EXHIBITION in aid of the East Galway and Midland Cancer Support Centre at Brackernagh a figure of nearly €1000.00 was raised.

### EAST GALWAY CANCER RUN

*Rev Trevor Sullivan writes:*

The newly established East Galway Cancer run will take place on Saturday 18th July between Aughrim & Ballinasloe. It is sponsored by local businesses and will benefit two local charities, the East Galway and Midland Support Centre in Ballinasloe and the Portiuncula Hospital Patient Comfort Fund.

The run will include vintage cars and tractors, cyclists and walkers - also a few vintage clergy!

Registration takes place at Burkes of Aughrim @ 9.30 am or previously online. Get your wrist band on registration. The car/tractor run commences at 11.am. Walkers commence at 11.am. Cyclists @ 12.noon. A mid event BBQ will take place at the Countryman Inn @ Creagh from 1.00pm.

For details see <https://eastgalwaycancerrun.wordpress.com>



## Clonfert Group of Parishes

*Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna*

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

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Email: towers.patrick@gmail.com

### PARISH AT A GLANCE: PAST

The Parish BBQ on SUNDAY JUNE 28th was celebrated awesomely in Banagher with delicious bodacious burgers

The Amazing Blessing of The Boats at Shannon Harbour on SUNDAY JUNE 21st. Boats were duly sprinkled with the ceremonial cedar branch by the Chaplain of the Fleet as they passed by.

Clonfert Cathedral greeted springtime with the green leaves appearing on the Yggdrasil' Tree: the ancient Norse Yew god cast a fearsome tornado at his famous Yew Walk. Can't think what upset Odin (or was it Thor?) so much. If you haven't visited the tree do come by the Cathedral. It fits well into the Celtic Norse Trail. Do check out the amazing Cathedral Doorway. Truly one of Ireland's great treasures.

Exams were taken and those emerging registered no particular distress to upset their well-deserved holidays

Many congratulations to Emily and Jackie on their joyous marriage. "The more I live the more I think two people coming together is a miracle of the heart" said one who grows older alone on first hearing the announcement on Easter Sunday in Eyrecourt that Churchwarden Emily Howard was soon to be married to Jackie Morris.

### PARISH AT A GLANCE: FUTURE

More real woodland treats: PORTUMNA'S TEDDY BEAR PICNIC takes place on SUNDAY JULY 5th at 3pm for a Group Service. Meet at the church and then down into the Portumna Woods for the Teddy Bears Picnic. You will be sure of a big surprise. Everyone bring your favourite teddy bear! If you have no Teddy Bear you can share mine. Tuesday August 18th: The Ministry Commission visits the Group to meet the Parishes and to discuss with us how the parish which now lies in Incumbent Vacancy mode where we as a Parish Group are. Their recommendations and findings are returned to the Diocesan Council. The Commission visits all parishes which are Incumbent vacant.

### PARISH AT A GLANCE: PRESENT

SATURDAY JULY 4th: American Independence Day will be commemorated in BANAGHER by a big all-parishes tidy up/ clean-up of the vacated RECTORY and its grounds. This is pioneer stuff and we hope those of sturdy stock will rally to the cry of "We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight! We're going to live on! We're going to survive! Today we celebrate our Rectory Day!"

# 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

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Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

### HOLY BAPTISM

On 5 June 2015 at St Mary's Cathedral: Sophie Anna Nachtmannova Muir and Theo Tan Muir were baptised by their grandfather Rev. David Muir.

### BEREAVEMENT

Our deepest sympathy to Matts Melin, his wife Emma and their children on the death of Matts' father Gosta Melin who died on the 12th of June 2015.

### STATE EXAMINATIONS:

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations are now over. We hope that the Leaving Certificate candidates will have their efforts duly rewarded when results come out on the 12th of August. We wish all candidates well and hope they now enjoy the summer!! St. Michael's School 6th Class Valedictory Assembly took place on the 12th of June and was led by Dean Sandra. Wishing them all well in their new schools in September.

