



NEWSLINK

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

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Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?



Christ with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jan Wildens (1586-1653)



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Bishop Kenneth writes

Despite all the talk over the past few years about homelessness, the issue didn't really surface as an election issue, and few politicians mentioned it except in the most general way – none had clear proposals which would address the issue comprehensively.

The seriousness of the issue was brought home to me when I read a statement by Fr Peter McVerry S.J. "Between January and October 2015, the number of families in emergency accommodation rose from 401 to 774, an increase of 93%. The number of children living with their parents in such accommodation rose from 865 to 1638 (90% increase). Almost one-third of all individuals now officially registered as homeless in Ireland are children." These increases, occurring in less than a year are truly shocking.

It's important to remember that housing is a fundamental human right, and has been recognised as such in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is outlined in various U.N. human rights conventions.

The right to adequate housing is basic, because without it other rights become problematic. Homelessness and inadequate housing is usually associated with poor nutrition, health, education, employment and stable family life. If you make someone homeless then inevitably many other problems follow.

However statistics on homelessness are only the tip of the iceberg. Hidden behind the figures are thousands more experiencing some form of housing distress. Recent figures showed that there are 89,872 households in Ireland who are known to be in need of social housing. These are *households* – the number of individuals is far greater.

If you listen to the media, there is enormous concern about homelessness and the housing crisis in Ireland. Sadly though, when it came to the election, when we might expect some proposals to

come forward, little was said. The issue won't go away and if nothing is done, it will only get worse.

What can we do? Church organisations like Protestant Aid and St Vincent de Paul do exceptional work to relieve distress and address crisis situations – often their work goes unnoticed. At the very minimum, the next time we hear of an appeal by either of these organisations, or other housing charities, we should respond with all the generosity possible.

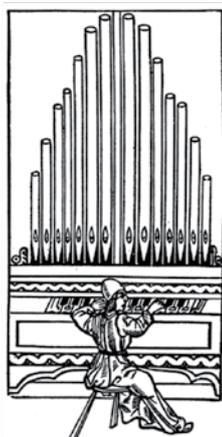
Sincerely,
+Kenneth

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What is a Chrism Eucharist?

A Chrism Eucharist is a simple service of Holy Communion during which those involved in ministry (including the Bishop) renew their ordination vows and commit themselves to further service in the church.

In recent times this is widened to all involved in any form of ministry – in the community as well as the church, and so it's an opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment.

We hold a Chrism Eucharist each year in the diocese, usually in one of the cathedrals. This year it will be held in St John's Church, Tralee at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday 24th March. (Maundy Thursday – the Thursday in Holy Week).

Everyone is invited, lay people, including Parish Readers and Diocesan Lay Readers, and clergy from around the diocese.

The service will be led by the Bishop.



Newslink Subscribers

We thank those who have renewed their subscriptions. Those who have not, please do so as soon as possible.

Editorial - General Election 2016

By the time you read this we, the people, will have cast our ballots and we will know who has been elected to represent us in Dáil Éireann. If the opinion polls and the pundits are right, it will still be uncertain who will form the next Government, or indeed whether any combination of parties and independents can form a working majority. The composition of the Seanad will not be known until the end of April.

I feel somewhat disenfranchised in this election. I live 5 miles from Nenagh, the county town of North Tipperary, but because of boundary changes I find myself voting in the Offaly constituency, along with some 11,000 other Tipperary residents. I have met only one of the candidates, I suspect most of them know next to nothing of the needs of Lower Ormond where I live, and the party of which I am a member is not running a candidate in Offaly. But our democracy is a precious thing, and I shall exercise my right to vote – though I find it difficult to decide how to allocate my preferences.

In this time of uncertainty those in the new Dáil and Seanad will need our prayers. As the prayer for the Houses of the Oireachtas (BCP p98) puts it, 'as representatives of the people keep them humble, as legislators make them compassionate, and as politicians defend their integrity.'

TREVOR MORROW

It is sad to record the death of Trevor Morrow on 5th February. Not only did he give many years of service to our Diocese, but for much of his life he was deeply involved in central church committees, the Representative Body, the Standing Committee and General Synod. On page 13 there is a beautiful tribute to him from Villiers School, with which he had a life-time association. Our prayers are with his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Diocesan Calendar

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

Fri 4th – Sun 6th March UDYC West Alive Junior Weekend, Carhue Centre, Bandon, Co Cork (10–13 yrs)

Sat 12th March, 3pm GFS Diocesan Service & Prize day, St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan

Sat 12th March, 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Richmond Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City

Thu 17th March, 8.15pm Whist Drive for Church funds, Aghancon Hall

Fri 18th – Sun 20th March UDYC Spring Madness with Tuam Diocesan Youth Council, Kilfinnane Outdoor Education Centre, Kilfinnane, Co Limerick (Secondary upwards)

Sun 20th March, 5pm Lacrimosa – Music for Holy Week, Collegium Chamber Choir, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wed 23rd March, 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Cathedral

Thu 24th March, 11am Diocesan Chrism Eucharist, St John's Church, Tralee

Wed 30th March, 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Cathedral

Thu 31st March – Sat 2nd April GFS All Ireland Camp, Kilkenny College (age 10+)

Fri 1st – Sun 3rd April UDYC Taking a Leading Role - Part 3, Django's Hostel, Cloughjordan

Sat 2nd April, 7.30pm Safeguarding Trust Training for Youth Leaders, Cloughjordan Parochial Hall

Wed 6th April, 8pm Mission Evening, Parish Hall, Cloughjordan

Sat 16th April, 11am–3pm UDYC Fundraising Cake Sale & Coffee Morning, Shinrone Parochial Hall

Sat 23rd April, 10am–4.30pm Long Term Church Working Group, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City

Sat 30th April, 3pm UDYC AGM, Dining Room, Basement, Richard Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,

Email: peterschutz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2016

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

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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 - March 2016

Each Sunday in March

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

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

6th March, 4th Sunday of Lent, Purple.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of England and Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Diocese: For those undertaking a Lenten fast or other discipline, that God may strengthen their resolve.

13th March, 5th Sunday of Lent, Purple

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

Diocese: For newly elected TDs, that they may conduct the business of Dáil Éireann with wisdom and integrity.

20th March, 6th Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday, Purple or Red

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

Diocese: For the work of our Diocesan Board of Mission and for our mission projects in the Diocese of Jerusalem, Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza and Kids4Peace.

24th March, Maundy Thursday, Purple or Red (Eucharist White)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Brandon, Rupert's Land, Canada and Revd Canon William Cliff, Bishop-elect of Brandon.

Diocese: As we meet to commemorate the institution of the Lord's Supper, we pray that Christians of all traditions may come together to share Eucharistic fellowship.

27th March, Easter Day, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

3rd April, 2nd Sunday of Easter, White

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean and Most Revd Ian Gerald James Ernest Archbishop of the Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of Mauritius.

Diocese: For those who serve our communities by providing clean drinking water and disposing of sewage waste, that their work may promote both human wellbeing and healthy ecosystems.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father Forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father Forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father Forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father Forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father Forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

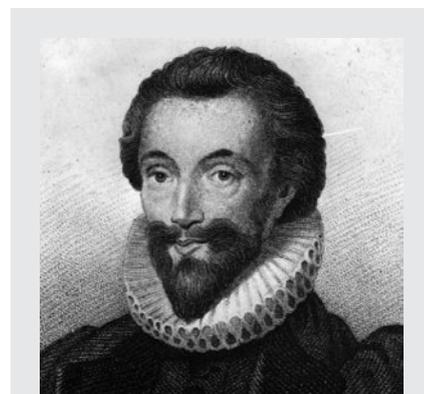
Written in 1958 by Canon Joseph Poole, the first Precentor of the new, post-war cathedral in Coventry.



