



NEWSLINK

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

INSIDE

Drought in Swaziland p.19



Rev John Godfrey: Epiphany p.21



Kate Cargin: Jesus & the blind man p.23



Canon Liz Beasley: Looking Anew p.24



Bishop Kenneth writes	p.3
Diocesan appointments	p.3
Appeal from UDYC	p.4
Prayer Corner	p.5
Salters Sterling: View from the Pew	p.6
Christmas Quiz	p.16
Children's Page	p.38

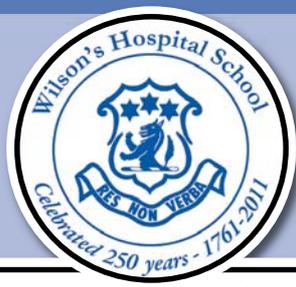
Rev Phyllis Jones: What Christmas means to me p.20



Madonna & Child (detail), Sandro Botticelli c. 1490, Museo Poldi Pezzoli, Milan



including Methodist District News p. 35



WILSON'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



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



For further information and prospectus, contact

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

www.whs.ie

WILSON'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, MULTYFARNHAM, CO. WESTMEATH
Tel: 044 - 9371115 Fax: 044 - 9371563 Email: wilsonsh@whs.ie

Bishop Kenneth writes

The events in Paris continue to shock the Western world – as we come to know more about the background, so the shock deepens. Anger, frustration, fear, the desire for revenge, are all natural emotions, yet we can't allow them to shape our response.

An early reaction was to relate the action of the terrorists to the migrant crisis in Europe, and in a way they are related. Refugees fleeing the Middle East, especially Syria, are themselves fleeing from ISIS, the same group that appears to be behind the terrorists. They are refugees, they are fleeing their own country precisely because they have either experienced even greater horrors at home at the hands of ISIS – murder of family members or destruction of their own homes and towns – or they fear that what has happened to others will soon happen to them.

To flee to Europe because of such terror, only to find oneself accused of being associated with the very terrorists who are causing death and destruction in the West as well as at home is doubly cruel, and to make such an association is unworthy of any of us.

We used to prepare for the season of Advent by considering the four last things death, judgement, heaven and hell. Today these words are once again part of our vocabulary – the death of so many in Paris and in Syria, the destruction of towns and villages including ancient irreplaceable monuments, the avoidance of earthly judgement by terrorists through suicide in the hope of a fast track to heaven, the hell that so many innocent people have to live through. All of a sudden the Four Last Things have a very modern ring.

The season of Advent, with its theme of expectation and waiting, pointing to the Incarnation, also has immediate relevance. Christians are people of hope, looking forward to a coming kingdom where God reigns.

Centuries ago in Palestine, people expected a Messiah, a saviour who would fulfil their hopes for a transformed world. They expected a military leader, a warrior, who would rid the world of death and destruction. Instead they received a child, vulnerable, weak, and yet one who was to be the 'hope of the nations'. In the season of Advent we look forward not just to the celebration of the birth of a Saviour but beyond that to the fulfilment of the promise of a kingdom of justice and peace, a kingdom where God's will really is done.



I wish you all a peaceful and holy Advent, and a very happy and meaning-filled Christmas.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe
Rian Roe, Adare, Co. Limerick
Tel: + 353 (0)61 396244
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

Diocesan Appointments

The following appointments have been made by the Bishop:

Canon Liz Beasley to be Warden of Readers for Limerick Ardferf and Aghadoe.

Revd Ruth Gill to be Rural Dean of Killaloe and Clonfert.

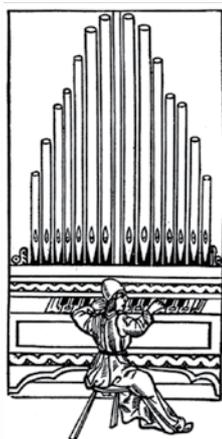
Revd Dr Keith Scott to be Rural Dean of Limerick.

Revd Simon Lumby to be Rural Dean of Ardferf and Aghadoe.

Revd Denis Sandes to be Priest-in-Charge of Shinrone Group during the absence through illness of Canon Michael Johnston.

O'Donovan Pipe Organs

Tuning & Overhauls, Restoration, Installations.



*Recent works include: Rathkeale Parish Church,
Buttevant Parish Church, Former Jesuit Church
Limerick.*

Call Pdraig on 023-8838802 or 086-155 0033

Address: Gurranes, Ballineen, Co. Cork

Email: odonovanorgans@gmail.com

www.odonovanorgans.com

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sat 12th & Sun 13th December UDYC Secondary School Overnight Trip to Dublin, with CIYD (secondary & upwards)

Sun 13th December, 11am – 6pm Christmas Antique Fair, Villiers School, Limerick, in aid of Villiers TY project in Uganda Zest4Kids

Sun 13th – Sunday 20th, December, 1pm – 7pm Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival, St. Mary's Church

Fri 18th December, 7.30 for 8pm 'The Spirit of Christmas' featuring The Virtuoso Chamber Choir in Christ Church, Corbally, Roscrea. Mulled wine reception at 7.30pm. Admission €15, children free. Tickets from Jennifer 086-3442639.

Tue 29th December UDYC Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10+)

Sat 17th January 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Limerick City

Sat 6th February, 10am–12.30pm UDYC Fundraising Cake Sale & Coffee Morning, Adare

Sat 20th February, 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Limerick City

Editorial

The Newslink team are delighted to say that 2016 Newslink subscriptions are **unchanged** from 2015, as are our advertising rates. Newslink treasurer Peter Schutz will shortly write to ask subscribers and pew distributors to forward subscriptions, which are due in January. He will also contact our annual advertisers to ask them to renew.

2015 has been another good year for us. Finances are on a sound footing. All issues have been published as planned for the first Sunday of the month they are due. We hope you agree that the content has been both informative and entertaining. Newslink remains an important medium of communication throughout our United Dioceses, and it's pleasing that this is increasingly two-way: our columns are open to letters and articles – if you have something to say you don't need to wait to be asked!

Thanks are due firstly to you, our readers – without your subscriptions there would not be a magazine, and its long term future depends on finding new subscribers. Please encourage anyone you know who doesn't already subscribe to do so. Select Vestries might consider taking out an extra subscription for their local public library so that others can see what we are about.

We also thank our advertisers for their support, and our contributors for their notes, articles and photos.

But special thanks are due to our pew distributors who provide us all with a great service. It is a difficult task asking others for money, and we should all help them by paying promptly when asked. Some Select Vestries help by writing a cheque for the promised number of subscriptions for later reimbursement, so that their distributor does not have to write a personal cheque – others might like to do the same.

A very happy and blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany to all our readers, distributors, contributors and advertisers from the Newslink team:

Editor – Joc Sanders,
Assistant Editor – Deborah Powell,
Treasurer – Peter Schutz.

Letter from UDYC

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask individuals to give consideration to supporting the United Diocesan Youth Council this December. Like many of our parishes and diocesan organisations, the last number of years have been challenging for the United Diocesan Youth Council. Unfortunately we endured a deficit in 2014, however we are pleased that with the help of the United Dioceses we have managed to run an extensive programme during 2015. We are planning to deliver a programme of activities for 2016 and remain committed to being a resource for the entire United Dioceses. To this end all donations will be greatly appreciated.

If people wish to contribute or have any queries please feel free to get in contact – Edward Hardy, Boolinarrig, Birr, Co. Offaly or email us at udyc@limerick.anglican.org.

Thank you for your consideration. A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Yours etc., Kieran J. Sparling, Hon. Secretary UDYC

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

Contact details:

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

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

Deadlines

The next issue will be for February 2016, published for Sunday 7th February.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 22nd January 2016 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2016

(UNCHANGED from 2015, for 10 issues February – December, part year pro-rata)

Delivered to pew in bulk €37

Individual copy by post €45

Collected from printer in bulk €30

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

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2016

(UNCHANGED from 2015, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer

December 2015

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert and Bishop Kenneth Kearon.

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

6th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Western Louisiana, USA and Rt Revd Jacob W Owensby, Bishop of Western Louisiana.

Diocese: The poor suffering privation, those working to relieve their distress, and the work of Protestant Aid and St Vincent de Paul.

13th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of the Windward Islands, West Indies and Rt Revd Calvert Friday, Bishop of the Windward Islands.

Diocese: The Shinrone Group of Parishes, Priest-in-Charge Rev Denis Sandes, and Canon Michael Johnston, that he may soon be restored to full health.

20th December, 4th Sunday of Advent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Yewa (formally Egbado), Nigeria and Rt Revd Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi, Bishop of Yewa.

Diocese: Organists and choirs throughout the United Dioceses.

25th December, Christmas Day, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ysabel, Melanesia and Revd Ellison Quity, Bishop elect of Ysabel.

Diocese: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people.

27th December, 1st Sunday of Christmas, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Zaki-Biam, Nigeria and Rt Revd Benjamin Vager, Bishop of Zaki-Biam.

Diocese: The Deans and Chapter of our Diocesan Cathedrals.

January 2016

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Armagh and Archbishop Richard Clarke.

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

3rd January, 2nd Sunday of Christmas, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia and Most Revd William Brown, Turei Pihopa o Aotearora and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia.

Diocese: Renewal of our Christian commitment, relying on the grace of God and trusting his promises, at the start of this New Year.

6th January, Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: O God, who revealed your only Son to the Gentiles by the leading of a star, mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life enjoy the splendour of your gracious Godhead, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

10th January, 1st Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Australia and Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia.

Diocese: For Parochial and Diocesan Nominators throughout these United Dioceses, and all those exercising pastoral care in vacant parishes.

17th January, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Bangladesh and Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker, Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka.

Diocese: That Services of Prayer for Christian Unity in our parishes may be grace-filled, as we begin the Week of Prayer, 18th – 25th January.

24th January, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil and Most Revd Francisco De Assis Da Silva, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of South-Western Brazil.

Diocese: All those in our dioceses who work to maintain public safety, including members of An Garda Siochana, the Defence Forces, Civil Defence and the Coast Guard, that as they keep us safe they may be safe themselves.

31st January, 4th Sunday after Epiphany, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi and Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi, Archbishop of the Province of Burundi & Bishop of Matana.

Diocese: All those in our dioceses who care for, heal and comfort the sick in hospitals, nursing homes and at home, that their work may be blessed.

7th February, The Sunday before Lent (Transfiguration Sunday), White or Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Canada and Most Revd Frederick Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Diocese: All those in our dioceses who work with children in schools and colleges, churches and sports clubs, that their work may be blessed.

Prayer

Prayer, the Church's banquet,
Angels' age,
God's breath in man
returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart
in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and
earth;
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tower,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness and peace, and joy, and love, and
bliss,
Exalted Manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The Milky Way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the
soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

George Herbert (1593-1633)



The Covenant Prayer

The start of a new year gives us the opportunity of starting afresh.

From the earliest days of the Methodist movement, John Wesley invited the Methodist people to an annual service for the renewal of our Covenant with God, normally on the first Sunday of each year. The high point of this service is the Covenant Prayer. Let us join with them in praying it.

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.

Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.

And this covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

A View from the Pew - God's Great Advent-ure

by Salters Sterling



Out of the mists and myths of history there comes a story, a thriller. It is a story about God whose name is the indrawn breath of surprise, of wonder, of awe. I hope you remember. The story tells us that that God, continuing creator of the universe has affirmed the innate goodness of creation and the great innate goodness of the human order. The story also tells us that where there is a falling away from these goodnesses the creator God has continually and continuously provided the way forward into

new manifestations of the innate goodnesses. These ways forward have included the way out of slavery, the way to organise human society, the ways to behave in relationships, the way to accept and understand new forms of captivity, the ways to continue to relate to God the creator so that the goodness is constantly renewed. These journeys into goodness have involved Judges for the obeying of the Laws, Kings for the organising and protecting of society, Prophets as constant reminders of what the mind, the purpose and the functioning of the Creator is. Through the Prophets also came an understanding of how history is to be understood as the place in which the creator is still at work. When that understanding of history as the sphere of God's continuing activity came to be recognised the story in many forms began to be given written record. Hence the books of the Jewish Scriptures, the Christian Old Testament.

Those Old Testament Books of the story come to an end. Prophecy, Wisdom and Apocalyptic writings cease. There is no longer a word from the Lord. It is as if God has gone silent, has stopped dealing with human kind. The creator has given up the struggle to keep

recalling humanity to our innate goodness born out of the creator's own goodness.

We now know, from where we now stand in history, that God had not stopped being concerned about the welfare of creation; that the apparent silence was indeed a pregnant silence; a time to contemplate the inadequacy of words and indeed of deeds; a moment in eternity for the creator to rally the creative courage to put the creative signature on creation.

This is my Work. This is my Word. This is Myself.

Those centuries of silence in human history looked long and bereft. In the context of eternity they were "short as the watch that keeps the night before the rising sun". They were long enough for the creator to lay hold of creative imagination and creative courage. The result a baby, fragile, vulnerable, dependent given into the care of a young woman and a middle-aged man. "Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man." Not a shepherd; not a warrior king; a baby. God's great Advent - ure.

Let's use Advent to allow the wonder of that Adventure within time and space to penetrate the recesses of our imaginings, the depths of our feelings and the hollowness of our preoccupations as we allow that baby's coming to throw a searchlight on

- the human response to a pilgrimage of refugees from the war-torn areas of our planet,
- the human response to a Travelling Community devastated by death,
- the human response to our Planet itself, the home of our civilisation and the cradle of God's coming,

as we continue to walk not unknowingly but uncaringly towards a destiny of self-destruction.

Let's give God's Adventure a sporting chance. Let's care. A holy and wholesome Christmas to everyone.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Cloughjordan girls enjoyed planting daffodil bulbs in pots as part of their Science and Discovery badge. These were taken home and they look forward to enjoying the flowers in spring.

Girls have decorated glass jars as snowmen and filled them with cotton wool, perfect for using at Christmas time and made calendars for 2016. Competition crafts are on-going and providing great enjoyment.

GFS in the Branch and Diocese extends deepest sympathy to John Armitage on the death of his wife Pamela. We are thinking of John, Michelle, Megan, Joshua and all the family at this time.

Branch Christmas Party takes place on Wednesday, 9th December.

ROSCREA BRANCH has completed their Bible Study and are now concentrating on their crafts. During Christmas there will be a

festive table in the porch of St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea displaying the crafts.

Deepest Sympathy is extended to Rachel Mather, Senior Member, Roscrea branch, on the loss of her father Victor Mather.

FIRST AID TRAINING – Part 2 of course took place on Wednesday, 25th November in Oxmantown School, Birr. Thank you to our Diocesan Training Secretary, Betty Delahunt, for organising this very important training course.



GFS teenagers with Eliot Davis, Anti Bullying Ambassador

Teenage Night hosted by Roscrea Branch took place in the Methodist Hall 28th October. This proved to be a very successful night. Elliot Davis from Newbridge College gave a very interesting account of his work in Anti-Bullying. After his presentation the girls enjoyed a chat with Elliot over pizza. Roscrea Branch were delighted to welcome members from Abbyleix Branch, Diocese of Ossory and also Deirdre Alexander, GFS Diocesan President for Ferns, Ossory & Cashel.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING took place in the Rectory, Birr on 12th November. This was the first meeting for our new officers and there was a large attendance at the meeting. Presentations of Newgrange candle holders were presented to the outgoing officers – Rose Langley who also received the Past President's pin, Florence Reid and Diane Dagg. The new President, Norma-Jean Carney thanked the former officers for all their dedication to GFS and the work they have done for GFS in the Diocese in the past 6 years. The meeting concluded with lovely refreshments provided by Birr leaders.