CONGRATULATIONS to our neighbour Canon Donagh O'Malley, PP St Mary's Church, Athlunkard Street, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on the 14th of June. The Dean was invited to attend the event and was warmly welcomed and thanked by Bishop Brendan Leahy and Bishop Cullinan. As our closest neighbour, Canon O'Malley has been a great friend to us in the Cathedral. Also

CONGRATULATIONS to our neighbours, Gaelscoil Sairseal who on June 18th celebrated the award of the Green Flag, the second green flag this School has achieved. It took over 2 years for the school to reach this award and every one of the 225 pupils took part – learning how to live with no power for a whole day, learning the value of conserving energy, and working towards using less energy each day. It is a wonderful achievement and a credit to the Head Teacher Brid, and the whole school. The Cathedral staff were delighted to be invited to Green Flag Event, and enjoyed the pupils' music, dancing and refreshments.

LCP BARBEQUE – takes place in Villiers School Saturday 8th of August at 6pm. Tickets available from the Church Wardens. It is always a great night so please do support this event.

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A fundraising Dance for the Cathedral Flower Festival will take place on Saturday 29th of August in Caherconlish Hall. Further details from Dean Sandra – 087-2658592.

#### PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR

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

Please remember Gillian Lyttle & Nicholas Lee in your prayers as they prepare for their marriage in St. Michael's Church in August.

## Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

*Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon*

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

It was a month of various kinds of celebrations in the Adare and Kilmallock Group. The most public event was the Festival of Faith & Flowers, the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the founding of what is now St. Nicholas' Church, Adare. See the separate article on page 23.

#### WEDDINGS

But there were also several celebrations of a more personal nature: namely, two different wedding ceremonies. On Saturday, 30th May, the wedding ceremony of Dermot Davis and Niamh Nix took place at the Croom Church. Their families gathered afterwards for a luncheon at the Golf Clubhouse of the Adare Manor.



*Karen O'Flynn & Thomas Clarke*

On Friday, 5th June, Thomas Clarke and Karen O'Flynn were married at St. Nicholas' Church. The church was decorated in a unique way, as it still had a number of the arrangements from the Flower Festival two weeks earlier. After the ceremony, family and friends then headed to the Woodlands House Hotel for a reception, which lasted until the wee hours of the morning!

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The two Sunday schools in the Group, in Kilpeacon and Kilmallock, also celebrated the end of the year, as they prepare to take a summer break. On 7th June, the service in the Kilpeacon Church included the children offering the readings and the intercessions for the day. As a prize, each child received a different book, chosen especially by Eleanor Walker and Carole Smith.

The Kilmallock Sunday school celebrated the end of the year at the service on 21st June. Again, the children took part in the service and each child was especially recognised.

#### THE SUMMER

After an active spring, the Group is looking forward to the summer with its lower level of activity. Still to come, however, are a few events. There was a book launch on 24th June, at St. Nicholas, of member Barbara Bingham's book entitled *Adare: The Augustinian Friary and St. Nicholas Church*. On 28th June the annual Garden Fete in Adare took place, and for Sunday, 5th July, Rev. Liz and her husband, Kirk, invited everyone in the Group to the Rectory for a cookout to thank everyone for all they have done this past year, and to give thanks to God. We are praying for decent weather for the day!

## Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

*Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin*

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

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Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

After a difficult few weeks in May our parishes have, thankfully, been quiet this past month. Like many people in Ireland we were again shaken by the sad news of the tragedy in Berkley, Ca. Many of us of have children around the same age as those who have been injured or killed, and many of us have had children join the trans-Atlantic J1 adventure. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families affected. We also think of those killed in Charleston, S.C. There is a link between them and us. They were members of the American Methodist Episcopal Church founded in the late 18th century by Peter Williams, an ex-slave. Williams was one of the early followers of American Methodism and sexton of the John Street Methodist Church, one of the first North American Methodist communities, founded by Barbara Eck and Philip Embury of Rathkeale. Again our hearts and prayers are with all those injured or grieving today.