He died

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

*Cecil Frances Alexander, hymn writer,
1818-95*



The poet John Donne (1572-1631), who was once Dean of Saint Paul's Cathedral, London, wrote: "[Prayer] may be mental, for we may think prayers. It may be real, for we may speak prayers. It may be actual, for we may do prayers ... So then to do the office of your vocation sincerely is to pray."

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

by Alfred Lord Tennyson, sung as an anthem with music by Prof GHP Hewson at the Installation of Canons in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on 20th February 2016.

A View from the Pew - Not a new view, but the same view explored more by Salters Sterling



Let's find those young toughs - the shepherds of the nativity - the folk on the margins in St. Luke's time with the dangerous life. Who are they in our time? And let's begin with Jesus. After his baptism and his public recognition by his Father from heaven Jesus went into the wilderness, the place made sacred by the long freedom march of the Children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness? Jesus went into the

wilderness to sort out what kind of Son of the Father God intended him to be. And what did he discover? He discovered that it was not by the miraculous, or by the spectacular, or by political power or military might that he was to be disclosed as the Son of the Father. Luke tells us very clearly that when he emerged from the wilderness and began his teaching he made public in his home synagogue in Nazareth of what his Sonship was to consist: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the down trodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." It's almost word for word a direct quote from Isaiah ch. 61 vs 1 and 2. It is the essence of the message that Jesus lived and died. It is the essence of the message which God sends to all people everywhere and always when He raised Jesus from the dead. It is the inescapable challenge which God presents to the Church in every generation and it is being presented to us now as we sit in our pews Sunday by Sunday and at this Lenten time journey with Jesus in the Wilderness.

TRAVELLERS

As I have been preparing these pieces for Christmas, Epiphany and now Lent with Easter coming over the horizon, our newspapers, radio and television programmes have carried almost continuously news about and features on homeless people. Only wind and rain leading to the disaster of flooding have interrupted the message of people living on our streets and in hotels. Much of this is the

consequence of the years of austerity post 2008. With a socially responsible government and a fair economic wind houses that can become homes can be provided fairly quickly. For most of us homelessness presents itself as more of an urban / metropolitan problem rather than a rural one. However there are many people amongst us in the country and rural towns and villages who do not seem to be helped into better accommodation no matter how socially aware the government or economically favourable the climate. These are the Travellers and please do not turn-off and tune-out at mention of them for these are the shepherds of Bethlehem in our day. The people who live on the margins of our society, the people who traditionally did most useful jobs like the shepherds of Bethlehem. The making and mending of buckets and pint and quart measures; the recycling of scrap metal and old clothes; the provision of casual labour to farmers at seed time and harvest. I well remember how esteemed they were by my farming grandfather. So let me remind you of the fire at Carrickmines and the difficulty of providing accommodation for the survivors. Let me remind you of the Dundalk Health and Safety evictions with no alternative accommodation arrangements made. Let me tell you of the eviction order hanging over the McInerney family here in Offaly and again recall the Galway situation of just a few weeks ago.

BACKYARDITIS

We have a problem, a national illness. It's one of those group syndromes. It's called not-in-my-backyarditis and it appears to be endemic. It occurs where there is a deficiency of a compound called human rights in the body politic. The antidote to that deficiency is the medicine called Christian Baptism which activates the sensory awareness that all, yes all, are made in the Image of God. That medicine is stored in the Body of Christ which is the Church. It has been known to grow stale but can be revived by a dose of the Holy Spirit, normally available at Pentecost and most effective when taken after the Fasting of Lent and the Feasting of Easter. It is only when the People of God get on the side of Human Rights and begin to preach and live the prophetic message of Justice for all and reconciliation between all that there is the remotest possibility that the message of Jesus will be heard again with any credibility in our land and the Church can move up a gear from survival to growth.

Charities Registration

In this article the Representative Church Body seeks to update Select Vestries on charities registration and the requirements for Church of Ireland parishes. If parishes have any queries or need clarification on any issues please contact the Diocesan Secretary Yvonne Blennerhassett in the first instance: 087 688 0457, 066 712 3182, secretary@limerick.anglican.org.

REGISTRATION OF PARISHES AND DIOCESES

As the deadline for the registration of charities in the Republic of Ireland approaches on 16 April 2016, the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) has asked the central Church to produce a list of all Church of Ireland bodies that will, in due course, be seeking registration under the Charities Act 2009.

The CRA wishes to work with the Church to enable the development of a simpler version of the current model for large charity registrations. This will mean changes for the approach used by the CRA and so the process of completing parish registration is being suspended temporarily, as requested by the CRA.

The listing being prepared by Church House in Dublin, with the help of the dioceses, will satisfy the CRA regarding meeting the deadline of 16 April.

LOCAL TRUSTEES

Select Vestries and Incumbents, along with other trustee bodies, are currently conducting a review of parish assets to ensure that nothing is left off the list. The main part of this list consists of all the

Select Vestries and Diocesan Councils along with the Representative Church Body. These are the trustee bodies that are established under the Church of Ireland Constitution and this list has already been developed with the assistance of Diocesan Secretaries.

However, a letter was written to parishes in the last fortnight, to ensure that any locally held assets under local trusteeship are also included in the list, or, that local trustees have already responded to invitations to register with the CRA. It is important that Select Vestries assure themselves that all assets are properly accounted for under the new legislation as any breach of duty may result in a challenge to the Select Vestry by the CRA or might leave local trustees responsible for the assets in a way that was never intended, including financial and insurance responsibilities.

IDENTIFYING PARISH ASSETS

A number of queries have been received in Church House as to how these locally held assets can be identified. In general, anything not vested in the RCB that is regarded as a parish asset but is not reported through the parish accounts annually by the Select Vestry needs to be examined, identified and brought into a reporting structure, either by including it in the accounts or by separate registration.

Some examples that have come to light are as follows: Property or land held by local trustees under a deed of trust, or deed of conveyance, on behalf of the parish;

- Financial assets or shares left to the parish under a trust that is managed locally;
- Parish halls held by local trustees but leased to community groups and in receipt of Leader Fund grants from the EU;
- Local schemes set up under the 1885 Educational Endowment Scheme, which may or may not still be used for educational purposes under these schemes;
- Other successors of 19th century benevolent charities held locally.

Central Church is glad to assist Select Vestries with queries and has set up a helpline in Church House. If you have a query relating to any aspect of registration affecting the parish, please contact Ms Joanne Richards on 01 4125 660 or email charityreg@rcbdub.org

A copy of the letter with additional information can be found on the Church website at: <http://ireland.anglican.org/news/6185>

Armchair Christmas Quiz raised €900

Many thanks to all those who took part in our Annual Armchair Christmas Quiz. The proceeds this year go to Bishops' Appeal. This is a very worthwhile Charity, in which all of the money raised goes to where it is needed. We had over 200 entries this year, most of which were correct. Thanks to the generosity of so many people we made over €900.

These are the winners, a lot of local ones this year: 1st Hermione Kelly, Moneygall; 2nd Simon Greene, Ranelagh; 3rd Rob Lewis, Moneygall; 4th Myra Stanley, Borrisokane. Barbara Haslam, Birr and Valerie Cooper, Knocklyon, Co Dublin also won prizes for "Having a good shot!"

Big thanks to Reverend Denis from us all, for devising this amusing brain teaser!