GFS DIOCESAN CHAPLAIN

The Diocese welcomes Canon Jane Galbraith as new GFS Chaplain to the Diocese. We wish Jane every good wish in her new role and look forward to working with her.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY is on Saturday, 28th November. Cost per girl is €5. Note: All proceeds from this event go towards Diocesan Camp in June – the more money we raise from events like the Craft Day the less parents will be asked to pay in June.

This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends from all the branches for an afternoon of exciting Christmas craft making. It is always a great start to the Christmas season.

Each girl is asked to bring the following items – Basket for flower arrangement, silk/artificial flowers and a hair band.

Parents/guardians are required to sign in and give contact telephone number when dropping off girls.

At the Craft Day girls will make many crafts to take home. They will also make decorations for the GFS Christmas Tree which can be seen at the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh (13-20 December).

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – GFS will once again take part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh. The festival opens on Sunday the 13th at 1pm and runs 1 – 7 pm every day through to 20th December.

ALL IRELAND CRAFTS

Crafts will be judged on the 29th February 2016 in Cloughjordan Hall – time to be confirmed. All Ireland crafts will be judged in Dublin on 14th April and results will be available at the next All Ireland Council Meeting.

DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZEDAY

Diocesan Service will take place in Cloughjordan on 12th March 2016

We wish all our members and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas with health and happiness for the year ahead.

Boys' Brigade



1ST TRALEE COMPANY

The 1st Tralee Company of The Boys' Brigade are back in full swing. We took part in the Harvest Festival service in St John's Church. We put together a display of fruit and vegetables, along with Autumn leaves and the members wrote a prayer for what they were thankful for at harvest time.

We held a Halloween party on October 23rd where a lot of ghouls and witches arrived to scare the leaders.



The scary Tralee BB members

We had a visit from Community Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick who gave us a talk on safety now it is getting darker earlier in the evenings. She also let the boys and girls look at the squad car with the lights flashing and siren blaring.



1st Tralee Boys' Brigade Company at their Annual Enrollment Service at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Tralee with Archdeacon Susan Watterson.

Congratulations to 1st Tralee Boys' Brigade Company on celebrating 25 years since being reformed in 1990.

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

What a term we're having! Sports day, cricket, hurling, outings, crafts...and plenty more to come! The coaching sessions we have offered have gone well (more planned!) and we are very grateful to those professionals and volunteers who have donated their valuable time to us. We aim for as much diversity in what we offer the boys as we can, and our talented and interesting friends make this possible.

Storm Barney may have delayed our plans for our craft badge, but only by a week. The boys have made some Christmas tree decorations in preparation for our festival entry already, and the next meeting will be more crafts which will also be proudly displayed.



Craft session

December will bring an exciting idea as we introduce "The Cube". One of our leaders, Jim Stone, has devised an evening full of cube-like challenges, which will be fun and achievable for all our boys – can't wait for that!

Christmas is approaching fast and our party will be Tuesday 8th December – and then we look forward to the beautiful Christmas Tree Festival.

United Diocesan Youth Council

ANOIS 2015

October the 24th saw another year of Anois kicking off the Halloween bank holiday weekend. This year it was in the new venue of Wilson's Hospital School in Westmeath. We were happy to welcome back The Mark Ferguson Band. This year's speaker was Alex Brown from the Isle of Man, joined by a few of his fellow youth workers. UDYC were very lucky to have one of the youth workers, Matthew, join us in our small group times and share his experiences with God and his work as a youth leader. This year's theme was Risk Takers and Alex went through the stories of Timothy, Mary, David and Samuel – young people in the Bible who all took risks to serve God.



UDYC @ Anois 2015

As well as the fantastic Worship times we also had great activities. Sunday was an action packed day with some people taking on the eliminator challenge, finishing off with a great dance off in the middle of the pitch. Others decided to get in touch with their artistic side and try their hand at some creative baking where we had beautifully decorated cakes sporting hearts, flowers and even zombies! The rest of the weekend participants could play each other at fifa, or have a go on the rodeo bull. Those who preferred a bit of relaxation could give their nails a little TLC in the Pamper Zone or have a cup of hot chocolate and sample some tray bakes in the cafe. The evenings were busy with Table Quiz, Anois's Got Talent and a Disco with only just enough time for a few hours' sleep. This year's

Anois was a great success, enjoyed by all. It was great to see so many groups from the North coming to join us for their first Anois and we hope they will be coming back for many more.

JUNIOR WEEKEND 2015

The evening of 6th November saw a group of excited participants and leaders on their way to the beautiful Castledaly Manor House in Co. Westmeath. The evening kicked off with a yummy dinner, followed by worship led by postal Bible School, where we looked at the story of the Prodigal Son. After worship we had some great ice-breaker games where the participants could really get to know each other. Following some late night hot chocolate everyone went to bed for a few hours' sleep before our action packed Saturday. Saturday started with worship that concentrated on the parable of the Lost Sheep. Once everyone was packed for the long day ahead we set off for the petting zoo/inflatable slides and bouncy course. After the participants played on the inflatables we had a tour of the animals on the farm followed by a picnic lunch. Once everyone had their fill of food we headed to Galway for a dip in the swimming pool. Next our hungry group headed to Supermacs for dinner. We finished off the evening at Galway City Karting where teams could race each other on the track. Back at the centre we had a late night Disco provided by William Phair and then some much needed sleep. Sunday's worship finished up on the parable of the Good Samaritan. The rest of the morning was filled up with capture the flag and a brilliant Table Quiz created by Andrew O'Brien. We ended the week with a closing worship.



Karting at Junior Weekend 2015

All in all it was a very successful weekend and was enjoyed immensely by all.

Both reports by Sophia Levie

FUTURE EVENTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL OVERNIGHT TRIP TO DUBLIN

On Saturday 12th December, UDYC hope that as many as possible in secondary school and upwards will travel to Dublin for an overnight trip packed with fun, including the CIYD Christmas Worship Service & Party with Disco. The group will stay overnight in Clontarf and after church on Sunday will return to home. The bus will travel from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food and accommodation is €60 or €50 each if two or more from same family attending or if joining both day trips. The closing date for bookings is Sunday 6th December 2015.

MEGA CHRISTMAS DAY TRIP TO DUBLIN

On Tuesday 29th December UDYC will again return to Dublin for a full day for exciting fun. This event is open to everyone from 10 years upwards. The bus will travel from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food and accommodation is €60 or €50 each if two or more from same family

attending or if joining both day trips. The closing date for bookings is Tuesday 22nd December 2015.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The committee met recently to plan for the future of the Fellowship Group and we look forward to the group meeting again in Limerick on Saturday 17th January 2016 from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The group is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month going forward.

FUNDRAISING CAKE SALE & COFFEE MORNING

It is hoped that a Fundraising Cake Sale & Coffee Morning will take place from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm in Adare. We will circulate further details very shortly.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Henry on (086) 2235755, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 1339996

Diocesan Board of Mission

MISSION EVENING REPORT

At the Mission Evening on 3rd November the Chairman, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, introduced the main speaker, Mr Joc Sanders, better known to all of us as, 'the man from Newslinck!' Wayne, then went on to review our selection of a project for Mission Sunday 2015, as follows:

Our objective for supporting the Luyengo Farm Project in Swaziland was to provide both material and financial support in order to get the project started, until the point where it became self-sustaining. Thanks to the generous financial and material support of the parishioners of the United Dioceses, in July of this year, 'stage 1' has now been completed, coinciding with the despatch of a container of equipment both for the farm, schools and medical centres within the Diocese of Swaziland. Accordingly, at their bi-annual meeting in September, the Diocesan Board of Mission decided to adopt another project for 2015. However this does not mean that we are breaking our close ties with Bishop Ellinah and her staff, built up over the past four years. Those parishes, and individuals, who wish to continue to support the, 'good work' in Swaziland, including Luyengo Farm are to be commended. For a Mission Evening in 2016, we hope to invite Linda Chambers, CEO of Us Ireland, to bring us up to date with developments both in Swaziland and at the farm. In the meantime the Board of Mission is making enquiries if another C of I diocese would be willing to take on 'Stage 2', of work at Luyengo Farm.

On account of the current turmoil in the Middle East, we approached the Diocese of Jerusalem with the offer of assistance, and in due course were directed to Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, and the Kids 4 Peace project in Palestine.



Joc then proceeded to give us a vivid picture of what daily life was like for the people of Gaza, especially during the latest bout of military activity in mid 2014. Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City had played a crucial role in treating the casualties, especially wounded civilians and traumatized children, all with very limited resources and under horrendous working conditions. Unfortunately, during 2015, in spite of the military activity having ceased the situation has not improved, the hospital is in urgent need of both financial and material support.

With regards to our second project in Palestine, Joc explained that Kids4Peace is a grassroots interfaith youth movement, initiated by St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem since 2001. It gives Christian, Moslem and Jewish children and their families an opportunity to have dialogue and better understand each other. From an Irish perspective, Kids4Peace would have the same objectives as the Corrymeela Centre in Co Antrim.

Having visited Israel in 2014, Dean Sandra Pragnell, gave a brief description of the current situation in Jerusalem, and the good work being done by the Dean and staff of St George's Cathedral under very difficult conditions.

Children's Ministry Network



DON'T FORGET THE SHOES!

... For next year's CM. File: St Nicholas' Day December 6th (or the nearest day) is worth keeping even this year. St Nicholas, a 4th century Bishop, forms a bridge between the rat race of the run up to Christmas and why a spirit of generosity and giving is more important than 'getting'!

St Nicholas' Day helps connect faith with life for our children.

Excellent resources from www.stnicholascentre.org

And...Don't forget the shoes!! In some parts children leave their shoes outside church for St Nicholas to fill up with chocolates. So why not invite the children to leave their shoes outside in the porch while the service is in progress. St Nicholas might leave chocolates (adapt other treat as applicable) in the shoes left for him.

WOULD YOU DARE!

Stocking filler! 'Messy Church The DVD'. Presented by Lucy Moore and Bishop Adrian Plass - this video asks and answers many of those questions about what it is and how to do it. Particularly good for newcomers to the idea of Messy Church or visit www.messychurch.org.uk for more information. ...You wouldn't dare put that in a Christmas stocking!! You can borrow it from your CM rep. Contact Canon Jane 087-3825336

Many ideas for Christmas on Pinterest and links.

Midland Parishes Table Tennis

The Midland Parishes Table Tennis League season has begun. The B section is made up of teams from Borrisokane, Cloughjordan, Roscrea and Aghancon. The C section has teams from Borrisokane, Cloughjordan and Shinrone. This year we have started playing to 11, a big change from the 21 game we were used to.

Last year Borrisokane, Cloughjordan, Moneygall and Tullamore all played in Division 1 of a joint Ossory/Midland league. This year Borrisokane, Moneygall and Tullamore are in Division 1, with Cloughjordan, Tullamore and Banagher in Division 2 of the Ossory/Midland League.

Hope all enjoy their matches this year.

John Chadwick

Secretary, Midland Parishes Table Tennis League

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Dress-Up Day went off with its usual success just before mid-term break with all pupils and staff getting into the spirit of it. As usual there were some very creative costumes which helped to make the book characters come to life. Well done to the pupils and staff for making such a great effort.

After mid-term break we welcomed Ms. Samantha Shorten into the senior classroom for her teaching practice.

The senior pupils had a wonderful visit to Foynes Flying Boat Museum on November 5th and since then they have been working on a project on Flying Boats under the guidance of Ms. Shorten. They also made models of some of these flying boats.



St. Nicholas' pupils designing and making 'Flying Boat' models.

Pupils in 4th 5th and 6th classes had an enjoyable and interesting visit to U.L. during Science Week. They took part in a Technology Workshop and visited the 'Buzzing Bees Exhibition'.



St. Nicholas' pupils met an interesting robot during Science Week.

The Health Promoting Schools' Committee held its first meeting of the year in November. They intend to organise a 'Fruit Tasting Day' later in the school year. The fruit breaks continue in school each morning and more of our pupils are now eating fruit. Recorder classes for 3rd to 6th classes have begun under the tuition of Irina Dernova. We look forward to some sweet music over the coming months!

Congratulations to Sophie Smith from 3rd class on winning third prize in the recent Credit Union Art Competition.

Sewing classes have begun for our younger pupils and they are busy learning new skills and working on some interesting projects.



Getting to grips with sewing in St. Nicholas' School.

It won't be long until we begin preparations for our Christmas events which include singing at the Live Crib in Adare on December 20th and at St. Nicholas' Carol Service. Preparations have begun for our annual Christmas plays on the 18th December. It is going to be a busy December!

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

School life has become very busy indeed as the festive season fast approaches.

The four year term of office for all Boards of Managements has come to an end and our new Board members have been elected. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members for their invaluable contribution to the smooth running of the school. We are greatly indebted to all those who serve on the Board and give of their time and knowledge so willingly.

Our Notification of Intention to Apply forms are now available to prospective parents who wish to enrol a child in September 2016. Please contact the school secretary, Mrs Mary Cope, on Tuesdays or Fridays to request a form.

Drama classes continue throughout the months of November and December and are led by Ms Joanna Parkes. A great sense of enjoyment is being had by all the boys and girls throughout these lessons.

The children are busy making decorations for our school entry to the St. Mary's Parish Christmas Tree Festival and practising for our school pantomime. Little Red Riding Hood will take place in the Croft Hall on Friday 18th December and on Monday 21st December we may have a visit from somebody very special!

As the countdown begins for the Christmas season, we hope that all remember the true meaning of Christmas and enjoy the festivities in the weeks ahead. Wishing all our friends a wonderful and joyous season.

St Michael's National School, Limerick

As is our tradition here in St Michael's NS, we have enjoyed some really interesting school trips already this year. 3rd and 4th Classes spent a memorable autumn day in Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. 5th and 6th Classes were fortunate also to have had a beautiful sunny autumnal day visiting Mitchelstown Caves, The Swiss Cottage and Cahir Castle.



5th and 6th Class on School Tour

We are fortunate to have Valerie Walker come to the school to do her second year teaching practice. Valerie is a daughter of Eleanor Walker, who worked in St Michael's previously and is now teaching in St Nicholas' NS Adare. We also welcome Molly Giltenane, a UL Bachelor of Arts Voice and Dance student, who is doing her co-op work experience with us till Christmas. Her expertise in the area of music, dance and drama will be greatly appreciated by us.

We are looking forward to our bi-annual film-making workshop in January – an expensive but worthwhile undertaking for the senior classroom. Thanks to the generosity of both the BOM and the PTA, the pupils' contribution to this was raised by a most successful cake sale. Proceeds of this enjoyable event brought in over €500!

Our proximity to Mary Immaculate College proved very advantageous for our pupils. This term we were invited to partake in Science Workshops which thrilled and inspired our future possible scientists. The unexpected arrival of The Six Nations' Rugby Trophy to our school caused great excitement to both junior and senior classes. It gave our avid rugby supporters the opportunity for a photo with the prestigious trophy.