This year our diocesan synod reflected upon the discussion document put forward by the General Synod's Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures. You can find and download that document on our diocesan website. We need to think about how we are going to respond to this. Our own small rural community would be drastically changed by these proposals, but with faith, hope and a commitment to Christ we can rise to the challenges facing us.

As we move into what is a busy time of year for our farming community we wish everyone a peaceful and safe summer. We do so with hearts lifted by the happy news with the recent safe arrival of Eliza Mai daughter of Richard and Claire Langford and sister to Isabel. It is a real joy to welcome her and to offer many congratulations to her parents.

## 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

On Wednesday 24th June St John's Parochial School held their end of term service in the Church as part of the usual Wednesday Communion. The four children who are moving on this year, Charlotte, Megan, Ben and Nelson received their certificates, we wish them every blessing, and also think of Mr Michael Lynch the retiring Principal – and wish him well for the future.

#### READER MINISTRY

Anyone who may be interested in Reader Ministry is welcome to come along to the monthly meetings which will start in September at St Mary's Killarney. Initially we shall focus on the work of a Parish Reader which entails leading Morning Prayer and Services of the Word without preaching. The course – runs from September – just one Saturday a month until Easter 2016, training will then continue in the parish with the Rector. For those interested in ministry as a

Diocesan Reader, the training is rather more lengthy as it involves greater theological input in order to cover the necessary areas for preaching. It is recommended that those interested in Diocesan Readership, begin with Parish Reader training and after a time of helping to lead worship in the parish it may be possible to explore ways forward for further training. Those who are interested should consult their Rector and discuss with them their interest in training and the Rector will then contact Archdeacon Sue.

#### CONFIRMATION

Hopefully our congregations will be in St John's on July 5th to support Johann and Jordan our two Confirmation candidates, and also to meet Bishop Kenneth on his first visit to the parish. Please remember Johann Maritz and Jordan Mason in your prayers as they prepare for Confirmation.

#### HOLIDAY CLUB

This summer we hope to hold a holiday club in Teach an tSolais, for Primary School children from Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st August. The theme is 'Cops and Robbers', and the bible story underlying the theme is the Old Testament story of Joseph, who manages to make good things come out of difficulty. There will be a parents' evening on Thursday 20th in Teach an tSolais at 7.30m, when the children will share with their parents items from the games and crafts they have been involved in. Any children who were in any Primary School during 2015 are welcome to attend, those who were in 6th class and would like to come and help would be welcome. Children about to start school in August/September are also welcome. Booking/consent forms must be completed and they are obtainable in the churches, by email ([smwatt1@gmail.com](mailto:smwatt1@gmail.com)) or from Sunday Club leaders. There will be a training session for leaders, and anyone who is Garda Vetted for Sunday Club or Youth work would be more than welcome to come along and help. Watch this space for further news.

#### BOOK CLUB

The next choice is *The Post Office Girl* by Stefan Zweig. Cinderella meets Bonnie and Clyde in Zweig's haunting and hard-as-nails novel, completed during the 1930s (as he was driven by the Nazis into exile), but left unpublished at the time of his death. It is now available for the first time in English. The Book Club will meet again in late July after reading the book. *This is a fascinating depiction of the effects of history on individual lives.* – The Financial Times

## 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.

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Email: [killarney@ardfert.anglican.org](mailto:killarney@ardfert.anglican.org)

#### DIOCESAN SYNOD

Six members of the congregation attended the Diocesan Synod on Saturday June 21st in Aghancon, Co Offaly. There was a robust debate regarding a number of issues facing the diocese and the wider Church community. Apart from the very obvious financial implications of dwindling numbers and smaller congregations, members were particularly vocal regarding the church's priorities when facing expanding its mission to meet the wider community's needs. We are left to wonder if it is no longer a case of waiting and hoping for greater numbers of people to come in church doors on a Sunday. Certainly, it was felt that an imaginative approach is both urgent and necessary. The Diocesan Boundaries Working Group also presented on its investigations into plans to create new dioceses throughout the country. Members urged caution and calmness and asked the very relevant question: what is the objective of this proposal?