Here are the answers:

1: Backwoodsman? HILLMAN, 2: Should be sat on SEAT, 3: River Crossing FORD, 4: English country Dance? MORRIS, 5: Could be a gem OPEL, 6: Sounds like a lemon! CITROEN, 7: Starts with a child's plaything! TOYOTA, 8: Made by an English Cardinal? WOLSELEY, 9: Top lover in tribe? ALPHA ROMEO, 10: Monte Christo's Girl MERCEDES, 11: Elevated on the 9th letter HYUNDAI (sorry, 1 letter short), 12: 007's favourite car ASTON MARTIN, 13: Start of an old orange drink KIA, 14: Sounds like a twisted field! BENTLEY, 15: District Attorney and Secret service DACIA, 16: Big Abe of the Civil War LINCOLN, 17: German cart for all people VOLKSWAGON, 18: Sad OK? SKODA, 19: If last O was IC it would be H2O VOLVO, 20: Starts with grand lady of the stage DAIMLER, 21: This car's a wanderer ROVER, 22: This bike could be a car HONDA, 23: Car or carnivore? JAGUAR, 24: Could be good for evasion DODGE, 25: Famous Yoga position LOTUS, 26: Sounds like you'd find front of house POR-SCHE, 27: Formula 1, Italian and red! FERRARI,

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Branch Mini-Market continues weekly and remains popular. Delicious home-baking is available and very much appreciated. The Branch is very grateful for contributions to the stall and for everybody's support.

Bible Study and Crafts have come to an end. Our theme for Bible Study was "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" and we studied the stories "A lame man is healed" and "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego". Craft work appealed to our imaginations

and was good fun. Now that Bible Study and Crafts have finished we are busy preparing for our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving which takes place on Saturday, 12th March in St.Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Kenneth, clergy and many friends on the day.

NENAGH BRANCH

On Saturday 13th February girls made Valentine's cards – lots of hearts and pink ribbons!

Enrolment Service took place in St. Mary's Church on Sunday, 21st February. Theme was 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength'. Audrey Clarke Gordon lead the service of Morning Prayer and the GFS girls helped with the prayers, readings, collection, etc. The congregation was treated to an enactment of Daniel Chapter 3

versus 14-30 in which we were given a lesson in standing for God no matter what! The play took the form of a television show in which the host interviewed the main characters in the story – king Nebuchadnezzar and his three death defying subjects – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Well done girls and thank you for bringing the story to life for us. During the Enrolment part of the service 3 girls moved up to Junior Members and 3 older girls moved up to Members. Also, Emma Gordon was commissioned as Junior Leader. Emma is in Transition year in Villiers School and will soon be heading off to Uganda as part of the Zest4Kids team. We wish Emma every good wish and God's blessing on her travels for this worthwhile cause. Thanks to the girls for taking part in the Service and to Audrey Clarke Gordon for organising and leading the service so beautifully.



Enrollment Day in Nenagh

ROSCREA BRANCH

The girls are putting the finishing touches to their competition crafts and are looking forward to Diocesan Service and Prizegiving in Cloughjordan on 12th March.

The Branch has decided to have a festive table for Easter in St Cronan's as the girls enjoyed creating one last Christmas. They will be busy for the next few weeks!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Service & Prizeday will take place in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on Saturday 12th March at 3.00pm

GFS All Ireland Camp: 31 March – 2 April 2016. For girls aged 10+ years.

Registration /Consent Form are available from Branch Leaders.

Venue: Kilkenny College, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny.

Date: Thursday 31st March (Registration 2-3pm) to Saturday 2nd April 2016 (2.30/3.00 p.m)

Cost : €65/£51(1st child same family)

Diocesan Council Meeting will take place in Roscrea on Tuesday, 19th April, at 8 pm.

Diocesan Camp will take place in June (10-12) at the Faith Mission Centre, Durrrow.



Boys' Brigade



1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We welcome Ryan Colgan this month, another new member who has settled in well already!

We are pleased to say that Dave's soccer training went very well and revealed some unknown talents, as well as our more seasoned stars! Another session was based on some of our favourite games, including "who's the bear" for the younger Anchors and "tails" for the Juniors. Jim delivered a super talk on lent, tailored for the two different age groups.



We are now looking forward to Jim's next "cube" challenges and Ger's gaol visit (with badge presentations) and to round off the term we will draw our Easter Raffle on March 11th, at the school fair!

We have some super prizes already that have been donated from Dunnes, Tesco, World of Wonder, Procter & Gamble, table top pool game from Banaghan's and a scooter from Michael at JKC's! To be in with a chance of winning these, and I'm sure more to come, please feel free to contact Lisa, or any other leaders or boys, to buy a €2 line.

Just as a reminder of the purpose, this is for the boys' summer trip and general expenses and if delicious bakes appeals to you more, then look out for the second wave of fundraising which will be a bake sale at April's family worship!

BETTY CHAMBERS

Following a long illness Betty Chambers died on 29th January in Co. Wexford. A faithful member of Mothers' Union, Betty was Diocesan President of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe whilst her husband, George, was rector of Adare. A warm and gentle person she will be greatly missed by her family and also by many friends throughout the country.

COMMISSIONING

At a special service to mark the 140th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union, our new Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh, will be commissioned by Rev. Ruth Gill in Cloughjordan on Sunday 15th May at 4.00pm. The Preacher will be Rev. Canon Liz Beasley. Members throughout the diocese are asked please to make a special effort to attend this service and to support Lucy in prayer as she undertakes this important role.

LIMERICK BRANCH

Our annual Beetle Drive for children from 1st to 4th Class was, as usual, enjoyed by both the children and their parents. Always a riotous evening Lucy and her faithful whistle kept some semblance of order and there were prizes for all. It was nice to hear from one parent who comes from overseas that the evening had been the most fun she had had for a long time.

Our Lady Day service will be held in St. Michael's on Monday 4th April at 8.00pm when we look forward to welcoming members from Adare and Askeaton branches. We are delighted that our preacher that evening will be Rev. Marie Rowley Brooke.

ADARE MOTHERS UNION

We had our first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday the 9th February in Embury Close. Our speaker was Meadh Fitzgerald Clinical Nurse Specialist with Marie Keating foundation. She gave a wonderful talk and insight into Breast, Skin, Bowel, Prostate and Mouth Cancers. She answered all our questions and gave out literature on Cancer. We were joined by members from Limerick City and Askeaton also some non members we had a great turn out and as usual we enjoyed the lovely home baking of our members. As it was Shrove Tuesday Rosemary treated us to some sumptuous pancakes!

If any other branch would like to get her or one of her colleagues just contact Marie Keating foundation.

Belated happy new year to all.

Jessie

United Diocesan Youth Council

Editor: We apologise that the February notes were inadvertently omitted from the last issue, through no fault of the Youth Council – they are now included below.

PRE CHRISTMAS OVERNIGHT TRIP 2015

Early mornings are never easy, but the promise of a good day makes it easier. On Saturday 12th of December secondary school students and leaders headed off to Dublin for a fun filled weekend. We enjoyed a slippery start on the ice, and any embarrassment from a fall was soon forgotten with a few fairground rides. We then moved on to the go-karting racetrack in the lashing rain, where not even

fingers sore from the cold dampened our spirits, we joined other youth groups for the CIYD Christmas worship service and party in a night filled with fun, pizza, disco and of course, the joys of each other's company.

–Caroline Dix (Nenagh)



Faces from Pre Christmas Overnight Trip to Dublin

2015 UDYC DINNER DANCE

On the 5th of December, UDYC celebrated Christmas early at our annual Christmas Dinner Dance at Fitzgerald's Woodland House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. After a scrumptious dinner of turkey and ham followed by a variety dessert platter the fundraising raffle was held (see below). After dinner there was a disco by DJ Joe and everyone danced into the early hours of the morning. It was a great evening and enjoyed immensely by all. It was a great way to start the festive season!