3rd and 4th Classes with The RBS Six Nations Trophy

School places for the school year 2016/2017 will be decided by the Board of Management in January, 2016. Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's place in February. If you have not completed

an "Information Form A", for your child, please do so as soon as possible. The demand for places in the school in September, 2016, has exceeded all previous years. Parents/guardians of pupils who would have traditionally attended St Michael's NS, are asked to contact the school office to request an "Information Form A" by December, 2015. The Principal/Staff Representative to BOM meets every new family, who wishes to enrol a pupil for the following September, in December and January. Parishioners and other parents/guardians, who have a right of entry to the school, should note that there are already 40 names on the list requesting a place for September, 2016. (Right of entry includes pupils who belong to one of the Reformed Christian denominations in Limerick City & immediate suburbs, and those living in areas where their nearest Church of Ireland school was closed many years ago, eg. Killaloe, Castleconnell, Newport, etc.) It is important that parents/guardians with children in these categories, apply in good time if their child requires a place for next September.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

Sunday November 15th marked the beginning of National Road Safety Week.

Here in Kiltallagh, we invited Eileen Cunningham from the RSA to visit our school to speak to our pupils on road safety. Road deaths are the leading cause of child mortality in Ireland with road traffic collisions accounting for 36.7% of all child deaths. The number of children killed on our roads almost tripled last year. 14 children under the age of 15 lost their lives in 2014. Seven were passengers, seven were pedestrians. The greatest danger a child faces each day is when using the road: when travelling as passengers in a car, walking or cycling. Just under half of all children who die do so while walking and almost 2 out of 5 children killed are passengers. Garda reports into collisions indicate that 1 in 10 children were not wearing a seatbelt or using a child restraint.

In the junior room, a survey was conducted as to who were using booster seats. Thankfully, most were using one. The children were reminded how important it was to sit in their booster seat. It was also pointed out that car seats incorrectly fitted in cars and an incorrectly fitted child car seat could lead to serious injury or death in the event of a collision. The other startling statistic was the amount of serious injuries that are caused by schoolbags. The rule is-School bags should always be placed in the boot. Children were encouraged to become Seatbelt Sheriffs by taking a pledge to always wear their seatbelt and also make sure that everyone else in the car is buckled up -as well as reminding their parents to always wear high-visibility jackets or belts when out walking. Eileen also gave us some very valuable safety guidelines for safe cycling.

Ensure that children cycling:

- Cycle a bike matched to their height and experience
- Wear a safety helmet
- Use lights in dark or dusky conditions.

Don't allow children to:

- Cycle on public roads unsupervised (if under 12)
- Wear loosely-worn scarves or other clothing that could get caught in the wheels or chain-set
- Take unnecessary risks

Nollaigh Shona díbh go léir ó Scoil Cill Tullaigh

Oxmantown National School, Birr

MC GILL CUP

Congratulations to Christy Keaveny a very deserving winner of the Mc Gill cup for academic performance throughout his years at Oxmantown, we wish Christy every success as he continues his education at St. Brendan's Community School, Birr.



Christy Keaveny receives Mc Gill Cup

STAFF CHANGES

In June the Parent's Association organised a presentation to Mrs Deirdre Hamilton who had taught at Oxmantown for thirty five years, her entire teaching career. Deirdre witnessed a huge amount of changes during her teaching career and she embraced new ideas with a sense of positivity and enthusiasm. We wish her every happiness in her retirement we hope that she may have good health to enjoy her many hobbies and interests.



Staff Members at Presentation to Mrs Hamilton

We welcome Miss Elaine Carter who comes to us from Greystones in Co. Wicklow; she is taking first and second class and we hope that she will have a happy and successful time with us at Oxmantown. Miss Lynch teaches Junior and Senior Infants, Miss Barnwell Third and Fourth and Mrs Colton Fifth and Sixth. Mrs Hodgins is now in the Learning Support and Resource Teaching role.

IN SCHOOL EVENTS

All of the pupils and staff dressed up as ghosts, witches, princesses, etc. on 23rd October to raise funds for the Parents' Association

Our pupils have completed a block of Gaelic football training and swimming lessons this term. Fifth and Sixth class pupils availed of a tour to Cloncannon Bio farm in Moneygall to learn about organic living, science and nature. Special thanks to Michelle Ross who accompanied Mrs Colton that day and to Offaly County Council who sponsored the trip.

The new Green Schools Committee has been formed; our new chairperson is Ms Rebecca Keaveny and members include Eva Noyce, Miss Carter, Mrs Colton, Sam Powell, Andrew Armstrong and Patrick Barnwell Mulholland

Two representatives from the Irish Army presented the Tri- colour to Lena and Daniel while Orey Higgins read part of the Proclamation in preparation for the celebrations to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

Hallowe'en arrived early in Rathkeale with a wide selection of frighteningly dressed pupils coming to school on Friday 23rd October for our annual fancy dress day. We had everyone from a headless butcher to witches, a minion and even Harry Potter!



Fancy dress winners



Flag being presented to Carol and Kirill

Our Irish flag and a copy of the Proclamation were presented to the school on Tuesday 17th November by Sergeant Dinan from Limerick's Sarsfield Barracks. We were delighted that some of the parents were in a position to join with us on this special occasion. Sergeant Dinan spoke to us all about the history of the flag and also about the protocols involved in flying the national flag. He followed with a question and answer session about life in the army. Very wisely, he opened by answering the three most frequently asked questions, yes he has a gun, no he didn't bring it with him and no he has never shot anyone! The flag was accepted by our oldest and youngest pupils, Carol and Kirill on our behalf. The proceeding ended with the pupils singing the National Anthem and playing a short piece on the recorders.

We have a trip to Currachase Forest Park planned for 26th November when our heritage expert, Geoff Hunt hopes to track down the red squirrel. Geoff will be with us for the day, spending time in Currachase and also back in the school discussing our sightings.

The parents of the school have organised a fundraiser which will take place on Thursday 10th December at 8pm sharp in Rathkeale House Hotel. Everyone is invited to a "Tastes of Christmas" celebration of Christmas Day Cooking Demonstration with Chef Frank Moynihan. Tickets, €10 are available from any of the parents and also directly from the school on 069 64571. We hope that you can join with us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening.

Our annual Christmas concert will take place in the final week of term, the date has not been fixed yet as we are still waiting to hear back from the North Pole as to Santa's availability. We look forward to some great music from our music group and also to the school production of Hosanna Rock – a short Christmas musical.

School will close on Tuesday 22nd December and will reopen on Wednesday 6th January. We take this opportunity to wish all Newslink readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Villiers School

UGANDA TRIP 2015-2016, BY TARA VIGURS

The Villiers Community group is a small group of students that were selected, after going through interviews, to go to Uganda in March 2016. Zest4kidz is the name of the charity that is organising our trip.



Our main goal when we are in Uganda is to make every child feel loved, and bring a little bit of light into their lives. We hope to make a great impact and create memorable moments that we all will cherish.

We have been fundraising as a group since the start of the school year. We have had bake sales and have organised events that have been very successful in not only raising money but also raising awareness about our trip and what we hope to achieve. We had a sponge throw that was enjoyed by all the students and teachers in Villiers school.



Getting ready for action at the sponge throw!



Some of the staff enjoying the sponge throw!

Coming up we have a Christmas Antique Fair in association with Robin O'Donnell on Sunday the 13th of December in Villiers School Hall. There will be free mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends and family.

We are also in the process of organising a fundraising Christmas raffle and look forward to everyone's support.



Villiers School presents

Christmas Antique Fair

Sunday 13th December from 11am - 6pm
Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick
 €5 entry fee with complementary mince pie and mulled wine

BOYS INTERPROVINCIAL HOCKEY

Congratulations and best wishes to all our Munster representatives in the upcoming interprovincial tournament this weekend in Cork. We had a record nine players representing Villiers between both the u16's and u18's. Quentin Eacrett, Conor Beck, Steven Tutty, Craig Morrow, Marcus Ryan and Jannis Von Maydell for the u16's and Andrew Tutty, John Costelloe and Calum Morrow for the u18's. Well done to them all.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRELAND JOINING THE UN

A group of fifty students from form 5 history, model United Nations and TY travelled to the Curragh to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Ireland joining the UN. The celebration comprised of eight secondary level schools from around the country – some from as far away as Donegal, Cork and Kerry. Villiers represented the mid-west region. Presentations on Ireland's role within the UN on both peacekeeping and humanitarian missions were addressed. A live link was activated to those currently serving in the Lebanon. All in all a very informative, enjoyable and worthwhile trip.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

During the month of November, we celebrate our annual Remembrance service in St Mary's Cathedral. This is always a very special spiritual occasion that offers such hope and light for all who attend. This year everyone received a stone as they entered the Cathedral and were invited to place all the weight of burdens, loss and grief onto it and place it at the foot of the cross. They then were given a flower bulb to take home and plant as a sign of new birth and fresh beginnings. I want to thank everyone for all the wonderful comments and incredible feedback that I have been given about the service.

Our next liturgical event will be the annual Carol Service of Nine Lessons in St Mary's on the 22nd of December.

All cylinders are firing for our Uganda project with Zest4kidz and the fundraising is at full steam. Our next big event is the Antiques Fair on the 13th December in Villiers so please come along and support this wonderful cause. There will be mince pies and mulled wine!!

Life here in the Sanctuary is hectic as ever but extremely rewarding. The spiritual life is very much alive what with a very vibrant and enthusiastic Christian Union that meets every Monday and Thursday at lunchtime and with the Sanctuary Sunday service of worship and praise. Once again, thank you to all concerned.

For those who have read this column before, you will know that I am always maintaining that in the midst of all the stresses and pressures of life it is really important to take time out and simply 'be' with God.

It's at those moments when it is also important to recognise where we may have sinned. It may seem strange, even old-fashioned, to call myself a 'sinner', but it does help to remind me of one thing: I am not that different to everyone else. It is easy to start thinking of "them and me", or "me against them". But then, we have all done things we shouldn't have, we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. We are all sinners. But equally we are all forgiven, through the mercy of God, and, despite all our failings and shortcomings, we are all loved by God. Sometimes we need to hear, and feel, the love of Jesus which will help us to find the strength to change our ways. For after all, "The Son of Man came to seek out and save what was lost".

My prayer for all is that today you may feel the strength of the love of Jesus in your heart. Feel it wash over you as you take on the burdens of today and tomorrow. But in doing so ask yourself this, how do you want to respond to this love?

Until next time, blessings and peace - Chaplain Jackie McNair



"I'm sorry Michael - even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

This month past things just generally following its routine and rhythm with our usual services. We give God thanks for the successful medical procedures experienced by Harry Atkinson and Alan Sparling and we are grateful for their recovery and their getting back to full health and strength.

The Remembrance Day services were celebrated in appropriate fashion in the churches as we remembered those who have lost their lives in war and those who have survived war but have had to live with those memories of a terrible and cruel time. This is also a time when we remember modern day wars and modern day war of terror that we see happening in the world around us. We continue to pray that the respect of human life become a reality and that politicians make every effort to find political solutions before turning to violence and more abuse.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., another champion for Christian non-violence, wrote,

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

We have our Advent Carol Service on 29 November at 4.30 in Killaloe Cathedral and the Nenagh choir will be leading the singing. We invite all parishes in Killaloe end of the Diocese will come to their cathedral on this day.



We will sing carols at Killaloe Cathedral on 6 December @ 4.00 pm with the Community Choir leading us. On Thursday 10 December @ 7.30pm we will sing carols at Clonlara Church with a local Clonlara Choir leading the singing.

Lessons and carols will be at Mountshannon on Wednesday

16 December @ 7.30pm; Castleconnell 20 December @ 9.30am; Killaloe Cathedral 20 December @ 4.30pm.

Christmas services will be :

Mountshannon 24 December @ 11.30pm

Castleconnell 25 December @ 9.30 am

Killaloe Cathedral 25 December @ 11.30 am with Bishop Kenneth presiding.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

WORSHIPPING WITH THE METHODISTS

At this writing, the painting in the church in Birr is nearly completed. We had hoped to be back in the church by the first Sunday in December, but the finishing touches and clean up may take a week or two longer. We are very thankful that we are able to continue to share our worship with the Birr Methodist congregation. If we are still with them on the first Sunday of December, the service will be at 10.15 am. This will be a regular Methodist service; as we don't want to disrupt their regular schedule. Further services will be announced, and will also appear on the parish Facebook page, and in the Birr Notes in the Midland Tribune.

CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences to Karen Alexander and her family on the death of her mother, Rosemary Roe-O'Leary, who passed away on the 4th of November in Dublin. The band to which her late husband, Billy, belonged, played at her funeral in St Brigid's Church, Stillorgan, on the 9th of November.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Lucinda and Ross Jackson, on the birth of India, little sister for Sienna and another granddaughter for Barbara and Arthur.

CAROLS IN THE RECTORY

We will have our traditional evening of Carols in the Rectory on Wednesday, 16th December from 7.00 to 9.00 pm. You are invited to bring a 'Kris Kingle' gift (value €7 or less) for the gift exchange. All are welcome.

LORRHA CAROL SERVICE

Our Ecumenical Carol Service in Lorrha will be held on Thursday, 17th December at 8.00 pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 20th December – Advent 4

Dorrha 9.30 am Holy Communion

Lorrha 10.00 am Morning Prayer

Birr 11.30 am Traditional Holy Communion & Sunday School

Birr 7.30 pm Ecumenical Carol Service (in the Roman Catholic church)

Monday, 21st December

Birr 7.00 pm Oxmantown School Carol Service (in the church)

Thursday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

Lockeen 7.00 pm Pageant & Family Communion

Birr 11.30 pm Traditional Holy Communion

Friday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Dorrha 9.30 am Holy Communion (tentative)

Lorrha 10.00 am Holy Communion

Birr 11.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, 27th December – Christmas 1

Birr 11.30 am Service of the Word & Carols

Friday, 1st January – The Naming & Circumcision of Christ

Birr 11.30 am Special service of Holy Communion to begin the bicentenary year for the church in Birr.

Sunday, 3rd January – The Epiphany

Dorrha 9.30 am Morning Prayer

Lorrha 10.00 am Holy Communion

Birr 11.30 am Holy Communion

All being well, we will be able to revert to our normal schedule from January onwards:

First & Third Sundays: Dorrha- 9.30 am

Second & Fourth Sundays: Lockeen- 9.30 am

All Sundays: Lorrha- 10.00 am, Birr- 11:30 am, with the Birr Family Service on the 2nd Sunday.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 17th April at 11:30 in Birr. Any young people or adults interested in being confirmed should contact the Archdeacon as soon as possible, so classes can be arranged. Candidates should be at least 12 years old, and have a sincere desire to make a firm declaration of their faith in Christ.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

St. Cronan's Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

The death has occurred of Florrie Clarke on Wednesday 21st. October. Florrie had been living for the last few years in Patterson's Nursing Home and in whose good care and often surrounded by close family, she passed gently into new life. Our deepest condolences are extended to Alfie and his family. Burial took place in St.Cronan's churchyard.

Holy Baptism took place in St.Cronan's Church on Saturday October 24th of Clodagh Olivia, the baby daughter of Suzanne Wallace and Anthony Keeshan. Fr. Lorcan Kenny assisted Canon Jane at the ceremony. Welcome Clodagh, into the fellowship of the Christian family.