#### CONCERTS

The summer season of concerts continues and the programme is as busy as ever. It has been wonderful to see the church packed to capacity for a number of concerts. PR really seems to have raised the concert profile and, of course, the efforts of those making sure we have choirs to perform.

Our July concerts include:

July 6th, Monday – Monmouth Civic Chorus, New Jersey

July 7th, Tuesday – GW Concordia Youth Chorale

July 10th, Friday – Encore First Unitarian Church, Portland Choir

July 16th, Thursday – Mission Valley Chorus

Details of all concerts can be found on St. Mary's Killarney website.

#### WINDOWS TOURS

The tours have commenced for the summer season thanks to Canon Brian Lougheed and Mike O'Sullivan. This is a wonderful opportunity to look more closely at these beautiful works of art and to hear their biblical stories. Of course, these tours become all the more important given the terrible damage done earlier this year. Tours will take place throughout the summer each Saturday at 10am and 11am.

## 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](mailto:stephens.j@temmler.eu) or [stiofain.s@gmail.com](mailto:stiofain.s@gmail.com)

#### SERVICES

Kiltallagh 9.45 am (except the 1st Sunday HC at 7pm)

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

#### CONFIRMATION SERVICE:

On Sunday the 21st of June we welcomed Bishop Kenneth as he presided at our confirmation service. We continue to pray for Alex Boyle, Grace Daly, Niall Murphy, Ramona Clifford and Seamus Giles that the seed of faith that is within them, will continue to grow and blossom in the years ahead.

We were also joined at the service by the candidates from Kenmare and Dromod Union, Ethan, Elsie and Elliot Noble and Natasha Coulson. Their Rector the Rev Michael Cavanagh accompanied our choir and organist and his guitar playing was a wonderful addition to our worship and praise.

#### LUTHERAN SERVICE:

A service according to the Lutheran rite will be held in St Michael's Church on the 4th of July, Pastor Martin Wielepp, who is based in Dublin will preside.

#### SCHOOL SERVICE:

The service to mark the end of the primary school term was held in Kiltallagh church on Monday the 15th of June. This was followed by refreshments in the school. It was a glorious summer's day and the pupils and staff prepared a beautiful liturgy, the music and singing was a credit to them. This year they said farewell to: Mason Laughlin, Ramona Clifford and Katie Boyle.

#### GARDEN FETE:

A garden fete will be held in the church grounds in Killorglin following the Sunday morning service on the 9th August. Please come and support this important fundraising and community building event.

#### WEDDING BLESSING.

Congratulations to Charlie and Jan Smith who confirmed their marriage vows at a service of celebration in Killorglin Church on Saturday the 13th June. This was followed by a reception in the Towers Hotel in Glenbeigh.

#### CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations to Ciara and Caroline on the birth of their son Noah Jacob on Saturday the 6th June in KGH in Tralee.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Sunday school season finished on the 14th of June with the presentation of books to all the children who participated over the past year. Many thanks to Linda, Shauna, Pam, John, Nicole, Matilda and Caroline who have done such good work over the last Year.

#### CAR TREASURE HUNT:

Eric is hoping to organize a car treasure hunt during the late summer. Details to be worked out later.

## 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

In many ways, the celebration of New Year - rather than being held on an otherwise unremarkable night in the middle of winter that happened to be convenient for post-Christmas and pre-Easter calendar sales - would be better celebrated between June and September; a time of leaving and a time of beginning.

We have experienced this, with its sadness and parting. Our friend and supporter Laurence Graham, local Methodist minister, has moved on to tend another part of the garden, in Dublin; the Club Gateway 'Think' group will mostly be occupied with Leaving Cert examinations rather than philosophical questions; three or four Kid's shed members will have graduated, and quite a few Praise n' Players will be starting school. We wish them well, thank them for all they have contributed, and ask God's blessing upon them, as they have blessed us.