–Sophia Levie (Mountshannon)



Glitz & Glamour at UDYC Christmas Dinner Dance at Fitzgerald Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

POST CHRISTMAS DAY TRIP 2015

On Tuesday the 29th of December a big group of both junior and senior participants from around the Diocese with the help of six leaders came together to travel to Dublin for the day. Our long day of activities began with go karting at Kylemore Karting where friends were given the chance to beat each other in a race, or crash into each other. It's great to say nobody was hurt. We then headed to the National Aquatic Centre for a bit of swimming and sliding. After everyone had dried up it was onto the RDS for some outdoor ice-skating. But from the weather that day it might as well have been water-skating. We stayed at the RDS to witness an entertaining show from Fossett's Christmas Circus. Then everyone had a few hours to go on as many rides in Funderland as they wanted. Afterwards we all went for dinner in McDonalds before returning on the bus to arrive home late in the night after a long day of fun which was enjoyed by all our leaders and participants.

–Oscar Egbulam (Limerick)



Group Photo on Post Christmas Day Trip to Dublin

FUNDRAISING WITH UDYC

It is good to report that the UDYC Christmas Fundraising Draw raised just short of €2,000. Very many thanks to all those that sold and bought tickets for this important fundraising venture. The winners were as follows: 1st Prize €150 – Ken Hardy (Seller Katie Phair), 2nd Prize €100 – Jane Murtagh (Seller Charlie Brickenden), 3rd Prize €50 – Raymond Armitage (Seller Rosie Gee).

We have also received many personal donations and parish donations and to these people and parishes we are really grateful. It would be also appreciated if there are any parishes or other individuals that would like to make donations please do not hesitate to contact Edward at 087 2907553.

FUTURE EVENTS

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group continues to meet, the next two meetings taking place on Saturday 12th March and Saturday 16th April from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm, in the Dining Room, Basement Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, Limerick City. The group welcomes participation from everyone attending secondary school.

Spring Madness Weekend

Our Spring Madness Weekend will take place from Friday 18th – Sunday 20th March 2016 (start of Easter holidays) at Kilfinnane Outdoor Education Centre, Kilfinnane, Co. Limerick. This event is for all those attending secondary school. A bus with travel to/from event serving Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh & Limerick. The cost of the weekend will be €100 (€90 each if more than one from same family). During the weekend there will be lively and exciting worship workshops, lots of land and water based outdoor adventure activities, good food and super fun, faith and fellowship. Last date for bookings is Monday 14th March.

Taking a Leading Role & Safeguarding Trust Training

Our third and final weekend for this group of leaders in training will take place from Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd April 2016 at the Cloughjordan hostel. On Saturday evening 2nd April there will be a Safeguarding Trust Training event for all leaders from the area at 7.30 pm in Cloughjordan Parochial Hall. The training will be facilitated by Canon Ruth Gill and Mrs Kim Hutchinson. Anyone planning on attending the training is asked to please let Edward Hardy know.

Fundraising Cake Sale & Coffee Morning

This will be first of our fundraising ventures for 2016 and it will take place in Shinrone Parochial Hall from 11 am – 3 pm on Saturday 16th April. Your support and help for this event would be appreciated.

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 website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 133 9996

Diocesan Board of Mission

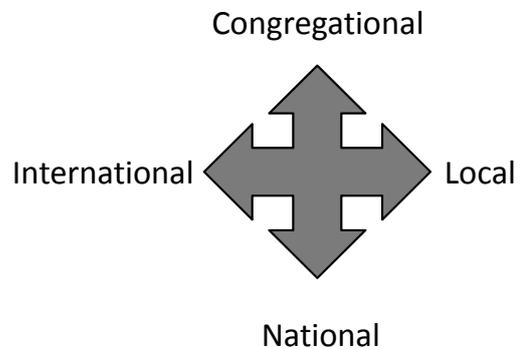
REPORT ON MISSION EVENING IN TRALEE 3RD FEBRUARY

The Mission Evening on 3rd February in Tralee opened with prayer. The Secretary informed those present that €6970 had been donated by parishes to date, as part of the Mission Sunday 2015 appeal. As a result we had been able to pay €3000 to Us Ireland as the first instalment towards installation of solar panels at Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza City, plus €850 to local charities as specified by respective parish unions.

Mission... a Church of Ireland perspective

Rev Michael Cavanagh commenced his presentation by quoting the C of I Mission statement: 'In the power of the Spirit, our mission requires us to order our contemporary worship and life in a manner that nurtures growth, promotes unity and liberates us for service that is God's'.

Mission Perspectives



The barriers are, lack of trust, irrelevance to daily life, opaque liturgy, exclusivity and, inertia. The Christian vision is not, thy Kingdom come... in the future but, thy Kingdom is come... here and now. We can make this shared vision relevant within our community by living the Gospel through service and worship, so that the Church becomes the 'hub' of our life within the community, not on the margin or an 'optional extra'.

Just because you can't do everything doesn't mean you shouldn't do anything.

How can we make the most of our Heritage?

How can we best use our Church's gifts?

How can we demonstrate our Relevance?

One thing done well is better than lots of things done badly

While the 'message of the Kingdom' remains unchanged, the messengers need to be flexible in how they present the message to suit modern society.

The evening closed with prayer and the Grace, followed by refreshments kindly supplied by the ladies of Tralee parish.

NEXT MISSION EVENING IN CLOUGHJORDAN, 6TH APRIL

Our next Mission Evening is scheduled for Wednesday 6th April at 8 pm in the Parish Hall, Cloughjordan, when a member of the Methodist Church will speak on the subject 'Mission... a Methodist perspective'.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

We have welcomed back four past pupils in the past month. Valerie Walker joined our support teachers as part of her teacher- training at the end of January and Hazel Alfred, Jeffrey Alfred and Lauren Ryan spent a week with us in school on work experience as part of Transition Year. I hope they all enjoyed their time with us.

Mrs. Keane and her team of junior entrepreneurs have had a busy couple of months culminating in our 'Dragons Den' on January 28th. The three 'dragons' had a difficult choice as the ideas were all very worthwhile but in the end they decided on 'Travel Ireland' a board game, a jigsaw and an app – three for the price of one! Well done to all the pupils who came up with such innovative ideas and who all made wonderful presentations to the 'dragons'. Once the decision was made the whole classroom then worked on perfecting the 'Travel Ireland' project. The pupils then showcased their product to parents following our prizegiving on Friday 12th February when the sales teams convinced family and friends to order the game. Congratulations to all involved.



The sales team at work in Adare

This year we entered three teams in the local Credit Union Quiz for Primary Schools. One of our teams was successful and has made it through to the next round so congratulations to Marie Butler, Arthur Cussen, David Canning and Katie Purser. Well done to all our teams for representing the school so well.

The senior pupils headed off to Villiers on January 27th to take part in a spikeball tournament. There were a few very tough matches for all three teams but one team made it through to the semi-finals where unfortunately they were defeated.

Chess club is now up and running on Tuesday afternoons. Many thanks to past-pupil, Jeffrey Alfred, who gave us a helping hand while on work experience.



'What's my next move'. Chess in Adare

Geoff Hunt spent a day in school and on the River Maigue Walk on February 4th. He brought teachers and pupils on a birdwatching trip along the River Maigue where we spotted many water birds including redshank, greenshank and mallard.