Holy baptism Alex George Pearson was made a member of the Christian family on October 18th. 2015 in St.Molua's Church, Kyle. Baby Alex is a brother of Ben and son to Sarah Clare and Brian Pearson. A large gathering welcomed Alex into the church where he will come to know, that he has deep family connections.



Alex with his parents, Godparents and Canon Jane

Armchair Christmas Quiz

All proceeds going to Bishop's Appeal

Christian Aid/Bishop's Appeal are charities which provides emergency and long term aid where-ever it is most needed in the world. .

Please give generously.

Prizes: €30, €20 & €10 book tokens

Minimum entry €2

All entries will be eligible for prizes, so please send yours in, completed or not! By Feb 5th 2015

Vy Revd. Denis Sandes,
Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

Name

Address

ANSWERS: Cars, old and new!

Example: English gentry rode here: VAUXHALL

1. Backwoodsman? _ _ _ _ _ A _
2. Should be sat on _ _ A _
3. River Crossing _ O _ _
4. English country Dance? _ _ _ _ I _
5. Could be a gem _ _ E _

6. Sounds like a lemon! _ I _ _ _ _ _
7. Starts with a child's plaything! _ _ _ O _ _
8. Made by an English Cardinal? _ O _ _ _ _ _
9. Top lover in tribe? _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _
10. Monte Christo's Girl _ E _ _ _ _ _
11. Elevated on the 9th letter _ _ U _ _ _
12. 007's favourite car _ _ _ O _ _ _ _ _
13. Start of an old orange drink _ I _
14. Sounds like a twisted field! _ _ _ _ _ E _
15. District Attorney and Secret service _ _ _ I _
16. Big Abe of the Civil War _ _ _ _ O _ _
17. German cart for all people _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _
18. Sad OK? _ _ O _ _
19. If last O was IC it would be H₂O _ _ _ _ O
20. Starts with grand lady of the stage _ _ I _ _ _ _
21. This car's a wanderer _ _ _ E _
22. This bike could be a car _ O _ _ _
23. Car or carnivore? _ _ _ _ A _
24. Could be good for evasion: _ O _ _ _
25. Famous Yoga position _ _ _ U _
26. Sounds like you'd find front of house _ O _ _ _ _ _
27. Formula 1, Italian and red! _ _ _ _ A _ _

Please feel free to copy this and pass it among your friends

**We thank
our advertisers
for their support
- please quote
Newslink
when contacting
them.**



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

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

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

Sunday 13th - Sunday 20th December
1—7 pm



NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Groups of 8 or more welcome—pre-booking essential. For more information:

call 086 820 6514 or email
nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com

Admire the trees, take afternoon tea, purchase some seasonal produce and craft items, enjoy some of the scheduled events. Admission €3 (accompanied children free)

St Mary's Church of Ireland, Nenagh Union of Parishes

here2help

support • counselling • information • education

Free
Pregnancy
tests!

No opinions,
just support

Crisis Pregnancy
Services

Talk it
out!

+OPTIONS
CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES
Help. Support. Understanding.

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

L I M E R I C K



Physiotherapy
c l i n i c

Physiotherapy and Podiatric
assessment and treatment

Frank Sheahan

B.Sc. (Hons) M.I.S.C.P M.C.S.P.
MICPO (Podiatry)

Tel: 061 349222
Fax: 061 345181

Corbally Medical Centre,
Corbally Road, Limerick.

www.limerickphysiotherapyclinic.com



Opportunities Unlimited

Co-educational Secondary School with a Welcoming, Caring and Supportive Environment

Since 1669, The King's Hospital has carefully maintained traditional values and combined them with modern, cutting-edge education and facilities to create a welcoming environment that enhances pupils' academic, cultural, creative, sporting and social development.

Students discover and reach their full potential with the assistance of dedicated staff who offer individual personal, academic and pastoral support throughout their time in school and with the transition to 3rd level education and career choices.

A beautiful and inspirational 80 acre campus offers extensive facilities for over 20 different sports and a wide range of musical, arts and drama activities providing opportunities for elite achievers in all areas while promoting positive health, welfare, fitness and fun for all students.

• **28 academic subjects include:**

- 5 Sciences
- Economics, Accounting & Business
- 5 Curricular Modern Languages
- Dedicated 1 to 1 Study and Career Advice

• **We also offer:**

- 5 & 7 Day Boarding options
- Bursary Support and Fee Assistance with additional SEC related assistance for boarders
- Easy access to campus situated at the M50 & M4 junction, close to Dublin City and Airport



The King's Hospital

Headmaster: John D. Rafter
B.A.(Mod), B.Sc., HDipEd.

For more information please call or visit us - or if you prefer - we will travel to meet with you. Please contact 01 643 6564 or email: enquiries@kingshospital.ie

www.kingshospital.ie

Care for Creation

Climate change is affecting subsistence farmers in Swaziland.

Jan de Bruijn writes from Swaziland

Reports from Swaziland tell of serious drought and high temperatures. In fact the situation here is described as a National Disaster. The media has reported that many families are losing their cows while other families are not able to plant anything.



Most Swazis are subsistence farmers who grow maize and other crops to feed and raise their families while also rearing cattle to sell and educate their children. In Swazi tradition a man's cattle reflects his wealth

and most Swazis have a sentimental attachment to their livestock. It is for that reason that the death of cattle owing to drought is an emotional trauma to most families as well as financial ruin. A large proportion of rural households practice subsistence agriculture. About 66 percent of the population is unable to meet basic food needs, while 43 per cent live in chronic poverty.

We have to ask the question is this drought and lack of rain a Swazi problem and are they the ones who caused it?

Last month was the hottest October in modern history and the first ten months of the year have also been at record levels, US government scientists at NOAA, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration said this afternoon (18 November): "The globally averaged temperature over land and ocean surfaces for October 2015 was the highest for October since record keeping began in 1880".

THE SITUATION IN MALKERNS

Luyengo farm is in the Malkerns Valley. The table shows the extreme temperatures and drought conditions the farm is experiencing at the moment.

		Monthly averages in Malkerns	2015 actuals at Luyengo
Max Temperature (°C)	August	23.8	29
	September	25.4	29
	October	25.4	36
Rainfall (mm)	August	20	6
	September	44	12
	October	98	38

The situation in the Malkerns Valley is exaggerated by the ongoing repairs to the canal, necessitating periodic closure.

I went to see the very origin of the canal at the Usuthu River, 12 km from the farm. The river has practically no flow. Normally 50% of the water from the river is directed towards the canal. This canal feeds the entire Malkerns valley, all farms, all households and all businesses. The latest rationing proposals include the complete closure of the canal for periods of 2 weeks - that is if some rain falls, otherwise there will be no water at all from the canal. At the moment the position is close to catastrophic. The farm is alive, but only thanks to the reservoir, and Tiekie's careful rationing strategy.

Please support the Diocese of Swaziland as it continues to serve the people of Swaziland in these difficult days.

Pray for COP21 in Paris

By the time you read this the UN COP21 Climate Change negotiations in Paris will be half way through - they started on 30th November and are due to finish on 11th December. Their objective is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on action to limit the global temperature increase to 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, which climate scientists say is the maximum safe limit. Most of the 196 countries participating have made pledges of action, but so far they are insufficient to meet the 2 °C target - and of course pledges will achieve nothing if they are not acted upon.

Limiting climate change is the biggest challenge our generation faces and will require major changes to the way we live now. We are already experiencing climate change in the increasing frequency of damaging storms in this part of the world, but it is in the poor countries of the world that it is causing the most suffering - see the report from Swaziland above.

The prospects for a meaningful agreement appear to be better than they were 6 years ago in Copenhagen, but success is uncertain, and the world leaders meeting in Paris surely need help to get the agreement we all need. And then all of us need help to make the lifestyle changes necessary to implement the agreement.

So let us pray that God our loving Father will work both in world leaders and ourselves to protect the beautiful planet he has made for us and all its inhabitants.

Creator God,

We confess that the way we are using fossil fuels and other destructive forms of energy today is destroying the forests, changing the climate, the seas, the soils, the biodiversity and the balance of life on our fragile planet, dispossessing the poor and future generations.

Help the world's leaders meeting in Paris, and all of us, to choose life for all that is at risk - for neighbours near and far and for all who come after us.

Give us the wisdom to learn what we do not know but long to understand, so that we may honour and nurture all that makes us one with you.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Prayer from Eco Congregation Ireland

What Christmas means to me

by Rev Phyllis Jones, Priest-in-Charge for Camp & Dingle

I have only recently come to live in Ireland, although I have been a visitor for a number of years. When we first came to visit Ireland, and in particular the Dingle Peninsula, we were blown away by the breath-taking beauty everywhere. We thought 'what a wonderful place to live', never dreaming that one day it would be possible. Now, each morning we look out onto the mountains, which have a different appearance whenever you look at them, and feel incredibly blessed. I think the Dingle Peninsula must be one of the most beautiful places on earth created by God.

As I journey from parish to parish, I am constantly reminded that God is ever present in his creation. I am also reminded that God loved his creation so much that in Jesus, he came to share our humanity. That God should choose to become fully human is for most, incredible. To be truly and fully human meant Jesus experienced all of human limitations, including a human birth and death. His life experiences were the same as our life experiences today. He grew up in a working class family; he shared the ups and downs of brotherly and sisterly relationships; he was no stranger to temptation and he knew the love, loss and betrayal by friends and loved ones. He demonstrated his love and obedience to God his Father, and most important of all, in his life and death he showed us God's immeasurable love for every human being.



A baby, utterly human - Modern Madonna, William McGregor Paxton, c1932

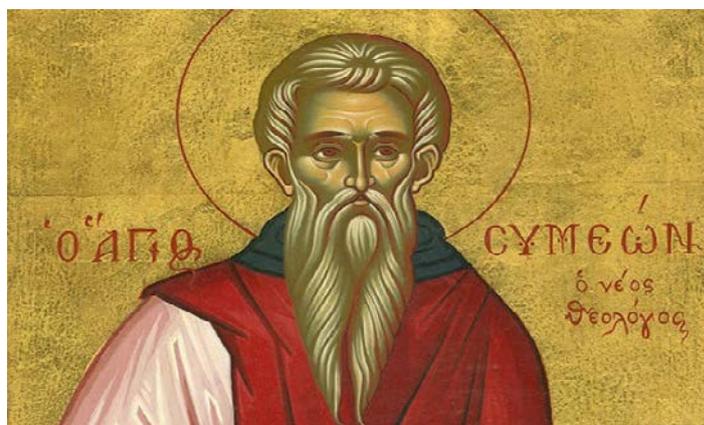
For most, thoughts of Christmas conjure up busy images of shopping lists, cooking and festivities and, if we're not careful, we reach Christmas Day feeling tired, stressed and with depleted bank

accounts. The preparations for Christmas are important because it means spending a very special time with those we love, particularly if we're lucky enough to see the joy and wonder on the faces of children – for example at a Nativity Play or a Carol Service. It's lovely to give and to be given presents, however humble, because anything and everything given in love means God is part of that gift too. But for me the real meaning of Christmas is that God gave to each and every one of us a gift so special, it lasts forever.

God gave us the greatest gift ever – his love for all time. If we look around where we are at this moment, we can find God. He's in the person sitting next to us or in our neighbour. We see his love in a special picture on the wall, or in a gift given to us with love. He's in the smile and greeting we share with a stranger, and in the help of a friend when we need it most. He's in the tears that we share with someone's loss and the bowl of soup given to the hungry. Most of us won't be going hungry this Christmas – we have food in our cupboards and our houses are warm and cosy. We are very blessed in so many ways but God's love for us makes us incredibly rich.

As we sing our favourite carols 'Peace on earth' and 'Goodwill to all men', we may despair when we watch the news on our televisions of terrorist attacks and the traumatic journeys of refugees, or listen to harrowing stories of injustice and oppression. But Christmas reveals to us a light within the darkness, love within the cross and life within death. Our sins and disrespect of others, our material obsessions, our despair and desperation, our lack of concern for wars and poverty that don't affect us – all are redeemed, all are taken care of. In an Advent reflection, Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022), saint and mystic, reminds us that we are part of the Incarnation too:

'We awaken in Christ's body as Christ awakens our bodies. And everything that is hurt, everything that is shameful, maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged, is in him transformed, recognised as whole, as lovely, and radiant in his light.'



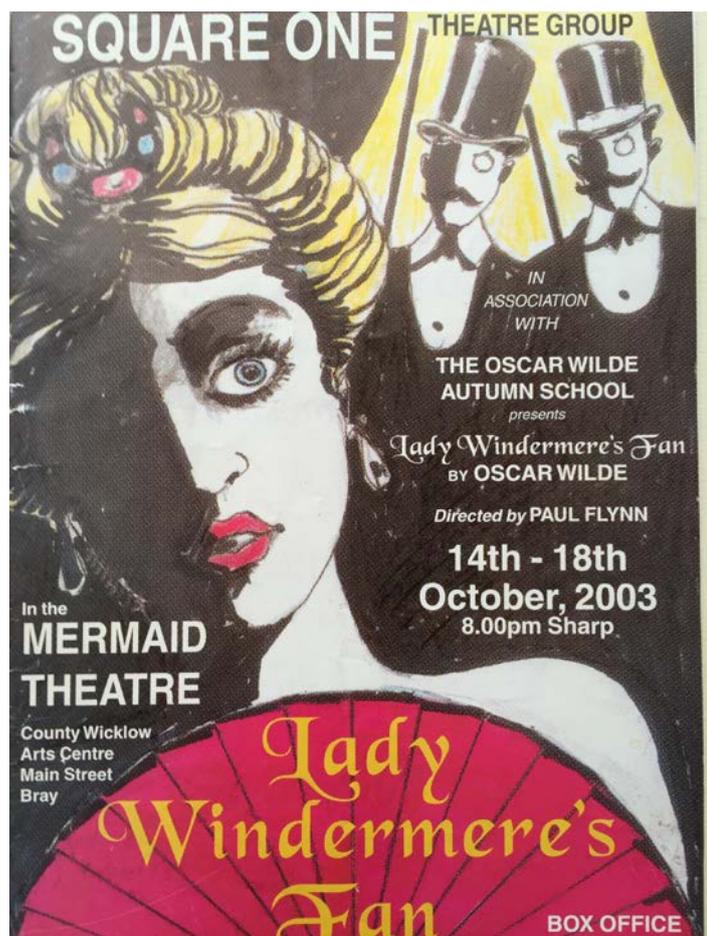
St Symeon the New Theologian

All this in a baby that was utterly human – and that, for me, is the meaning of Christmas.

What Epiphany Means to Me

by Rev John Godfrey, Rector of Aughrim & Creagh Unions

In September 2002 I got a call out of the blue from my driving instructor. He wasn't trying to reschedule one of my many driving lessons. Instead, he said, "Didn't you say once that you used to do a bit of acting when you were younger? Well, my theatre group is putting on *Lady Windermere's Fan*, by Oscar Wilde, but their leading man just dropped out. How do you fancy coming along for an audition tonight?" Chances like that turn up once in a blue moon, so I made it my business to be at that audition. I was the only one who showed up, so I got the part – of Lord Darlington.



As it turned out, that proved to be the first step in the most fruitful of journeys for both my wife and I: one that would change the course of our lives. Over the following years, we both became heavily involved in the world of amateur theatre, acting in and producing plays and developing our craft in the Gormanston Stageworks Summer School.