*Praise n' Players work and share together.*



*Bishop Kenneth with Elliot, Elsie, Ethan and Hannah*

But truly, this is a time, not of sadness, but of thanksgiving - the story moves on, and we are just part of it. As we joined hands, our P & P's showed how they had learned to work and share together; we pray that Kid's Shed will continue to provide an opportunity for enjoying fellowship, fun and learning within a Christian (but essentially and importantly pan-denominational) context; and we rejoice that Elliot, Elsie, Ethan and Hannah have confirmed their Christian commitment.

In his address to Diocesan Synod, Bishop Kenneth charged us to 'Do tradition better, try new things without fear'. Watch this space...

# Methodist News

## Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Bill Olmsted

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,

Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396236

Email: william@olmsteds.net

As we look back on so busy a time we give thanks for all the blessings in the life of our Circuit. At the Quarterly executive on 26/5 we made plans for the summer and reviewed our activities. It has been a wonderful time in both churches.

Since then we have had several events worth mentioning.

On 31/5 we had a joint Children's service in Adare. The Children sang and led worship. They presented a play called "Stone Soup" about sharing and being good neighbours. Also Nigel Gill and his family from Mountmellick were here and the whole family made traditional music and Nigel preached. We had refreshments after. The Sunday school leaders did a wonderful job of preparing the children. It was a blessing for the full church.



*The children sang and led worship in Adare on 31st May*



*Enjoying refreshments after the Children's Service in Adare*

On 2/6 we had our annual field meeting celebrating when John Wesley came to Adare to preach. The Rev. Paul Maxwell from Carlow was our preacher---and our field meeting was in the church because of the rain. We sang some of the old Hymns and Paul helped us to remember our Wesleyan history.

Our Annual Conference was held in Belfast from 10/6-14/6. It is the Methodist annual meeting to hear reports - be inspired - and make plans for the next year. We use this time to install our President and to ordain and commission Ministers. 4 persons were ordained and made full ministers and 2 others were sent out as new probationers. One of the highlights saw our District Superintendent elected to be President from June 2016. Rev. Bill Mullallay will be installed at Conference next year and will be president for one year.

On Saturday 20/6 Joan MacCormack, widow of the Reverend John MacCormack, was buried in our Ballingrane Cemetery. We have one of the very few Methodist Cemeteries in Ireland and are proud of this part of our Palatine heritage.

Saturday also saw a used clothing drive at Adare Church. Several hundred Euros were raised for mission work in the world.

On Sunday 21/6 Lay Preacher Ruth Matthews from Mountmellick was our guest preacher.

We are proud of one of our young people, Katie Purser, who was 3rd prize winner in the nationwide Listowel Writers week competition.

## **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

I hope you managed to see the international patchwork and quilting exhibition in CB1 - Movement; the work was just extraordinary! Beautiful pieces in rainbow colours from 17 different European countries decorated the plain room amazingly and the invigilators were extremely knowledgeable about the techniques and the stories that each panel told. This has now become an annual event. So if you missed it for the last two years, don't get caught out next time.



*Surf Project*

The Surf Project has welcomed several new interns. This exciting youth work programme which encourages participants to live life to

the full has attracted young Christian surfers from England, Florida, Scotland and Holland to share the Gospel message with young people - and sometimes not so young people - right around the Ireland. They're also planning towards a week in beautiful Cornwall later in the year. Get in touch with Jono, Beth or Timroy for more information - <https://www.facebook.com/surfprojectireland>