Birdwatching on the River Maigue in Adare

Thank you to Bishop Kenneth Kearon who presented the prizes to all our pupils on Friday 12th February. Afterwards, 6th class pupils organised a coffee afternoon in aid of the Alzheimer's Association. We were all treated to a delicious array of cakes, buns and tray bakes, thanks to pupils from 4th 5th and 6th classes. A total of €270 was raised for this worthy charity. Thanks to all who supported us that afternoon.

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Spring is here at last and our school garden has come back to life with a carpet of crocus plants to greet us every morning.

For our Lenten focus this year, students will be supporting a trip to Uganda, by a past pupil Emma Gordon, who will complete some charity work. Half of monies raised from our School Fair on 11th March will go towards this and the remainder will be put towards the purchase of science equipment. Let's hope that this is an enjoyable and well supported event.

As everybody knows, Daffodil Day, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, will take place on the 11th March. We were delighted to welcome some of the ladies from Nenagh Flower and Garden Club, who are involved in the organisation of this day. It was a pleasure to have them visit the school and discuss the initiative with the boys and girls in the Senior Room.



Pupils of the Senior Classroom with their Daffodil Day balloons!

It has been a busy term for our students and teachers. French Classes continue with Ms Healy-Bernard. Our Musical Theatre Dancing Programme given by Ms Stephanie Brown has concluded and was greatly enjoyed by all. We had School Photo Day on the 10th February and our Public Health Nurse did health screening for Junior Infants in March.

A huge thank you to Ms Karen Hogan who taught the Middle Classes in Mrs Quin's absence. She did a wonderful job and we appreciate all her hard work. We are delighted to say she will be staying with us for the remainder of the school year as she covers Mrs Maher's maternity leave. Mrs Quin will be returning this month and we look forward to having her back with us again.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful Easter break. Le gach dea-ghuú agus beannachtaí na Cáisce.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

Many thanks to everybody who supported our "Parts of the Body" fundraising quiz. Once again, we are very grateful to Mrs. Miriam Henderson for setting the quiz. Congratulations to our prize winners: Mary B Hough, Tombricane, Borrisokane (1st), Gwen Austin, Tombricane, Borrisokane (2nd) and Jason Hennessy c/o Ballymackey, Nenagh (3rd): the children, (all our pupils) who won prizes in the children's competition: Joshua Dann, Callum Ryan & Jonah Dann (Junior & Senior Infants), Ella Dann, Noah Dann, Alison Grant & Evan Ryan (First & Second Class), David Austin & Cathal England (Third & Fourth Class) and Alex Mooney and Andrew Hayes (Fifth & Sixth Class). The quiz was a great success and raised €1,070 for our school.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Sophie Platt back to our school, and the family back home to Borrisokane. Sophie has rejoined her friends in Senior Infants much to their delight. We hope that she will be very happy back with us.

Thank you very much to David Austin, Emma Armitage, Alex Chadwick, Cathal England, Stephanie Manley, Millie O'Hare and Sophia Whelan who represented the school with Ms. Cromer and Joanna Parkes at the official launch of "Tipperary County Council Artist in Primary School Scheme Exhibition" in the Civic Offices in Nenagh on Tues 26th January, 2016. Once again, a huge thank you to Joanna Parkes for making it all so interesting and meaningful.

It is a pleasure to welcome back one of our past pupils on work experience last month. We are very grateful to Cianán Ó hAnluain, now in Transition Year in Borrisokane Community College, for all his help throughout the school and wish him every success as he pursues his secondary education. An extra pair of hands is always a great help!

Well done to Tom Austin, Odhran Fitzmaurice, Stuart Fox Powell and Zoe Whelan who represented Third and Fourth Class, and to Hugo Ó hAnluain, Ruairi O'Brolchain, Stephanie Manley and Ewan Powell who represented Fifth and Sixth Class at the Credit Union School's Quiz in Borrisokane. Congratulations to our Third and Fourth Class team who came 1st on the night, following a tie break round with our friends in St. Michael's N.S., Cloughjordan, and now progress to the next round in Thurles. Congratulations to our Fifth and Sixth Class team who came 2nd on the night and to Borrisokane N.S. who came 1st. Congratulations also to Ms. Cromer, to Mrs. Grace and to parents who prepared the children so well for this event. Many thanks to Borrisokane Credit Union for organizing a very successful event for the local schools, the generous prizes and refreshments enjoyed by the children.

It was a pleasure to welcome Rev Shannon de Laoreal to school on Ash Wednesday to lead a short service of Holy Communion. Pupils, parents and parishioners joined in the service. We are grateful to Michelle Armitage, Doug de Laoreal and Hilda Mooney for their help.

We are very grateful to members of Birr First Responder Group who delivered First Aid training to Fifth & Sixth Class. This was another great opportunity for our pupils to acquire valuable skills.



5th & 6th Class CPR & AED Training

Best of luck to Robyn Fitzgerald, Hannah Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald, Lisa Mooney, Ross Austin, Tom Larke, Stuart Fox Powell and Andrew Hayes who will represent the school at the Munster Schools Table Tennis League 2016 in Kinsale of March.

We look forward to welcoming Noel, Liza and staff from the Postal Bible School in March for the Annual Presentation and Prizegiving. We are very grateful to the Postal Bible School not only for the generous array of prizes for the participating children for the work they completed on their Postal Bible sheets, but also for all that the Postal Bible School does for us throughout the year

Our Bring and Buy Sale, Cake Sale and Easter Egg Raffle will take place before Easter. This year the proceeds will be shared between the Autistic Unit at St. Michaels' N.S. and the ongoing care of Billy Goulding. Unsold items will be given to a local charity shop after the sale.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

We will be holding our Open Hour for new infant pupils on Wednesday 9th March from 3-4pm. Parents wishing to enrol their children in September are invited to attend, meet the staff and see the school. Application forms will be available on the day or from the school office for anyone who cannot make it. The closing date for applications for September 2016 is Friday 29th April 2016.

We extend our congratulations to Sarah and Colin Kealey on the birth of their son, Jack, a brother for Aidan.

Wednesday 16th March will be a busy day in Rathkeale, we're expecting Noel and Liza from the Postal Bible School to visit for the annual prizegiving. The day has also been chosen as Proclamation Day for all the schools in the country. Pupils in the senior classroom have been busy preparing a "Proclamation for 2016" which will be read on the 16th along with the raising of the National Flag. School will close for Easter on the 16th and will reopen on Monday 4th April.

The Glebe National School, Aughrim.

Success for The Glebe NS Student in GOAL 'Write the Future' Competition

Huge congratulations and well done to our 4th class student Mark Newton who was awarded runner up in GOAL's 'Write the Future' competition, a development education initiative that invited students nationwide to write to a person of their choice about the



Mark Newton, 4th class student at The Glebe NS, receiving his award from GOAL Syria Aid Worker, Alia Alsoud (left) and GOAL Development Education Coordinator Louise Merrigan.

ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. The aim of the competition is to help students learn about an important, current, humanitarian situation, while also instilling the belief that their voice matters and can inspire change in both the local and global community. More than 1000 students aged between the ages of 8 and 18 penned letters to sports stars, musicians, politicians and other influencers. Mark wrote to President Michael D. Higgins to implore him to do his bit to solve the Syrian refugee crisis. He asked the President to "speak to the people of the world and encourage them to find a solution to the crisis". While the competition asked for the letters to be sent to GOAL Mark had the initiative to take it a step further and he actually sent the letter to President Higgins himself. He received a reply from President's office thanking him for his thoughtfulness. Mark was presented with a special award on Tuesday February 2nd 2016 by Louise Merrigan, GOAL Development Education Coordinator and Alia Alsoud, a Syrian journalist who works with the charity.