Shirley-Anne began to integrate her love of drama into her day job as a teacher, directing school plays, leading drama classes and using 'drama in education' skills to deliver the mainstream curriculum. On November 25th this year, Shirley-Anne graduated from NUIG with an MA in Drama and Theatre Studies and is now working to build a future for herself in the world of theatre.

As for me, my re-engagement with the theatre became the catalyst for the deep soul-searching that led me from a career in advertising to ordained ministry. Through that theatre, I realised that my own creativity and spirituality are very closely linked. The more creative the theatre work I was involved in, the more I felt a spiritual space

opening up within me. And as that space opened up, I was able to discover within it the promptings of vocation.

The season of Epiphany reminds me of that incredible journey, because Epiphany is about something dawning on you that changes your life forever. The Biblical imagery of Epiphany is about a new light dawning on us that changes the way that we look at the world. If we see and recognise that light, it transforms us from the inside out. As we let ourselves be guided by that light, we ourselves begin to shine, in a way that the rest of the world can see.

The season of Epiphany reminds us too, that each of us is on a journey. We are each journeying to discover the deepest mystery of ourselves. We are journeying to find out who we are, where we come from, where we are going and how we should live. But if our life's journey isn't to meander endlessly without meaning, we need a light to guide us.

That is why the Magi are the fitting symbols for us in the Epiphany season. Magi are people who have committed themselves to an epic journey: a quest to shine some light into the mystery of our deepest selves. Magi are star-gazers, people who sit for hours on end in the darkness, precisely because they know their need of a guiding light. They are wise people, who recognise that when real illumination reaches you, the wisest thing to do is to follow where it leads you.

In the Good News according to Matthew, it is those star-led-travellers who understand what so few other people do in the whole Gospel. They read the signs that the light of God's full presence has dawned in birth of the Messiah, the King of the Jews. They follow that light faithfully, even when it leads them to the most unlikely of places. They recognise that light shining in the face of Jesus. They respond by worshiping him, as they lay before him their greatest treasures.

The season of Epiphany calls us all to be like those star-led-travellers, journeying through the darkness of this world, but letting ourselves be led into mysteries of our deepest selves by the same light that dawned on them – the light of Christ. In *Lady Windermere's fan*, Lord Darlington puts it this way: "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." Epiphany invites us to become attuned to the darkness within us and around us, because only then do we realise our need for illumination. That is the longing that drives us forward.



Bandon Grammar School

Co-Educational Boarding and Day



Founded 1641

Principal: Ian Coombes, BA, HED, MED

Bandon Grammar School is a Church of Ireland managed school with its own chapel, chaplain and liturgical programme working in a spirit of inclusion

We offer:-

- A broad, stimulating programme to help each pupil discover and reach full potential in a caring environment.
- A dedicated staff providing excellent academic, pastoral and guidance support
- Modern, comfortable boarding facilities
- Strong tradition of inclusion of children with special needs
- A wide range of subjects including the full range of sciences, business subjects, 4 languages and many practical options
- An exciting innovative Transition Year programme
- Excellent academic achievements annually, with major prizes and third level scholarships won consistently
- Emphasis on the visual and performing arts, music, choir and debating
- Newly constructed specialist and general classrooms, laboratories, workshops and lecture theatre, superbly equipped with the latest technology.
- A wide choice of sports, clubs and after-school activities
- Facilities include a modern sports complex, weights room, synthetic floodlit hockey pitch and multisports/ tennis area, synthetic athletics area, rugby pitches and cricket pitch on over 30 hectares of grounds.
- Extensive and inclusive range of school tours, including skiing, music and art tours, language exchanges and sports tournaments
- State grants, family allowances and scholarships available to help with moderate fees

Website: www.bandongrammar.ie

Phone: 023 / 8841713

Fax No: 023 / 8844404

Email: info@bandongrammar.ie



**Full range of extra
curricular activities**



Jesus and the Blind Man - Kate Cargin writes from Jerusalem



Originally from Limerick, Kate is serving as an Ecumenical Accompanier on the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), sent by Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW).

When I first arrived in Jerusalem in September there was a large convention of Zionist Christians who had come to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem'. I spoke to one of the participants who was staying in the same convent as I was. She told me it was a wonderful experience to be with 2,000 Christians from all over the world. Not one was from Palestine. I told the woman that there were 14,000 Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem alone. She was hugely surprised. Many Palestinian Christians I have spoken to feel hurt and abandoned by this ignorance. They are proud to be part of an unbroken line of Christians in Palestine from the time Christianity began. But people assume that all Palestinians are Muslims.

Every Thursday, there is a communion service at Sabeel on the outskirts of Jerusalem. "Sabeel" is Arabic for 'the way', and also a 'channel' or 'spring' of life-giving water. It is an ecumenical liberation theology centre set up in 1990. Sabeel's purpose is to 'strive to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace, nonviolence, liberation and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities'. For them following in the footsteps of Jesus means standing up for the oppressed.

I spoke to Cedar, one of the founders of Sabeel. Displaced from Haifa in 1948, when Israel was established, she suffered a great change from being in comfortable circumstances to being raised in poverty. She told me that the political use of the Bible by Zionists to justify their actions had seriously affected her faith. Sabeel helped her to read the Bible in a more spiritual and relevant way.

Last Thursday the celebrant was Naim Ateek, another founding member. The gospel reading was from St. Mark, Chapter 10, vv 46 - 52, about Jesus healing the blind man on the outskirts of Jericho. Discussion about the story was open to the congregation. One

woman said "He was living in Area 'A'". This is one of the classifications of Palestine devised under the Oslo agreement. "He would not have been allowed to come to the eye-hospital in Jerusalem." Another said, "The man was given a name, Bartimaeus. He was not just a number." "He was from the margins of society." "People tried to shut him up, but he shouted even louder." "Jesus asked him what he wanted him to do for him. He didn't make assumptions." "Some people are wilfully blind and do not want to see." All of this is painfully relevant for Palestinians today.

The previous day, I had taken a delegation of four Anglicans from Surbiton to see a Palestinian family who live in Wadi Al Jose, a district of Jerusalem a 10 minute walk from where I live. The family consists of an 85 year-old woman, a refugee from Ber Sheba in 1948, her two sons, Noureddin and Sharif, along with their wives and seven children. Noureddin, told us that in March this year, Israeli soldiers came without warning and demolished part of their house. Since then, they live in fear that the soldiers will come back and demolish the rest of it. They have lived there for 40 years but now the whole area is designated to be cleared to build a nature park. One of the delegation asked them if any provision had been made to re-house them. Noureddin shook his head and said 'We have nowhere to go.'



Noureddin with his wife Nabeha and their children in the ruins of their kitchen

Both Noureddin and Sharif are blind.



It's not a dream, it's real!



Real Glasshouses
and Polytunnels

www.polydome.ie

Tel 057 912 0424

Looking Anew at Church Success: Take a Tour

by the Rev. Canon Liz Beasley

The 1st of a series of 5 articles in which Canon Liz explores some of the things that make a church 'successful', and asks what defines 'success' for a church.

Years ago, when I was being instituted as vicar of a parish in the Episcopal Church, one of the Scripture readings was Joshua 1:7-9. In it, the people of Israel are about to cross over the River Jordan into the Promised Land, and God is telling them to obey the law that Moses has given them from God. Then, God tells them, they will be 'successful! They are to meditate on God's law day and night, so that they might obey it. 'For then you shall make your way prosperous,' God says, 'and then you shall be successful.'

The passage prompted me then, and many times since, to reflect on the concept of 'success' when applied to the church. Does it mean the same thing as when applied to job, marriage, school, or other things we do in life? I don't think so.

In a series of five articles, I hope to address the question of church 'success' by looking at some of the elements of church life that are integral to making a church what it is meant to be: in other words, making it a 'success.' The elements I will specifically look at in future articles are prayer, leadership, money, and pastoral visiting.

In this article however, the first of the five, I will address something much more practical. And that is 'looking anew' at our church in general. First, let me say why it is a good idea to look at our church with fresh eyes: So that we can make our church welcoming to someone who walks into it for the first time. It is a good thing for our churches to be welcoming to the newcomer, and also to someone who might have strayed away from the church long ago but is considering coming back again. We have something to offer that the world badly needs, and that is hope, grace, and the peace that passes all understanding, all available through Christ. But someone might never discover that we can offer these if they cannot get past certain stumbling blocks in how our church appears to them.



Look at your church from another angle

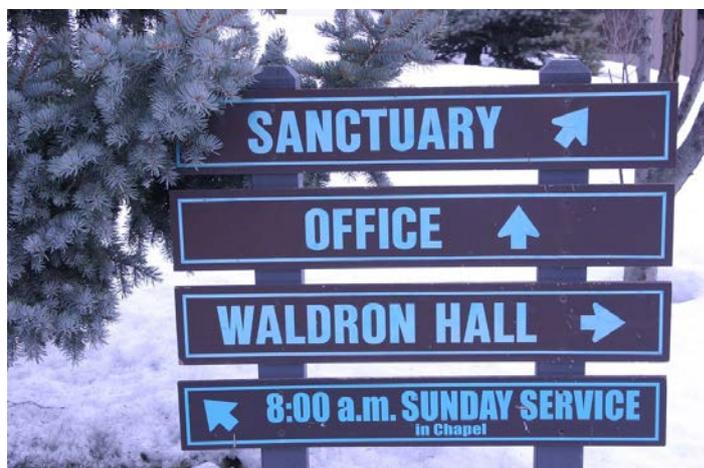
You see, we can become so used to our church building and the congregation that worships there that it is hard to look at it fresh and see it as someone new to it might see it. It has become like home, which is a good thing, but it also means that we might never realise that it is not particularly welcoming. I remember once visiting a church (not here!) that had a fairly high pulpit, with steps leading up to it. Stored on the steps, and visible to the congregation,

were boxes and candles and all manner of things. As I remember, the priest even preached from the pulpit and just walked past all the stuff on the steps. It was as though the stuff wasn't there, because he and everyone else was so used to seeing it that they never really saw it. They never realised how off-putting it was to a visitor.



Churches are often full of 'stuff'

So here's a very practical thing to do. Ask a friend to go to church with you, someone who has never been there. No, it doesn't have to be on a Sunday, if that doesn't suit them, but Sunday would be best. Maybe make a deal with a friend who goes to another church that you will do this favour for one another on two different Sundays. Take someone to church with you and just walk through it with them. Ask them what they notice. You are looking for two things primarily. One is cleanliness and order. For example: Are the floors and windowsills clean? Are the candles straight in their holders? Are the books neat or are they torn, with pages falling out? The other is signs of welcome. For example: Can they easily find the entrance to the church? Does someone greet them and hand them what they need for the service? Does anyone help them through the worship if they need it?



Signs help people find their way

These suggestions did not originate with me, so I am saying nothing new. But it might have been a long time since we have looked at our church with new eyes. These are all small things, in a way. But success in church is often to be found in the small things, the little things that are easy to gloss over but that done well make a difference.

Wedding Richard Davis and Evelyn Brennan were married in Christ Church Corbally on Saturday November 7th. Richard is the youngest son of Dick and Rosemary Davis.

ADVENT

'Preparing The Way' Advent Bible Explorations based on the Sunday Readings Yr.C. You are invited to a relaxed and informal yet informative sharing of discussion on Thursdays with our Methodist friends in Advent: 3rd; 10th., and 17th. December at 8.00p.m. till 9.00p.m. Methodist Hall.

CHRISTMAS

'The Spirit of Christmas' featuring The Virtuoso Chamber Choir invite you to a concert on Friday 18th December in Christ Church Corbally. Mulled wine reception at 7.30p.m. Concert begins at 8.00p.m. Admission €15.00. children free. Tickets from Jennifer 086-3442639. Spot Prizes on the night. Corbally is a beautiful church with a good acoustic to bring your friends to enjoy a real treat.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL: News from Roscrea... This year 417 boxes were filled and transported to the Team Hope Depot in Nenagh. The project has been in operation for twelve years and each year Vivienne Wallace, Heather Evans and friends have participated. The Roscrea boxes are only possible through the generosity of so many parishioners and friends in the wider community who donate items, time for filling and help with transportation. Shaws Department Store provide the shoeboxes which are expertly covered by Valerie St.Ledger before the great drivers get moving; notably Evie Lupton and Leslie Evans, Des Young and their helpers. Vivienne and Heather would like to thank everyone who will have helped so many children, as they open their box this Christmas.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE This is a quiet meditative service, specially for those who find the full-on Christmas Service just too much this time around, perhaps because of loss, or depression, or some other reason. If that sounds like you, you are warmly invited to join us on Wednesday December 23rd. at 8.00 p.m. St.Cronan's Church. There will be a laying on of hands space afterwards for those who wish particular prayerful issues offered. A cup of tea for all, too.



*With proper ceremony, they laid it to rest
with its ancestors*

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

St.Molua's Church, Kyle: Sunday December 13th at 12.00 noon
Christ Church, Corbally: The Spirit of Christmas Concert Friday December 18th December at 8.00p.m. .
St. Burchin's Church, Bourney: Children's Service Saturday 19th December at 7.00 p.m.
St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea: Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday 20th. December at 10.45 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION

Christ Church Corbally: 9.30.a.m.
St.Cronan's Church Roscrea: 10.45.a.m.
St.Burchin's Church, Bourney: 12.00 noon.

Christian Unity Service details to be announced.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Vacant

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

Diocesan Readers:

Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc_sanders@iol.ie
Audrey Clarke Gordon
087 742 8901, audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

SERVICES

St. Mary's Nenagh: 11am 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Family Service) & 4th Sundays
Templederry: 9.30am 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays
5th Sundays: 11am United Service, rotating between churches

NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

... Sunday 13th – Sunday 20th December, 1pm – 7 pm daily, admission €3 (accompanied children free)

Christmas is really upon us in Nenagh as we finalise preparations for our Second Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival. Once again Cindy will be presiding over the afternoon teas (which were such a "wow" last year – expect more of the same) – Rae has a fantastic array of seasonal goodies, including beautifully hand-knitted plum puddings with 'surprise centres', seasonal preserves and a "sales table" with many desirable items, together with a fantastic raffle and some quizzes to tax the mind as you mull over your Christmas activities (or include as a Christmas gift to family and friends)! Our musical interludes will include organ recitals and harp recitals together with some rousing band music. So, please do come along and view the spectacular display of trees, sit and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea, listen to some nice music, meet up with friends, and enjoy the Christmas Buzz – all happening in St Mary's Church, Nenagh, from Sunday 13th until Sunday 20th December 1 pm to 7 pm daily.

Part of the proceeds will go to Áras Folláin, a local voluntary charity which promotes wellness and recovery for people who have experienced mental health difficulties or are at risk of mental ill health through social isolation, family circumstances, relationships, financial circumstances, disability or unemployment. It is a community based centre led by people who use the mental health services within a recovery model with support from professionals on an as needed basis. See www.arasfollain.ie.

PASTORAL

We were all very saddened at the sudden death of William Wallace on 30th October. He was a loving father to Susan, John and Avril and respected and well-loved in his community. His very well attended funeral service at Templederry Church on 3rd November was followed by interment at Kilfithmone Cemetery.