*The Skainos Project in East Belfast*

The Methodist Conference was held in East Belfast Mission this year. The Skainos Project -<http://www.ebm.org.uk/skainos/> - is a redevelopment scheme in the Ballymacarrett area of East Belfast. It's an impressive project, inclusive of the whole community, where people can gather, eat meals together, worship, and find help for health, employment, education, childcare, housing, and spiritual concerns. The name is derived from a biblical Greek word and rooted firmly in Christian tradition and history. 'Skainos' meaning tent, presence or dwelling, speaks of the importance of practical engagement with a community by figuratively pitching a tent in its midst, and it hints at the notion of hospitality and the extended family. An alternative meaning for the word is as a description of the frailty of human beings. It stands therefore as a useful counterbalance to the temptation to focus solely on new building to the detriment of serving people. The Skainos Project is about meeting the present and prospective needs of this community. It's about building a partnership of public agencies, private bodies, community groups and church and harnessing that partnership for the benefit of East Belfast. It's about integrating care and developmental support for children, families, young people, people who are homeless or unemployed, and the elderly. And it's about providing shared space for people from all backgrounds and communities in East Belfast. I'd never been to this centre but I found it very encouraging to see what is being achieved and could see the similarities with the work we're trying to develop in Central Buildings.

This year's Methodist President is Rev Brian Anderson and following on from last year's theme - Moving Out Together - he has chosen - Living as Aliens in a Strange Land. Preaching at his installation Rev Anderson said that he encouraged Methodists to see their churches as places where they are equipped to seek the common good. He acknowledged that in today's world the Christian voice is 'a voice among many others' and that many people feel alienated from the Church. But he wished to see church members engaging fully and positively with society.

The President designate is our very own District Superintendent, Rev Bill Mullally currently minister in Ardfallen, Cork. The next Lay President is Dr Fergus O'Ferrall of Trinity College.

Anna-Victoria is currently representing Limerick, designated as an Intercultural City, at the Council of Europe in Brussels. We're looking forward to hearing all about it when she returns!

# Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Karen Spence

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org

Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:

Ed & Jean Ritchie

Tel: 064 6620580

*Editor: We thank Rev. Laurence Graham for his contributions to Newslink - see his article on Haiti on page 20 - and we wish him every blessing in his new ministry. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Karen Spence to the pages of Newslink in due course.*

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney

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

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

Bible Study Meetings Wednesday 7.30 p. m. Friday 10.00 a. m.

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

Parent and Toddler Group s (term time) Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Youth Club Some Friday nights 8.00 p. m.

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

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

(inc. Children's' programme)

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

Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.

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

Youth Club second and fourth Friday 7.00-8.30 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 on the last Sunday of each month at Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

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

"No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group meet on the last Monday of the month.

Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney will take a break over the summer months but watch this space in the Autumn.

Note that Kenmare Bible studies and Coffee morning will take a break during August.

OTHER NEWS

During May and June the Millstreet congregation had a great time sharing in weekly Bible studies for seven weeks with members of Kiskeam/Boherbue Roman Catholic parish. This culminated in a Worship Celebration service on 14th June in Boherbue.

We look forward to welcoming our new Minister Rev Karen Spence and her husband Edwin whose Welcoming service is planned for

Sunday 5th July at 2pm in Killarney. Please pray for this time of transition and that God would greatly bless and use Karen as she ministers amongst us. We also hold Laurence and Karen Graham and their family in our prayers as they move to Dublin Central Mission.

A joint worship celebration service is planned for Sunday 6th September at 4pm in Killarney Methodist. See the Facebook page: "Churches together for Kerry" for more information nearer the time.

## 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

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

Every ending has a new beginning. I am reminded of that truth throughout the seasons, but most especially as school lets out for summer break. The ending of school marks the new beginning of summer... a time which allows for school-aged children, youth, and young adults to have a change of pace, freedom from the schedules and demands of school life, and an opportunity to explore/do new things. As they enjoy the summer, they soon find out that it too comes to an end. And along with this ending comes a new beginning . . . a new school year, new teacher, and perhaps new friends. It's the circle of school life.

Endings and beginnings don't just happen for those in school, it happens to all of us. There are endings and beginnings as we move home, start a new job, get married, or have children/grand-children. Sometimes we can easily see the endings . . . become ill, lose a job, or our marriage collapses . . . and fail to remember by the grace of God, a new beginning is in store. A former parishioner who was recently widowed marked what would have been his 58th wedding anniversary. He told his family that he is drawing a line under 57 years and this year is now year 1. Even though he continues to grieve his beloved wife, he has made the choice to believe this is a new beginning . . . not one he would have wanted, but nonetheless, an opportunity to create a new normal.