Mark Newton (with prize) and the rest of his classmates, along with GOAL Syria Aid Worker, Alia Alsoud and GOAL Development Education Coordinator Louise Merrigan.

Villiers School

ACADEMIC NEWS

What a busy and industrious half term.

Our Form III and VI students have just come through the rigours of the 'mock examinations'. This is always a difficult and challenging experience. For those in Form III it is the first experience of how state examinations operate. Two weeks of lengthy exams is a difficult prospect. For those in Form VI, although no longer novices at State exams, the mocks provide an opportunity to take stock and ascertain readiness for the June exams.



As well as exams, Form VI students have had to make their college applications- CAO, UCAS and many more acronyms have become common conversation.

We've had debating success. The juniors are acquitting themselves with great accomplishment in the Limerick schools competition and are now in serious preparation for Junior Model United Nations taking place in March. The seniors have an ambitious season, with three tours abroad this year. Our first group has just returned from Denmark (Sam Clein recipient of the prestigious Most Distinguished Delegate Award) and preparations are well underway for conferences in both Italy and Hungary.

We're preparing for Maths Week, and Technology Week. Some of our Art students have been short-listed as Junk Kouture finalists, while some of our Form IV Business students will be recipients of Kemmy Business School Awards in UL due to their strong Junior certificate performance.

As well as this we have all of the deadlines for orals, aurals project and practical work on the horizon, and all of this in the relatively short five week half-term since January. Well done to all of our students for their enthusiasm and vigour and above all else, their willingness to be involved with sincerity and commitment.

Jill Storey - Headmistress

VILLIERS' TRIBUTE TO MR. TREVOR MORROW

It is with great sadness that we mark and mourn the sudden passing of Mr. Trevor Morrow, serving Governor and Board of Management member.

Trevor was synonymous with Villiers. He embodied all that is good about our school and all that we aim to cultivate in our students. He was a generous, astute, diligent man. He was wise, he was kind, and without fail he was gracious and courteous.

He had a life-long association with Villiers. Coming to school on Henry Street as a small boy he became Head Boy in his final year. Leaving school as a pupil didn't in any way end his involvement with Villiers. He was an active member of the Past Pupil's Association, indeed his first date with his future wife Sylvia was to a Past Pupils' dinner. In time he became a parent in the school and a dynamic member as of the Parent Teacher Association. He became a member of the Board of Governors where he served for almost forty years, as well as being a founding member of the Board of Management.

Generous with his time and insight, he brought his considerable financial mind to the development of the school, and was a courageous and perceptive advocate of the school's improvement programmes; the most recent of these is the ongoing Derravoher development.

Trevor's influence in Villiers is immense, and will not be forgotten. His loss is a difficult one. We all learned from Trevor, every encounter, every conversation and every interaction left one warmer, richer and wiser.

We extend our deepest and sincerest sympathies to his family.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:15

TY UGANDA

Our Uganda trip is coming upon us very quickly, flights are booked and the itinerary is fixed so it is becoming a reality. This is such an incredible opportunity for the Community Group to work alongside the charity Zest4kidz and to visit the hospital built by the charity and visit the local schools. We fly out in March so there will be lots of stories and photos when we come back.

BOYS HOCKEY

Congratulations to both the junior and senior boys who have reached their Munster cup finals. Our seniors play Bandon in Villiers on March 2nd and our juniors host the winners of Newton and Bandon on the 9th March.

It is a great achievement to reach both finals and to host them both in Villiers. Hopefully it brings us the luck. Well done to all involved.

SKI TRIP

Our annual ski trip brought us to San Martino di Castrozza in Italy during the February mid-term break. A total of forty eight students travelled with six staff. Reports are of a successful trip with excellent conditions.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

I had the great pleasure of once again bringing the Community Group to the Cycle Against Suicide student leader congress in the RDS in Dublin.

This year we not only participated in a carefully choreographed, high energy experience, but also showcased our project work which they designed and created around the event's theme of 'together we can'.

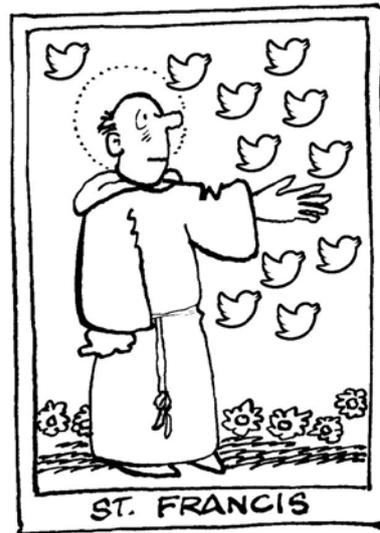
The Congress demonstrates, in a very special way, the value to students of appreciating their own mental wellbeing. The Community Group made a film highlighting the importance of reaching out and asking for help and were honoured to be interviewed live at the event. This is a wonderful occasion with an incredible message of, 'It's okay not to be okay but it's absolutely okay to ask for help'.

I had the privilege of preaching in St. Mary's Cathedral recently and the question that I asked has stayed with me somewhat recently. I asked, 'if you were in court and charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to find you guilty?' Do people look at you, and me, and know by our words, actions and the way we live our lives that we are Christian? "A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another as I have loved you."

Seems rather simple; sounds pretty easy to do but yet it is a near impossible task that Jesus has set before those who would follow him. What exactly is love? How do you define it? How do you know you've given it or received it? "Love one another as I have loved you". Well, it's easy for Jesus to say, great commandment to impart. But what does it mean for us? What does it mean to love as Christ loves?

My prayer for all is that we will come to know the love of God and that our lives will be given in service to Him. Peace be with you...

Until next time
Blessings and peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!




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Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

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

The Lenten season started on Ash Wednesday with the marking of ashes on our forehead. Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return. Lent is a time to remind us of our mortality and that none of us get out of here alive. Yet it is also about dying to an old way of being and turning back to God. So as we are marked for death we also born into a new way of being and experiencing a resurrection at Easter as we become truly a people of the way of Christ.

At Castleconnell Church we had a screening of the short film "Lost and Found" that was partly filmed in Castleconnell Church. I won't review it but the film it basically involved a boy and dogs and a clergyman. So animal welfare was also involved. We had two screenings on 31 January and people were asked to make donations which were shared between the church and animal welfare. As it was a short film Shane Hartigan also showed his little production of the views of Castleconnell from his drone. This too was so well done and a worthwhile watch. The afternoon started off with some singing by our locals, with some tea and treats after. We are thankful

to Barbara Hartigan who had a large part in bringing it all together. Well done to all involved.

We had our World Day of Prayer in the Cathedral at 11 am on 4 March. The transition year students from our local school St Anne's I once again had a big part to play in the prayer day with the help of the school chaplain Veronica Sheehan.

Mothering Sunday is on 6 March. This year we will have the service at 11.30am at St Flannan's Cathedral when all the other churches are encouraged to come and visit the mother church of the diocese.

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@gmail.com
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

AND YET ANOTHER BABY!

On the 7th of February, the last Sunday before Lent, Charlotte Ann Horan, daughter of Alison Harding-Horan and Declan Horan was welcomed into the Family of God at her baptism in Lorrha.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 17th April at 11:30 in Birr. At this writing, classes are beginning.