Condolences to Willie Wallace and Edgar Wallace of the death of their sister Vera Poole.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all their families and friends

Congratulations to Sharon Gloster and Robbie Nevin who were married on 23rd October. The service was conducted by Sharon's uncle, Canon Raymond Stewart, assisted by Rev Lucy and Fr Tom O'Halloran of Borrisokane. We wish Sharon and Robbie every good wish and God's blessings as they begin their married life together.



Sharon Gloster and Robbie Nevin who were married on 23rd October

THE RECTORY

Work continues on the refurbishment of the Rectory and it is hoped that all will be complete before Christmas.

OUR CHOIR

Members of the Choir led the singing in the Advent Carol Service in St Flannan's Cathedral. We are most grateful to Brian Brislane for all his assistance with the Choir.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

20th December 6pm in St Mary's Nenagh, Carol Service to close the Christmas Tree Festival

24th December 7pm in Templederry and 11pm in St Mary's

25th December 10 am service in St Mary's and 11.15am in Killodiernan.

27th December MP in St Mary's Nenagh.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 913 5341 Mob: 087 948 4402

Email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

It was with mixed feelings that we heard that the Revd. Denis Sandes has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Shinrone Group of Parishes. We will miss his presence but know that his many talents will be put to good use. In the meantime, do please buy some copies of his quiz sheets to include with your Christmas cards. Money raised will go to Bishops' Appeal.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Carol services will be held in Borrisnafarney and in Borrisokane at 7 p.m., on Sunday, 13th December.

The Carol Service in Cloughjordan will be held on Sunday 20th December at 11.30 a.m.

There will be a service of Holy Communion for Christmas in Bushy Park Nursing Home on Monday, 21st December at 3.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome!

The services of Holy Communion for Christmas are:

Christmas Eve in Ballingarry at 8.30 p.m..

Christmas Day Borrisokane at 10.15 a.m.

Cloughjordan at 11.30 a.m.

The time of the service in Borrisnafarney will be in the Newsletter issued on the 29th November.

J J Ryan Funeral Directors

Nenagh, County Tipperary

Ryans provide a comfortable
purpose built funeral home.

Shipping of remains,
embalming (female embalmer available)
Cremation, nurse to perform last offices

Telephone: 076 31541

- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com - www.jjryanundertakers.com



PASTORAL

A number of families have been bereaved in the recent past. It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs. Pamela Armitage, wife of John. She bravely fought cancer but unfortunately succumbed some time after surgery. Her funeral service was held in Castlepollard on the 28th October and a Memorial Service in thanksgiving for her life was held in Cloughjordan a week later. Her husband John played at both services and the attendance at both were testament to how much Pamela had endeared herself to so many people. Sincere condolences of so many go to John and his family, to Pamela's family and to all the friends she had gathered for the few years she lived in Cloughjordan.

The whole community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of William Wallace of Templederry Parish. Deepest sympathy is offered to his family and to his many relatives around Cloughjordan and Borrisokane. We pray that God will give strength and his peace to all those who mourn.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who are ill and to those who care for them. It's good to see Bud Powell out and about again.

AUCTION

The auction held in Cloughjordan in November was a tremendous success. Many and sincere thanks to all those who donated items, supported the raffle and who came on the day. Thanks especially to those involved in the organising.

CONGRATULATIONS

Claire Donaldson, daughter of Sylvia and George, and Roy Gill, son of Henry and Anne, were married in Borrisokane on the 23rd October. Congratulations, best wishes and every blessing to the happy couple.



Roy and Claire prepare to cut their cake

BAPTISM

Ciaran McLoughney was baptised in Cloughjordan on the 25th November. We welcome this child into the family of the Christian Church and pray that God will guide him as he grows in body and spirit



Baby Ciaran with his proud Grannies

MOTHERS' UNION

Thursday 10th December, Margaret O'Brien will demonstrate "Sugar Icing Christmas Themes" in Lorrha Community Hall at 8 p.m. All welcome. Those who attended the meeting in Aghancon when Gillian Kingston spoke about the Camino and about the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust found it very interesting.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

There was a very good attendance at a training session in Cloughjordan for those working with children on the 16th November. Many thanks to Niall West for coming to lead it.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)

Priest-in-charge: Rev Denis Sandes

Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

Mob: 086 647 5056

Email: revdlsandes@gmail.com

On Sunday 22nd November, Bishop Kenneth introduced the Reverend Denis Sandes to well attended welcoming congregations in Shinrone and Aghancon. He explained that, due to his continuing ill health, Canon Michael was taking 3 months off duty. Please keep him and his family in your prayers, that he may return to fullness of health. Please pray for Reverend Denis and his family as he takes up his pastoral care of us.

Reverend Denis announced that he would visit anyone who is sick or housebound if people make him aware of their needs.

HARVESTS

In Aghancon Reverend Denis Sandes was the preacher, His first visit to the parish.

In Dunkerrin Canon Jane Galbraith preached, and in Kinnitty, Paul Fitzpatrick.

Our thanks to them all for coming and giving us thought provoking and interesting sermons. And special thanks to everyone who took time to decorate the churches so beautifully.

On Sunday 1st November Aghancon parishioners held a four-course Sunday Lunch which approximately one hundred people enjoyed including the chat and fellowship. The proceeds of the event, €1540, was for Church funds and great credit is due to all who helped in any way.

Also in Aghancon Hall, on Sunday 15th the Annual Craft Fair took place and once again it was a great success with a hall full of different crafts and a good number of buyers, even though the weather was not very favourable.

In Shinrone and Aghancon Table Tennis has started up again and a team has entered the League.

SYMPATHY

Our sincere sympathy to John Armitage on the death of his wife Pamela. We were fortunate enough to have Pamela worship with us at the Thursday morning Clover Lodge Nursing Home Eucharist. John, we thank you so much for playing the music and leading the singing on these occasions.

MOTHERS' UNION

We were very fortunate in Aghancon when Gillian Kingston came to speak to us with huge enthusiasm, showing slides of her many pilgrimages on the Camino de Santiago. What a wonderful experience - but as a pilgrimage, not for the fainthearted!

On 26th November Lorraine Malone is going to show us and give us ideas of how to make Christmas decorations at the Thursday coffee morning in Cloughmoyle School at 11.30

On December 3rd at 11am Carol Singing will take place in Clover Lodge Nursing Home with all the residents. This is usually a very happy occasion and as with all other Mothers' Union events, everyone is welcome.

On Thursday 19th December at 8pm in Cloughmoyle School, Shinrone will host a talk by John Reid. John works with Concern and has been in many parts of the world including Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic. This promises to be a most interesting evening.

The Shinrone Christmas Whist Drive will be on Saturday 12th December. Donation of prizes very welcome. The January whist drive will be on Saturday 9th January.

As in other years, the Mothers' Union are collecting donations of food to give to the Roscrea Lions. Please bring to Shinrone or Aghancon church or to the carol singing in Clover Lodge.

May a very Happy and Blessed Christmas be enjoyed by you all.

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

The call of Advent-Christmas brings into focus the diocesan Mission's new concern for the very topical Middle East...to tragic and notorious GAZA in Palestine to support the Al Ahli Arab Hospital and also in Palestine the Kids4Peace project. Both projects are run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It has been good to support Swaziland's Luyango Farm as a diocese and apart from continued individual commitment, another diocese or two will take up the torch for the disadvantaged aids kids there. We commend the work of U.S. Missionary Agency and husband and wife team Linda Chambers and Jan de Bruijn.

Back at home we await the opportunity to serve where we can as a church family. Kilnasoolagh's Edwin Bailey, taking up Rev Michael Cavanagh's generous invite to channel Clothing towards needs of incoming refugees, has deposited offerings in Tralee and hopefully Ennis will follow suit soon.

SEASONAL ACTIVITY

Lunchtime and Santa with Kilnasoolagh is on Sunday 13th December with an open invite to all within the grouping. Again thanks to Edwin and Frances for their organisation...and of course Santa, The season got underway with top national soprano—Clare-based Regina Nathan singing in St Columba's (Friday 5th). Helen Houlihans another top soprano sings on the Monday (21st) of Christmas week in St Columba's and in-between Ennis Brass Band on Saturday 12th. Clare Youth's SWITCH Christmas night (also St Columba's 18th). The Town Carol Service takes place on Sunday 20th in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Ennis, Ennis General Hospital Carols Service is on Saturday 12th at 6.00pm. For normal liturgical services over Advent-Christmas see schedule or website.

MAMA MIA

A great occasion when Mrs Anna McCrum celebrated her 100th Birthday in the presence of her sons Derek, Norman and Samuel. The "boys" held a party at Cahercalla Hospital, Ennis when long term bridge partner and leading businessman Desmond Houlihan handed over a cheque from President Higgins. Since Anna has been singing in Drumcliffe choir from the age of nine, her amazing love of Church hymns was marked by a rendering of St Patrick's Breastplate among her friends including hospital staff. Parishioner Miriam Champ, chef at Cahercalla produced a birthday cake to match the moment and the champagne!



Anna McCrum cutting her 100th Birthday Cake. Photo Herbie Knowles

REMEMBRANCE

Dr Joe Power a local teacher and historian, publisher of Clare War Dead gave the keynote address at the annual Remembrance Day commemoration in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Ennis. The Cathedral choir conducted by Mr Michael Hennessy, Ennis Brass Band and soloists Andrea Sheehan and Vincent de Placido led the music. Soldiers old and present took part in the wreath laying, represented by the Irish Army, The Munster Fusiliers Association, and The Royal British Legion. Legion representative Mr Kevin Milligan read the oration at the Act of Remembrance. Fr Tom Hogan and Canon Bob Hanna led the prayers.



Colour party at Remembrance Day Ceremony in St Peter & Paul Cathedral Ennis

RUDOLPH THE RED

There was once a great Czar in Russia named Rudolph the Red. He stood looking out the windows of his palace one day while his wife, the Czarina Katerina, sat nearby knitting. He turned to her and said, "Look my dear, it has begun to rain!" Without even looking up from her knitting she replied, "It's too cold to rain. It must be sleeting." The Czar shook his head and said, "I am the Czar of all the Russias, and Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

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

Congratulations to Mary and Robert Stoddart, whose twin granddaughters, Eve and Sophie were born on October 29th.

Our deepest sympathies are with the family of Sam Taylor, late of Ardrahan Post Office, who died on November 18th.

October was a month full of Harvest Thanksgivings, which ended with a final flourish in Ahascragh, Ballinasloe and Aughrim on October 23rd and 25th respectively. There was farm produce, fruit, flowers and fowl aplenty (both of the live and stuffed varieties). Congratulations to all involved for the colour, craft and creativity brought to those celebrations.

November, the month of remembrance, began with the Feast of All Saints on November 1st and an ecumenical Walk of Remembrance that day through the streets of Ballinasloe. Organised by G.E.L.S, a local charity who support those who have been bereaved by suicide, the event was a welcome reminder of the solidarity and support we need in the ongoing work of grief. Ballinderry Nursing Home offered such support in the annual ecumenical remembrance service which they hosted on November 12th.

In our church services on November 8th we remembered all who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world, and renewed our shared commitment to pray and work for peace. The horrific attacks in Paris on November 13th remind us how salient that commitment remains.

Ardrahan Parish held not one, but two fundraisers in November. A packed church was treated to an atmospheric concert of the highest quality on November 6th, with contributions from the award winning Marine Institute Choir, Labane Parish Choir, Acafellas, soprano Maeve Cairney, and string trio Glas.



Glas performing at Ardrahan Autumn concert

Then on November 14th, a committed crew braved the full force of Storm Abigail to host a Sale of Work in Kinvara Community Centre. Much goodwill was generated by both events.



Ardrahan Sale of Work

St John's Mother's Union had a sale of hand-crafted Christmas cards on November 9th and a talk from the rector on 'the spiritual life' to boot.

On November 13th the rector was invited to join members of Portiuncula chaplaincy and nursing teams at the 2015 Saolta Staff Recognition Awards in Sligo, at which hospital chaplain Father Bernie Costello and nurse Mary McMahon were commended for their outstanding work.

UPCOMING FESTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

November 29th - We began the Advent season with a united family service in Woodlawn Church

December 3rd - Claire Besnyoe hosted an ecumenical Advent Eucharist at Ballydugan House

December 4th - St Catherine's Ahascragh held its annual Christmas Concert

There will be Carol Services on:-

December 13th - in St John's Ballinasloe at 11am,

December 20th - in Woodlawn Church at 11am

In Ardrahan at 5pm later that day.

Christmas Eve Communion Services will be held in

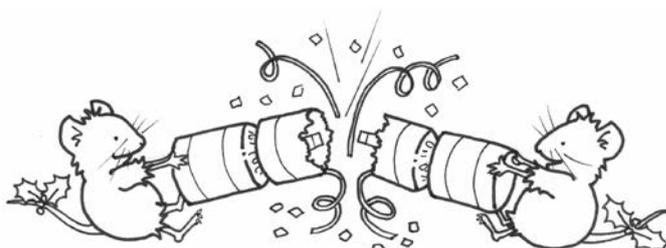
Ardrahan at 3pm

Aughrim at 8pm,

Christmas Day Eucharist in St John's Ballinasloe at 11am.

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27th.

Glan church - united service at 11am .



Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

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

Email: towers.patrick@gmail.com

BAPTISM:

Eve Isabella Bilarga Finney, daughter of Sam and Jackie (née Finney) Lankoandé was baptised in St John the Baptist, Eyrecourt on Sunday November 8th. The godparents were Isabel Finney (grandmother of Eve), Hazel Finney and Alex Copland. Everyone most warmly welcomed Eve to the Christian Family.

SARAH MENHENEOTT, daughter of Ann Menheneott who sadly departed this life on May 7th 2015, writes:

Ann's family would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who sympathised and supported us on and during the death of our wonderful Mum. Your support meant a huge amount to the entire family and it certainly made the days a lot more bearable knowing how much Mum was so highly thought of and respected.

We would also like to thank the following clergy who participated in the funeral service – we cannot tell you how much this would have meant to Mum.

Bishop Kenneth Kearon, Rev Patrick Towers, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev Ruth Gill, Rev Lesley Robinson, Father Brendan Lawless – Parish Priest Portumna, Father Sweeney – Parish Priest Ballymacward We also would like to thank Valerie Kinsella – who read the lesson and a great friend to Mum and many other lay readers who attend.

Two requests Mum had were

1. That she had to have an Eco Friendly coffin – this became a huge talking point and since then we have been to a number of funerals with Eco Friendly coffins.

2. The second request was that everyone might like to wear bright and cheerful colours on the day of the funeral. Everyone did and it was lovely to see such colour on such a sad day. Mum loved life and would have been thrilled that everyone made such an effort.

Mum is greatly missed by her neighbours and friends alike in Portumna and surrounding areas.