The Good News is that God goes with us into our endings and brings us into the realm of new beginnings. God's strength, power, grace, and love sustain us in this journey. As Christians and the body of Christ, may we support and bless one another as we acknowledge these transition times in others' lives. May you have a relaxing and safe summer.

Faithfully,

~ Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

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.

# Diocesan Boundaries - Have your Say

Bishop Kenneth has commissioned a Diocesan Council Working Group (WG) to monitor the proposals for changes to diocesan boundaries emanating from the Commission on Episcopal Ministry & Structures (CEMS). Its task is to articulate the 'mind of the diocese' on the matter, to lead on discussions, and to report to the Bishop and Diocesan Council as requested. CEMS has promised consultation with the dioceses, so we will be able to influence the final proposals to be brought to General Synod next year.

The WG believes that a) we should base our diocesan response on the ministry and mission of the church in our own and neighbouring dioceses, and b) there are pros and cons to restructuring which need to be duly weighed.

The WG opened the discussion at Diocesan Synod, where Synod members were invited to complete a short questionnaire about the proposals after studying the paper presented by CEMS to General Synod 2015.

The working group now invites the views of all in the diocese by the end of August 2015. To participate please go to the diocesan web page [http://limerick.anglican.org/em\\_main.php](http://limerick.anglican.org/em_main.php) and follow the instructions there to access the CEMS paper and complete the short questionnaire. The working group will analyse the responses and feed them back to the Bishop and Diocesan Council in September.

The members of the WG are drawn from all parts of the United Dioceses. They may be contacted by email as follows:

Clonfert – Ed Hardy [edhardy70@gmail.com](mailto:edhardy70@gmail.com)  
Killaloe – Caleb Clarke [caleb.clarke@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.clarke@gmail.com)  
– Joc Sanders [joc\\_sanders@iol.ie](mailto:joc_sanders@iol.ie)  
Limerick – Frank Sheahan [frank.sheahan@corballyclinic.com](mailto:frank.sheahan@corballyclinic.com)  
Ardfert – Adrian Hilliard [wellibootadrian@yahoo.com](mailto:wellibootadrian@yahoo.com)

Joc Sanders  
Diocesan Boundaries WG Convenor

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## Jesus the Homeless installed at Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin

*by Ben Graves for Anglican Journal*

Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz's life-sized bronze statue, Jesus the Homeless, did not have the most auspicious of beginnings. The oft-controversial piece, which depicts Jesus as an all-but-anonymous homeless person curled beneath a blanket on a park bench, spent close to a year stranded in Schmalz's studio after it was first cast. Two Catholic cathedrals, St. Michael's in Toronto and St. Patrick's in New York City, passed on the sculpture after initial displays of interest, and Jesus the Homeless was left - in what Schmalz has described as a somewhat telling irony - without a home.

But much has transpired in the years since. In early 2013, the original sculpture was accepted and installed by Regis College, a Jesuit theological college located in Toronto's downtown core. An audience with Pope Francis, in which the pontiff prayed over and blessed a model of Schmalz's work, followed later that same year, and 2014 saw Jesus the Homeless placed in cities across the United States such as Davidson, N.C., Phoenix, Ariz., and Chicago, Ill.

The latest installation, and the first outside of North America, took place in May 2015, in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland. The ceremony surrounding the unveiling served as a particular source of pride for Schmalz, who travelled to Ireland to watch it take place, and for a very specific reason. "The sculpture's doing what I never expected it to do," he said in an interview. "It's bringing together people from different denominations. At Christ Church Cathedral...we had the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, as well as the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Jackson do a dual blessing on the sculpture, using the same holy water bowl."