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BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER (BCT)

At a recent meeting of the Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Church of Ireland clergy in Birr, with Andrew Pierce from the Irish School of Ecumenics, and our co-ordinator, Claudia Meium, we instituted 'Birr Churches Together', an organisation to help us implement the 'Lund Principle' - that we would do everything together except for those things our consciences won't permit. We are starting with a joint Lenten programme; we have a number of other ideas which we will explore with the lay people on our steering committee. For nearly half a century, Birr has provided a model of ecumenical co-operation and fellowship. This new endeavour carries that spirit a long way forward. Please pray for our parishes as we move into new ways to be the People of God together.

BCT IN LENT

Our ongoing Ecumenical Lenten Evenings are run by our parish, they are held in Birr Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:00 pm. and open to all. Each week, we will spend some time in prayer (spoken or silent, your choice), praying for international, national, community, parish, and personal concerns. Do come, and bring others with you. All are welcome.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN THE BIRR GROUP OF PARISHES

Sunday, 20th March - Palm Sunday

Birr 11:30 am Procession of the Palms, Reading of the Passion, and Holy Eucharist

Monday, 21st March - Monday in Holy Week

Lockeen 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, 22nd March - Tuesday in Holy Week

Lorrha 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, 23rd March - Wednesday in Holy Week

Dorrha 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday, 24th March - Maundy Thursday

Birr 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Friday, 25th March - Good Friday

Birr 12:00 noon Our Lord's Passion

Saturday, 26th March - Easter Eve

Lorrha 8:00 pm New Fire, Easter Vigil, and First Holy Eucharist of Easter

Sunday, 27th March - Easter Day

Dorrha 9:30 am Holy Eucharist

Birr 11:30 am Holy Eucharist

BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

Below is the list of events planned so far for the Bicentenary of St Brendan's Church in Birr:

Sunday, 13th March, tentatively set for 7:00 pm - Ecumenical Service of Healing

Saturday, 23rd April, time to be announced - Ecumenical Celebration of the Old Grave Yard

Pentecost Sunday, 15th May - Cantata 'Holy Spirit, Breath of God' performed by the Birr Choral Society.

Friday, 29th July - Monday, 1st August - Flower Festival.

Sunday, 7th August, time to be announced - St Brendan's Patronal Festival

December - Performance of Handel's Messiah.

Roscrea Group continues on page 22

Edward Hayden Cookery Demonstration

GREAT FAMILY FOOD



Tickets: €15

Thursday 28th April, 2016 Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh

In aid of **Borrisokane Parish**

Doors open from 6.45 p.m. for Food Market
& Cookery Demonstration starts at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets available from:
**Crawford's Shop, Borrisokane • Austin's Centra, Cloughjordan
and Whitefords The Shoe Corner, Nenagh.**

For more information & tickets call **Averil Clarke 087-6894288**



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SUNDAY 20 MARCH
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK 5PM

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Eoin Hynes, *tenor*
David Leigh, *organ*
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St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Detail from Roger van der Weyden's 'Descent from the Cross' 1435-1438

Making sense of the Resurrection

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering" (Luke 24.41). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"



"You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!" – St Peter Preaching, fresco by Masolino, in S. Maria del Carmine, Florence

How did they know this? Because of experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

WERE THEY LYING?

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him? This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

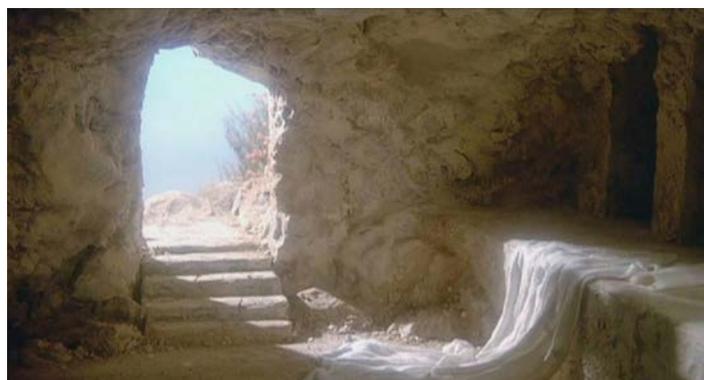
THE RISEN LORD IS PRESENT

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: "He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me', and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is."

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.
(With thanks to Parish Pump)



They found the tomb empty

Jesus' appearances after his Resurrection

- Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
- Other women at the tomb - Matthew 28:8-10
- Peter in Jerusalem - Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
- The two travellers on the road - Mark 16:12-13
- 10 disciples behind closed doors - Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
- 11 disciples with Thomas - John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
- 7 disciples while fishing - John 21:1-14
- 11 disciples on the mountain - Matthew 28:16-20
- A crowd of 500 - 1 Corinthians 15:6
- Jesus' brother James - 1 Corinthians 15:7
- Those who saw the Ascension - Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

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Tapestries in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

by Grania O'Brien Weir

Over fifty years ago the tapestry needlework executed by volunteers was completed for St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe. Each piece was photographed and detailed in an album which was then placed with other records in the Diocesan library. Sadly, it seems that this book can no longer be traced and the only descriptions that remain refer to kneelers and cushions depicting St Flannan, St Lua and the builder of the original Cathedral, King Donal Mor O'Brien. These were specially designed for use only in St Paul's Chapel, and not for the main part of the church where we had already completed much needlework.

Inspired by seeing such attractive kneelers done in so many churches in the 1960s, I suggested to the Friends of St Flannan's Cathedral that such a scheme might be appropriate for the mother church of the diocese. At that time Killaloe was an independent diocese and had not been amalgamated with Limerick diocese. The Friends readily agreed to help finance tapestry work for St Flannan's. We started by sewing kneelers for the Communion Rail, and a matching mat for the reading desk. There were many volunteers who were happy to help with the scheme, and it was agreed that we would use only one style of stitch, that of 'gross point'. The reason for not using more elaborate stitches was that this was a basic one. It was too difficult to organize everyone meeting together to sew, as many people lived a distance from the Cathedral, and would be doing the work in their own homes and in their own time.

Following the completion of the Communion rail kneelers we decided to replace some rather dreary looking cushions which fitted into the backs and seats of two chairs in the Sanctuary. For these we used the Arms, also depicted in windows in the Cathedral, of the dioceses of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Kilmacduagh and Clonfert. This was a far more ambitious task but happily was a success, and led on to doing a cushion for the bishop's throne and another for the dean's pew, as well as a kneeler for use by candidates when kneeling before the bishop at Confirmation Services held in St Flannan's.

At this point St Paul's Chapel was being refurbished, and we asked a young Dublin art student, appropriately an O'Brien, to come up with a design for us to use. She submitted two which were so attractive that we used both of them. We sewed kneelers and chair cushions which really enhanced the Chapel and made it a welcoming place



One of the exquisite tapestry kneelers



Sanctuary chairs in St Flannan's with the arms of the dioceses of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, & Kilmacduagh

for use when needed for daily or special services. As mentioned above, the story of the designs was recorded and framed and still hangs on a wall in St Paul's Chapel.

As St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, was also following out a tapestry scheme, we offered to contribute towards it, and were asked to sew a cushion for one of their chairs. Although we have not seen it in place, it was gratefully received, and photographed for the album before we sent it to Northern Ireland.

St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem invited churches in Ireland and England to give them a kneeler, so if you visit the Holy Land please ask to see the contribution from St Flannan's. The St Paul's Chapel design was adjusted to fit the size required by them.