Our thank you again for all your ongoing support and friendship. Sarah.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES TIMES

(There may be some minor adjustments to these times so please check if you are attending from outside the parish by calling The Rev'd Patrick on 086-8140649 or any regular parishioner of the Clonfert Group)

- Wednesday December 16th @ 11am. Eliza Lodge Eucharist
- Thursday December 17th @ 8pm: Ecumenical Christmas Experience (Portumna Retirement Village)
- Sunday December 20th @ 7pm: Eyrecourt Church Carol Service For The Clonfert Group
- Christmas Eve 'Midnight' @ 7pm: First Eucharist Of Christmas In Portumna Church
- Christmas Day @ 11am: Christmas Holy Eucharist In Banagher
- Sunday After Christmas @ 11am: Eyrecourt (Morning Prayer) Group Service
- Sunday January 3rd @ 11am: Portumna (Group Service Holy Communion)
- Wednesday January 6th @ 11am: Epiphany Eucharist In Eliza Lodge

TIMES PAST

Advent Sunday, this day of joyful expectation with its concomitant theme of preparation, found powerful expression in Clonfert

Cathedral. We demonstrated our concern that the world, very much including ourselves, takes Climate Change extremely seriously. We in Clonfert three years ago saw a tornado rip through the grounds of the old Palace of Clonfert bringing down tens of trees and levelling ancient graveyard walls. On Advent Sunday we prayed for our world leaders meeting in Paris to reach a binding agreement on how to tackle Climate Change. We then blessed the new Clonfert wall restored after months of perseverance. The freak forest wreck is still visible. Climate Change brought this freak weather to pass many believe. "Whatever", some say. For others though the tornado has become a clear sign that Climate Change is affecting, and increasingly will affect, all aspects of our society. Trees felled in Clonfert one day and on another day our health smitten and another day our economy ruined.

We celebrated Mission Sunday. Climate Change might well bring untold grief to Palestine in the form of serious water shortage as dangerous politics follow from attempts to divert its life giving water from 'your land' to 'my land'. We pray for the people of the parched lands of Gaza and Sinai and indeed of all Palestine and Israel who look, as the medieval carol puts it, to this 'flood ye Jordanane call'.

Lastly in case we might have overlooked the word "joyful" we give thanks that came from enjoying a lovely Parish Christmas lunch together this Advent.

FILM NIGHT

We are postponing our Parish Film Night until January. 2016 Banagher Parish will celebrate the bi-centenary of Charlotte Bronte's birth. Her husband Arthur Bell Nicholls lies buried in the graveyard of Banagher Church (St Paul's). We might go for a screening of 'Jane Eyre' relishing together that immortal line "Reader I married him". More later on times. More later on the Bronte commemorations around Charlotte's birthday of April 21st.

A Very Happy Christmas to you dear gentle Readers!

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061-302038 Mob: 086-3574917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest sympathy to Margaret Rowlandson, daughters Caroline and Katherine, their families, and wider family circle on the death of Paul Rowlandson (former caretaker of St. Mary's Cathedral) who died on 30th October; to Geoff Penney, his wife Cora, family and friends on the death of his father Frank, who died on the 8th of November.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Kieran Sparling who graduated on the 30th of October from Trinity College Dublin; to Hilary Redden who celebrated his 80th

birthday on the 18th of November; to Craig Morrow and Quinten Eacrett who represented Munster U16 Hockey and to Calum Morrow who represented Munster U18 Hockey at the Mens' Interprovincials in Cork recently.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL NEWS

On 1st November, a group of cathedral parishioners and representatives of the Royal British Legion gathered at the First World War cemetery on the King's Island (just beyond St John's Castle), where members of the ONE and the RBL laid poppy crosses at every grave during a short prayer service led by Dean Sandra. A service was then held afterwards in St. Mary's Cathedral, where there was a packed cathedral and distinguished guests representing the City and Council of Limerick. The colours were presented at the sanctuary at the end of the service. As 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the tragedy at Gallipoli, a small remembrance garden was placed near the UN Peace Garden, where poppy crosses were placed.



Photograph Of Dean Sandra, Reps Of Royal British Legion And Dean's Verger, Craig Copley-Brown

Remembrance Sunday - we were pleased to welcome musicians and clergy from Anhalt, Germany to join us in our Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8th November. Dr Theodor Hering, their Dean, spoke movingly during his address about reconciliation, and the German brass and vocal ensembles were a delight to listen to. They also gave a concert while they were here in Adare - we are grateful to Rev Liz Beasley for facilitating this concert and to Bishop Kenneth for his hospitality during the visit of our German guests.

On Saturday 14th November, in response to the Terrorist attacks in Paris St. Mary's Cathedral spelt out the French word for peace with tea lights in front of the high altar. A number of French visitors came into the cathedral that day and were touched to see that tribute.



Prayers for Peace for France

LIMERICK CITY PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Another very successful Fair took place on 21st November in Villiers School. Thanks to all who supported the event whether as a helper, a donator, or a buyer. Thanks to Villiers School for the venue and especially Jackie McNair who was the Villiers' coordinator for the day. At time of going to print approx €6,500 has been raised.

Saturday 12th December - Come and Sing Carols at 5.30pm

A warm invitation to all lovers of carol singing to come along to St Mary's Cathedral and join in all the favourite carols. We are delighted and privileged once again to welcome the St Mary's Prize Band and the Limerick Choral Union who will also be performing with us. Free admission (with retiring collection).

LIMERICK CITY CAROL & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

- Wed 16th December @ 9am - St. Michael's School Carol Service
- Sun 20th December @ 10 a.m. - St. Michael's Church Carol Service/ Children's Nativity
- Sun 20th December @ 8pm - Carols for the City in St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Tues 22nd December @ 12 noon - Villiers School in St. Mary's Cathedral
- Tues 22nd December @ 8pm - Abington Church Carol Service
- Thurs 24th December @ 10.30pm - Carols and First Eucharist of Christmas in the Cathedral
- Christmas Day 8.30am - Christmas Community - St. Michael's
- 10am - Family Christmas Communion - St. Michael's
- 11.15am - Christmas Communion - St. Mary's Cathedral
- 12 noon - Christmas Communion - Abington Church
- Sun 10th January @ 7pm - Epiphany Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

Villiers School annual Remembrance Liturgy took place in St Mary's Cathedral on 11 November - a moving ceremony which was very well received. Many thanks to Chaplain Jackie for organising it.

WHIST DRIVES

12th December @ 7.30pm - St. Michael's Hall with Raffle

9th January @ 7.30pm - St. Michael's Hall with Raffle

16th January @ 7.30pm - Villiers Square

6th February @ 7.30pm - St. Michael's Hall

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

CONGRATULATIONS

On All Saints Day, two cousins were baptized at St. Nicholas Church, Adare. One was Isaac Smyth, the son of Georgia Adams and Mark Smyth, and the other was Beatrice Buckley, the daughter of Georgia's sister Lucy Adams Buckley and Will Buckley. The parish was delighted to join Isaac's and Beatrice's parents and godparents in the celebration, as were a number of toddlers in the congregation, who added their voices to the proceedings.

Congratulations also to Dermot and Niamh Davis, of Croom Church, on the birth of their daughter, Juliet. And we rejoice with Nuala Gardiner, also of Croom Church, on the birth of her newest grandson in Dublin.

DEATHS

Unfortunately, the past month has seen a number of deaths. Several were announced in last month's Newslink. Both the Adare and Croom churches then were host to funerals of people in the area who died. And on 8 November, 92-year-old Frank Penney, a member of the Adare church, passed away peacefully, at the exact time that the church was commemorating Remembrance Sunday. His funeral was held on 12 November in Adare, and he was buried in the Adare Community Graveyard.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

All the parishes observed Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. Kilpeacon did something a bit more. The names of Kilpeacon Parishioners who served one hundred years ago in the Great War were read at the Remembrance Service in Kilpeacon Church. Lay readers Dorothy Brislane and Stanley Wallace held a framed Memorial Scroll which lists the family names of: Atkinson, Furnell, Smith, Kidd, Sykes and Hastings.



Remembrance Day in Kipeacon Church

SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Nicholas, Adare, hosted a concert featuring a brass and voice choir from our companion diocese in Anhalt, Germany, on Saturday evening, 7th November. Six horn players and four vocalists (one person playing double duty) presented a unique sort of service: a full "Service of the Word," you might say, with no spoken words. Each part of the service was a piece of music - not only the Kyrie, Gloria, psalm, and congregational hymns, which one might expect as music, but also the Gospel and even the sermon.



Concert in St Nicholas'

And finally, on Sunday, 29th November, Kilmallock welcomed Bishop Kenneth Kearon for a special service. We asked him to bless newly refurbished stained glass windows, as well as a number of items used in worship and will include a full report in the next issue of Newslink.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Christmas is coming and the usual rush of Christmas services must be close to hand. There are some special events coming up and it would be wonderful if we could all make the effort to take part.

Thursday 10th December there will be a special "Taste of Christmas" cookery demonstration from Frank Moynihan at the Rathkeale House Hotel, starting at 8:00 p.m. Admission is €0 and there will be a raffle.

Sunday 20th December there will be a special community carol service in Holy Trinity Rathkeale. This will be a chance to join with our Roman Catholic and Methodist sisters and brothers to celebrate the Incarnation with scripture readings and song.

Thursday 24th December kicks off Christmas Day with the first solemn Eucharist of Christmas at 11:00 p.m. in Castletown

Friday 25th December at 09:00 a.m. in Holy Trinity, 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Askeaton and 12:00 noon in St. Brendan's Tarbert.

Sunday 27th December there will be one service only for the group of parishes in St. Mary's Askeaton at 11:00 a.m.

We were sad to hear of the death of Ruby Graham, mother to Rathkeale parishioner Raye Teskey. Ruby was 91 and had been ill for

some years. We extend our prayerful sympathy to Raye and to all the family. We also extend our prayerful thoughts to the family of Dave Williamson of Shanagolden. Dave died suddenly in early November. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We rejoice to welcome the safe arrival of Jonathan, son of Andrew and Carol Langford and brother of Harry. We also celebrate the arrival of Pippa, a new granddaughter for Nora Fitzgerald and Lucy a new granddaughter for Simon and Hilary White.

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

Rev Phyllis Jones,
The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594
Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

The Holy Communion is celebrated in the West Room of St. John's, Tralee every Wednesday at 11.00am.

TRALEE UNION

There will be a Christmas Sale from 10am until 1pm on Friday 11 December. This is not as big as we have had in the past but something along the lines of our Easter sales in recent years. Cakes, preserves, produce, firewood, and new craft work will all be most welcome as will raffle prizes. We will not have a white elephant stall however, since we still have plenty of now 'not so white' elephants left from previous sales. Our thanks to Rhona who is facilitating the event, and to those who have already been busy making preserves and baked goods. Morning coffee will be available during the sale when scones etc will be served.

During the spell of fine weather earlier in November, builders were finally able to treat the exterior walls of the Tower in Tralee, with a weather proof coating called Impervu. It has been a couple of years since the Vestry agreed that the treatment was necessary but between lack of funds, and continuous wet weather it has only now been possible to complete the work. We are indebted to our donor who has paid for the Impervu treatment. Without this generosity we would have had to face at the very least one more winter without the protection it affords. Thank you to all concerned. Despite the recent storms the inside of the tower remains dry, and the inside of the east chancel area is also surprisingly dry. God willing it will remain so throughout the winter, and if plaster work and wood are dry enough by summer 2016, we can consider re-decoration. Fingers crossed; or should we say 'prayer mats out'. We will have to wait and see, but if all goes well fundraising will begin in the New Year.

Ballymac' Sunday School children decided they would like to dress-up for Halloween but did not want to be witches, so on All Souls Sunday we saw Biblical and fairy-tale costumes which were quite amazing. The children came out to 'give us a twirl' during the Communion Service; there were princesses, knights, soldiers and even a pharaoh. Well done everyone.

Congratulations to Carol Prescott and James Donovan who were married in Ballyseedy Church on Friday 6 November. It was a lovely occasion made all the more memorable by the amazing sunny day. Both the bride and the church looked stunning. Thank you to the Church Wardens for their assistance, and every blessing to Carol and James for their future together.

On Sunday 15th November we held the Service of Dedication and Enrolment for the Leaders and Company members of the 1st Tralee Company of the Boys' Brigade. Congratulations to you all, and thank you to our Leaders whose commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated. See photo on page 7.

Mona Butler has asked us to pass on her most grateful thanks to the anonymous, and very kind, person who has donated €500 towards the cost of re-carpeting St. John's Church. She also sends a big 'thank you' to all those who replenish the Honesty Table every Sunday, thanks to whose efforts the carpeting of the west choir and centre of the church is now complete and looking very well. She also wants to thank Godfrey and Niall who have now joined her in her efforts to finish this quest. She invites anyone who wishes to be financially associated with completing this work to contact her.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the copper jar in Tralee, especially Ivan Groves who has saved over €90 in copper over the past months. If any one has old punt notes which they wish to dispose of these are still legal and we will gladly accept them for church funds.

As promised - the full list of winners in the Ballymacelligott Parish raffle is: 1st prize (signed rugby shirt) Vincent Dowling, 2nd prize (lunch for two) James Moynihan, 3rd prize (whiskey) Patricia Lenihan. The organisers send their sincere thanks to all who supported their event which raised €2,220 for church funds.

The Table Quiz on November 13th in Tralee was a huge success and a great social event. €1,050.00 was raised (largely due to the fabulous raffle prizes). Thank you to all who contributed and to Mags and Peter for all their work. Another Table Quiz is planned for the Spring.

NEWS FROM THE WEST

The Rev. Phyllis welcomed baby Elora Anne, daughter of Jennifer and Richard Reidy and sister to Jack, into the family of Christ at her Baptism in Kilgobbin Church on Saturday 7 November. Although they now live in Ballymacelligott, Elora was brought to Kilgobbin for Baptism because her mother (nee Keane) was Baptised and Confirmed in that Church during the time when the Keane family lived in Kilgobbin Rectory.

This year the Ecumenical Carol Service in Camp will be hosted by St. Mary's RC Church at 7.00pm on Monday 14th December and the Dingle Service will be held in St. James' at 7.00pm on Sunday 13th December. As usual, all are welcome at both of these Services.

Please note the mobile number given for Rev. Phyllis last time was wrong. The correct number is 085 855 8594

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve. Holy Communion Ballymacelligott 10pm
Christmas Day St. John the Evangelist Tralee. Family Communion 10.45am.

St Stephen's Day Holy Communion Ballymacelligott 11am
Sunday 27th December the Feast of St John the Evangelist - Holy Communion St John's Tralee 10am.

Sunday 27th December Ballyseedy Carols at 11am.
Kilgobbin Ecumenical Carol Service Monday Dec 14th in St Brendan's at 7pm

St. James Dingle Carol service Sunday 13th December at 7pm.
Sunday 27th Holy Communion Kilgobbin 10am and Dingle 12noon.

Services for January will take the usual form, and notice will be given in the Parish Newsletters

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby

The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997

Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

ADVENT

It seems just a short while ago since we were looking forward to our Harvest festivities and already Advent is upon us. Where does the time go? Advent is a season of preparation - an ancient preparation for the coming of the Messiah and to be ready for the Second Coming. But of course it is also a season where we must prepare both ourselves and our churches for the birth of Jesus. It is a season where we should tidy up our personal year, in a spiritual sense, so that we are ready to greet the new-born infant Jesus. But sometimes we can lose sight of this in getting up the decorations and preparing for feasting. Having spent some time with friends in the simple cave in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where the great event took place some years back, I sometimes feel that we place too much emphasis on the decoration and not enough on the event. Take time to prepare yourself this Advent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has been revamped at St Mary's. It now begins at 11:00am—whenever there is a Holy Communion Service in Church. Parents should take their children straight to the Aghadoe Room so as not to miss the start of the Service. The children will return to the Church during the Hymn before Communion and rejoin their parents. Lynda's charges have really surprised us on their return - Rev Simon invites the children to share their morning's endeavours with the rest of the congregation at the end of the service, and we've been gobsmacked to discover we've a team of budding artists who interpret the written and spoken word to extraordinary heights.