Schmalz is equally proud that Jesus the Homeless also appears to appeal to those who do not profess a faith in any particular religion. "I love the fact that people who aren't really religious are gravitating toward it," he said. "And I do believe that one of the reasons why that

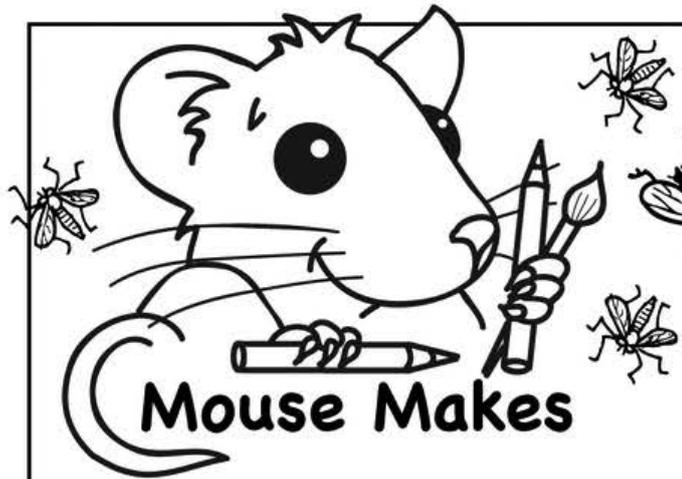
is, is that this sculpture is talking about the pure essence of some of the greatest gifts that Christianity has given us - that life is sacred. It's hard not to like, whatever faith you are, the idea of Jesus saying that whenever you've helped the least of my brothers, you're helping me." Schmalz specifically points to Jesus the Homeless statues in Buffalo, N.Y., and Charleston, W.Va., that have become unofficial drop-off points for food and blankets, which are then donated to homeless shelters by the churches that own the statues.

When asked what it meant to him to see the statue spread across the world, Schmalz said that the message of Matthew 25 remained the most important aspect, and quoted a favourite saying of his from St. Francis: "Preach everywhere you go, and if necessary even use words."

Schmalz added: "The statue is very similar to a preacher who's silent, but still being heard all the way around the world."



*Jesus the Homeless, with sculptor Timothy Schmalz and Archbishop Michael Jackson*



## Mouse Makes

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said "*The Lord, the God of Israel says, 'Let my people go into the desert so they can have a festival to honour me.'*"

But Pharaoh said, "*Who is the Lord? Why should I obey him? Why should I let Israel go? I not know who the Lord is so I refuse to let Israel go.*"

Pharaoh punished the Israelites but Moses prayed to the Lord and the Lord said, "*I will use my great power against Pharaoh, and he will let my people go.*"

So the Lord turned the river Nile into blood, then he covered the land with frogs, sent a plague of gnats, then a swarm of flies, then disease on all the animals, then a skin disease, then a great storm of hail, then a plague of locusts, then darkness that covered the land...

Each time Pharaoh would not let the people go until Lord killed every first born man and animal in Egypt and Pharaoh's own son died. Then Pharaoh made the people leave Egypt with all their sheep and cattle. "Go", he said "And say a blessing for me too."

## The Ten Plagues

E	D	E	A	T	H	F	F
H	S	G	L	D	A	R	L
U	O	H	A	U	I	O	I
B	N	E	P	N	S	L	G
L	O	E	T	D	T	W	S
O	U	P	H	A	R	A	O
O	R	A	R	C	I	T	R
D	I	S	E	A	S	E	E
L	V	S	E	T	R	R	S
O	E	O	D	T	A	A	R
R	R	V	A	L	E	R	R
D	N	E	Y	E	L	G	G
F	I	R	S	T	B	O	R
F	L	O	C	U	S	T	S
F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
S	T	O	R	M	O	S	E
A	A	R	O	N	P	R	A
G	N	A	T	S	W	A	R

Can you find these words from the story in the grid above?

LORD • GOD • MOSES • AARON  
 ISRAEL • PRAY • HONOUR  
 FESTIVAL • PHARAOH • EGYPT  
 RIVER NILE • WATER • BLOOD • FROGS  
 DUST • GNATS • SWARM • FLIES • GO  
 DISEASE • CATTLE • SHEEP • SORES  
 STORM • HAIL • LOCUSTS • LAND  
 DARKNESS • THREE DAYS • DEATH  
 FIRST BORN • PASSOVER

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