Throughout the Diocese it has been decided to allow children to receive the Communion Bread prior to their Confirmation. We think this should be the voluntary choice of the children and we think the child who is around 8 yrs or older can make such a choice (allowing for their maturity). Children below that approximate age will come up to the Rail with their family and receive a blessing. This is considered much more respectful of the children's capacity to engage in a faithful relationship with God.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



Ildanach Studios restored and repaired the window depicting the Nativity

The project to restore and repair the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary has just been completed. The very professional and highly skilled work of remaking the damaged window depicting the Nativity of Christ was done by Ildanach Studios. They have also replaced the external security glazing with much stronger laminate glass windows. These are clear—the previous ones were frosted—and so allow more light to penetrate and brighten the image of the window that people see from the inside. We gratefully acknowledge

all those who donated monies towards the cost of the project. We must now turn our attention to the Great West Window. The original security glazing did not allow for the free flow of air and this has acted like a double-glazing unit, allowing heat to build up between the glass panes, which has softened the lead. We shall want to replace the outer glazing with the same, much stronger and clear, laminate glass used in the Sanctuary. This will better resist gratuitous damage.

THE RAILINGS

St Mary's is almost in the dead centre of town and is one of the most highly visible and iconic buildings in Killarney. We receive over 40,000 visitors a year to share our sacred space where they can sit, reflect and pray. But we receive an awful lot of criticism because, to put it mildly, the railings are a shambles! They are so dilapidated at this stage we cannot even clean or paint them as any sort of pressure applied would only further the disintegration of the metal. So we have decided to finish the railings once and for all by replacing the older sections. The cost will be in the region of €80,000. The reason for this huge cost is because St Mary's is a listed building, so we can only replace like for like, and therefore the stone and metalwork has to be identical to what's being replaced. Already Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce has pledged support and we are fairly certain with local goodwill and our own subscriptions we will meet the budgeted cost, albeit with a lot of effort from many. If readers of Newslink would like to donate, please contact Rev. Simon, or any member of the Select Vestry for details. All donations, however small, will be gratefully accepted.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas Concert (Killarney Golf Club Choir and St Oliver's National School Choir) 10 Dec 8pm.

Annual Carol Service 20 Dec 3:30pm.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion 11:00pm.

Christmas Day Holy Communion 11:00am.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Carol Service

20th December @ 7pm in St Michael's, the Mens' Choir will be in attendance.

Christmas Day,

9.45 am HC in Kiltallagh

11am HC in Killorglin

CONGRATULATIONS

To Hazell (nee Boyle) and Ger Daly of Tinahalla, Killorglin on the birth of their first child, Denis, born in KGH on the 9th November. Grandchild number fifteen for George and Muriel Boyle of Killorglin. Heartiest congratulations and good wishes to all the family.

SHOEBOX SERVICE

The parish gathered almost thirty shoe boxes for the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. This was organised by the Sunday School in Killorglin and supported by the parish. A family service was built around this and thanks to the Sunday School teachers who did all the preparations.



Sunday School Children with their shoe boxes

MEMORY TREE

A service with the children of Kiltallagh School was held in Kiltallagh church in which we remembered those close to us who died recently. Many thanks to the staff and children for preparing the service.

SERVICE OF LIGHT AND REMEMBRANCE

As part of the Sunday morning Holy Communion service we remembered all who died in recent times with a particular focus on the year that has just passed. Lighted candles were brought to the sanctuary in memory of loved ones and were placed on the holy communion table. Those recently bereaved were invited to the service.

SYMPATHY

To the family of Christopher O Flynn of Sunhill, Killorglin who died on Sunday the 8th of November. His funeral service took place in St Michael's Church on Wednesday the 11th November. It was followed by burial in Ardmoniel Cemetery.

CHRISTMAS COOKERY EVENING

Kiltallagh Primary School held a cookery demonstration with Mark Doe in aid of school funds in St Michael's Hall on Thursday the 3rd December. Many thanks to all who attended.

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

THE BELLS OF WAITING ADVENT RING...

November was relatively quiet – simple services of remembrance, few (if any) tourists, and although we didn't experience earthquake and fire, we did get wind. And rain. Lots of it – as we were visited by Abigail and Barney, both of whom stretched the traditional South Kerry welcome to the limit.

December is unlikely to be the same. In total, across the four churches of the union, there will be nineteen individual events as different groups join us for a combination of traditional Christmas worship services, carol services and concerts – at least one of which is scheduled to include a real live donkey. At a conservative estimate, that probably means at least fifty-four verses of 'Once in royal David's city' between Advent Sunday and the Christmas pudding. Despite what we hear about the increased secularisation of society, Christmas is still a special

time for the many, many people who want to hear the story again and sing familiar words embedded in their minds from childhood. It is our responsibility to rise to the challenge of making the familiar fresh and new – to experiment, see what works and what doesn't, and above all to make welcome everyone who joins us during Advent (even thanking God for Storm Charlie or whatever the next one will be called).

In addition to the church services, we shall once again be sending Christmas Shoeboxes to the Kerry Asylum Seekers Initiative—to be collected at our Christingle Service on 13 December – in the light of recent events we feel it even more important to share what we have with those who come seeing a place of safety; we are liaising with the Irish Red Cross to deliver the suitcases of welcome to the first refugees to arrive in this country – a number of families are expected in mid-December, and they must be feeling significant trepidation over how they will be received. Will they be seen as people looking to build a new life, or terrorists in disguise?

Additionally, our 'Christians together in Kenmare' joint Advent studies will take place on the 9th and 16th December at 2:00 until 4:00 in the Kenmare Gateway Methodist. The studies are based on two classic seasonal favourite films: 'Miracle on 34th St' (the proper one, not the dreadful remake), and 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Perhaps you could ring a bell or two with us? You'd be very welcome.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Bill Olmsted

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,

Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396236

Email: william@olmsteds.net

UPDATE ON REV BILL OLMSTED

At the time of writing, Rev. Bill Olmsted is still being looked after in the intensive care unit at University Hospital, Limerick. His son, David, has been able to extend his stay so that he can continue to be with his father. David and the rest of the family in the United States deeply appreciate the messages of support that have been sent by so many people and would ask you to continue to hold Rev. Bill in your thoughts and prayers.

THANKSGIVING DAY

This year, members of Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Churches will be getting together on the evening of Thursday 26th November to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with Rev. Bill's son, David. Traditionally, Thanksgiving is a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest. We look forward to spending time together as a church family to give thanks for the food that we eat.

PASTORAL CARE

In Rev. Bill's absence, Rev. Shannon DeLaureal is taking care of the Circuit and its pastoral needs. Not only is she providing day-to-day support to the Circuit, but she is also visiting those who are unable to come to church or who are unwell.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AND CHARITY CARD SALE

The Circuit's annual Christmas Fair and Charity Card Sale took place on Saturday 14th November in Adare Village Hall. As well as the customary cake, bottle, book and craft stalls, Christmas cards and calendars from local charities were also on sale. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event. More than €1,600 was raised for church funds in addition to the money raised for local charities.

Peter Barkman, Circuit Steward.

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

On Friday the 13th of November, we had our first ever fundraising fashion show and the church was transformed into a catwalk for our fabulously dressed models. Over the last few months, we called on our congregation to bring in any unwanted clothes that they or their families and friends might have so we could give them a new lease of life as catwalk outfits, and then sell them at the end of the night to raise funds.

We were very grateful to have Karina Charles, a presenter for the Monaghan branch of Irish TV, come down from Cavan to design the outfits, choreograph the show, and help decorate the church; her mother Margaret also did wonderful work. Having already been the Master of Ceremonies at the Meath Style Awards earlier in the year, Karina was no stranger in the ways of fashion and how to look as stylish as possible, and on the night dressed to impress, wearing a fabulous magenta dress for the first half of the show, and a very chic red dress for the second half.

The donations of outfits we got included some excellent quality clothing, and the models looked stunning. Our models volunteered their Friday night to the fundraising effort, most never having been involved in anything like this before: we had volunteers from our own congregation, partner organisations of Central Buildings Community Project such as Doras Luimní, the Limerick Latvian School, Limerick Youth Service, the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, and the Children's Grief Project among others. We were grateful to them, and they of course got an opportunity to buy their lovely outfits during the sale.



At Reloved - Honey, a Christ Church member.

The show was hosted by a 'double act': Karina and Rev Vicki, who was dressed in a elegant purple fitted dress, they didn't shy away from humorous quips, and gave detailed descriptions of the outfits. Not only did we have a wonderful display of clothing to entertain our guests, but we also had Unity Gospel Choir Limerick come and sing a few samples from their repertoire; they opened the show, performed a few songs at the intermission, and closed the evening. Directed by Gretta O'Shea, who became a partner of Central Buildings Community Project earlier this year, Unity Gospel Choir Limerick is a community choir whose goal is to sing with joy in their hearts, and who are guaranteed to bring life and light to any event they attend.



Unity Gospel Choir, Limerick

As a fundraising event for Christ Church, we believed it was important that the diversity of our congregation and partners was reflected in the show. Not only did we have models and performers volunteer from our partner organisations, we also had members of our congregation. As such, we invited some of the women originally from West Africa to show off their traditional clothing on the catwalk, which was bright, beautiful, and vibrant. One of our church goers, Honey, also donated some of her original jewellery to be sold at the event.

After the main catwalk show and choir performance, there were refreshments and the all important selling of the clothes. Karina and Margaret were rushed off their feet managing the sales, and it didn't take long for the clothes to fly off the rails! Look out for our pop-up shop in CB1 in the New Year where we will be selling the remaining items. There are still lots of lovely things to choose from.

Report by Anna-Victoria Lynch

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 Mob: 0838421153
Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Lay assistants:

Ed & Jean Ritchie (Kenmare) Suzie Gallagher (Killarney)

KENMARE:

During October we were blessed by the visit of Jabulani Children's Choir from Wales who gave a wonderful concert. We are greatly encouraged by the number of people coming to the Wednesday morning bible study. The bible study is followed by a Drop-in at 11am when anyone can call in for coffee and the most amazing breads, scones and cakes!

On the 9th and 16th December at 2.30pm Rev Michael Cavanagh (CofI) will host Christians Together sessions and we are delighted that Michael has made a great recovery.

MILLSTREET:

The Lighthouse in Millstreet is gearing up for Christmas. The shop will be open on Saturday afternoons during December and preparations are well under way for a 'live' nativity.

KILLARNEY:

Killarney was also blessed by the concert given by the Jabulani Children's Choir and we look forward to a return visit next year!

This year's annual Light Party at the end of October was a great success. The children (and grown ups) loved watching a movie which was followed by games, a short talk involving a pumpkin and some of the most incredible food!



At the annual Light Party

A couple of new ventures are happening:
Every Friday afternoon from 4pm we have a youth drop-in when teenagers can enjoy a cuppa, a chat and a place to chill after a hard week at school!

The 'Giving Space' is a monthly gathering on Saturdays for all ages to explore different aspects of giving and living generously in the world. Games, crafts, food and conversation all help us think about how we can bless others because God has blessed us!



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

On the last Sunday in November, we have welcomed the Season of Advent into our midst. This church season is one filled with much busyness . . . we are watching, waiting, and preparing for Christ's birth. There are community festivals, carol services and other activities during this season of preparation. The daylight hours get shorter and the nights longer. On one hand, Advent and Christmas are one of my favourite times of the year . . . the generous Christmas spirit abounds, churches and homes are beautifully decorated, and

we come together more as a community for worshipping our Lord. On the other hand, it's my least favourite time of the year. . . the long dark nights limit our outdoor activities, difficult wintry weather can wreak havoc, and a much too lengthy 'To Do' list is always on hand.

Former Dean of the Winchester Deanery, Michael Stancliffe, writes about the importance of thanking God for the darkness . . . because in the dark hours of the night, we rest and our bodies are rejuvenated for a new day; because God is also in the darkness ("But around him and about him there is deep shadow." Psalm 18:11); and because God uses the darkness to protect us from knowing all things which would be far too much for us to bear ("Now we only see through a glass darkly, then we shall see him face to face." 1 Corinthians 13:12) These truths lead me to another truth: the darkness is not all bad! Much good can be found here. As we prepare for the Saviour's birth, let us remember to thank God for the darkness and the blessings it can bring.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING: Friday, 4th December 10-12:30pm in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall. Come and buy home-made cakes and goodies, Christian Aid Christmas cards, and wood-craft items from Bethlehem. Carol singing by St. Cronan's National School! Coffee/tea and biscuits €3 for adults (€1 for children)

ADVENT BIBLE-STUDY – All are invited to an ecumenical Advent Bible-study on Thursday evenings at 8pm in Methodist Church Hall Vestry co-led by Rev. Tom Kingston and Canon Jane Galbraith. Study begins on Thursday 3 December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING outside Roscrea Methodist: Saturday 12th December, 2-4pm. Come spread Christmas cheer to the community by singing Christmas carols and offering a hot cuppa and home-made treats to the passers-by. Don't miss this fun, family event.

ROSCREA COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE: Monday, 14th Dec. – 8pm All are welcome to this annual ecumenical service of carols which features the Roscrea Community Choir.

CLOUGHJORDAN COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE: Sunday 20th Dec. – 7pm You're invited to this annual ecumenical service of carols which features the Cloughjordan Community Choir.

SPECIAL SERVICES:

Thursday 24th Dec. 9:30pm Holy Communion Christmas Eve Svc, Shinrone

Friday 25th Dec. 9:15am Borrisokane Christmas Svc
9:15am Cloughjordan Christmas Svc
10:30am Roscrea Christmas Svc

Children are invited to bring a toy to church that they have received for Christmas!

Thursday 31st Dec. 11:15pm Watch Service, Shinrone

ST. CRONAN'S BOYS' BRIDAGE – The company will meet in Roscrea's Methodist Church Hall on Fridays 4th and 18th December at 7pm.

ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB – This secondary school-aged youth club will meet on Saturday 19th December from 7-9pm for a Christmas party in Methodist Church Hall, Roscrea. €2/youth. Please bring a dish or dessert of your choice! Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.



Mouse Makes

EMMANUEL
GOD IS WITH US

Happy Christmas

Read the
Christmas story in *Luke 1-2*

Revolutionising Homecare in Ireland



An Expert Team Delivering Exceptional Service

Call our expert team on 0818 227 052



Quality Certified



2

Nationwide Service

1



3

CSR & Advocacy

4



FETAC Trained Staff



www.bluebirdcare.ie



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



Bursaries & Discounts

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

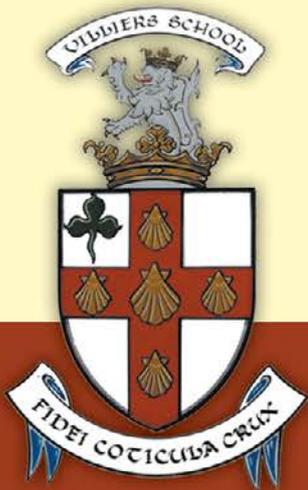
Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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

North Circular Road, Limerick

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

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