The list of those who did the needlework was extensive, but after half a century I find it hard to recall all who helped! One name, Mrs. Aileen Ryan, Co. Tipperary, must be mentioned however as she did almost all of the St. Paul's Chapel kneelers as well as many in the main cathedral; Aileen lived until aged one hundred. Mrs. Dora Benson of Killaloe, my mother Anne (Lady Inchiquin) Dromoland, Co. Clare, Miss Thora Trench of Loughton House, Co. Tipperary, Margery Dacres Dixon, Elly van de Velde of The Hague, Holland (née O'Brien and descended from a branch of the O'Briens who went to Holland in the sixteenth century), were just a few of those who helped to beautify the Cathedral with their handiwork. I was responsible for one of the four cushions with the arms of the cathedrals, and in addition sewed a kneeler in memory of my father, which depicted the O'Brien coat of arms, part of which was sewn in 'petit point', but unfortunately there seems to be no trace of that any longer.

As the years went by so the cost of making the kneelers became impractical. The canvass, wools and designs were just the start of the expenses. Once the kneeler or cushion was completed, it had to be carefully stretched and straightened, followed by upholstering which meant using a soft rubber filling and backing with hard-wearing material.

When you next visit St. Flannan's Cathedral do take a look at the tapestries and when you kneel to receive Communion be grateful for the softness of the kneelers, which succeeded the originally used carpet and could be very hard on one's knees!

Installation of Canons in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick

report by Joc Sanders, Nenagh Union of Parishes

Canon Jane Galbraith was installed as Canon Treasurer, and Canon Ruth Gill as Prebendary of Iniscattery (with Kilconnell) and Donaghmore in the joint Chapter of our diocesan cathedrals in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Saturday 20th February.

The installation took place in the course of a well-attended and beautiful service of Sung Evensong. The choir sang magnificently under the baton of their Director Peter Barley, including the canticles Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Wood (in E flat No2) and a spine-tingling anthem 'Crossing the Bar' with words by Alfred Lord Tennyson (see Prayer Corner on page 5) and music by Prof GHP Hewson.



l-r: Dean of Killaloe Gary Paulsen, Canon Ruth Gill, Bishop Kenneth Kearon, Canon Jane Galbraith, Dean of Limerick Sandra Pragnell

1916: Finding a voice for the Church of Ireland

Before the service Canon Patrick Comerford, Lecturer in Church History at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, gave a most informative lecture on this subject. He was introduced by the Deputy Mayor of Limerick Cllr Maria Byrne.

As a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin he began by deploring the way the commemorations of 1916 look like forcing the cathedral to close on Easter Day, the most important day in the Christian calendar, for the first time since it was built almost 1,000 years ago in 1030, for no good reason – the Rising began on Easter Monday 24th April 2016, neither Easter Day nor in March.

He went on to explode many myths. He pointed out that neither Sinn Fein nor the IRA took any part in the events of Easter Week, and he identified the Church of Ireland roots and links of many of the leaders and participants in the Rising itself, the events that ran up to it and the subsequent revolution.

He concluded by reviewing how our State has developed since those days, finishing with these words "Yes, we have been riven by petty sectarianism, discrimination and a legacy from 1916 that saw many families divided. But I am thankful for the democracy we have today.

Despite its weaknesses and its failures, it remains one of the most robust and stable democracies in Europe."

You can read his full lecture on his blog at www.patrickcomerford.com/2016/02/1916-finding-voice-for-church-of-ireland.html



Cllr Maria Byrne and Canon Patrick Comerford before his lecture



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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

From the Registers A large gathering bid farewell in Christ to John St Leger in Christ Church Corbally ; We offer our deepest condolences to Valerie, Mai and David St.Leger on the death of their father and to John's brothers Robert and Joe.

Congratulations to Lester Roe and to Ray Dempsey who accepted awards from Liz Howard at the recent Roscrea Sports Stars Awards Ceremony. Both recipients were representing worthy rugby endeavours and special recognition of some 40 years ago.

Many thanks for all the kind words and good wishes from parishioners and from the wider community on the occasion of Revd. Jane being installed as Canon Treasurer of our joint cathedrals. A truly wonderful Evensong was splendidly offered in worship by the choir in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick in the presence of Bishop Kenneth and Bishop Leahy. Congratulations also to the new Prebendary of Iniscattery and Donoughmore Canon Ruth Gill.

World Day of Prayer Service will have take place in S.Cronan's, Abbey Street on 4th March The theme was 'Receive Children, Receive Me'. Lots of butterflies were part of our contribution to the service which proved to be very colourful.

St.Cronan's National School Our appreciation and thanks to the children who presented worship as part of school assembly this term. The theme was Noah's Ark. Parents and family members came along to church for some great singing and acting, which encouraged our worship. Lent was announced too with a slap up pancake morning with funds raised going to the Dean Maxwell Nursing Home Roscrea.

Holy Week Arrangements are to be confirmed. Presently they are as follows.

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

Tuesday Evening Prayer St.Cronan's Roscrea 8.00p.m.

Wednesday Seder Meal sharing with our Methodist partners to be held in The Mall.

Holy Thursday Holy Communion S.Burchin's Bourney 8.00p.m.

Good Friday Ecumenical Walk to be arranged. Evening Prayer 8.00p.m.

Holy Saturday vigil type service and lighting the Paschal Candle 2016 St.Molua's, Kyle.

Easter Day Services: Christ Church Corbally please note earlier time of 9.15.a.m. Holy Communion

St.Cronan's Roscrea 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion

St.Burchin's Bourney 12.00 noon Holy Communion.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

Joc Sanders led an Ash Wednesday service in St Mary's, Nenagh, with administration of ashes for those who wished it. He has left books at the back of St Mary's which anyone may borrow to read in Lent if they wish – just return them at the back of the church when you've finished for him to retrieve after Easter.

ONE FOR THE BIRDS

Not content with nesting in the trees around St Mary's and the Rectory, birds have been roosting in the tower of St Mary's Church for years. Select Vestry men Norman Hayes and William Jones bravely took on the job of evicting them, properly kitted out with protective clothing. Contrary to expectations they did not find the tower chambers filled with sticks from nests, but with vast quantities of guano and dead birds – the existing netting making the tower rather like a lobster pot – the birds could get in, but not out! It covered the floors to a depth of 18 inches to 2 feet, and they estimate they have removed some 2½ tons of material. A nasty job well done, lads!

Netting has also been installed in the tower of Killodiernan Church, thanks to Caleb Clarke, to prevent our feathered friends from causing problems there. Luckily there are plenty of trees around!

AN END TO WALKING THE PLANK

Whenever there is heavy rain Killodiernan worshippers have to struggle through an ankle-deep puddle to enter the churchyard, with the flood extending over a substantial part of the grounds including some graves. It has been particularly bad this winter, so that people have had to 'walk the plank' to get to church, which is neither nice nor safe. Select Vestry has authorised work to install an effective field drain to solve the problem once and for all when the ground is sufficiently dry, at an estimated cost of around €2,500.



Killodiernan worshippers queue to walk the plank

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Anne McKee, and her sisters, Patricia and Susan, and their families, on the death of their mother, Alice (Peggy) McKee, aged 97. Her funeral service was in Abbey Presbyterian Church, Parnell Square, Dublin, where she worshipped for many years, before moving from Dublin to spend the past few years near Anne in Nenagh. Cremation followed at Mount Jerome. We keep them in our prayers, together with those whom we know that are not well at this time.

RECTORY

The painting is finished and the Rural Dean has been to visit our Rectory which is now ready for a new incumbent. Outdoor works are still in hand as the very wet winter has made it impossible to complete the landscaping. The restoration of the gate piers will be undertaken once all the works are done!

SERVICES FOR MARCH AND HOLY WEEK

- 13th - MP Templederry and Nenagh, HC Killodiernan.
- 20th - Family Palm Sunday service in Nenagh.
- 24th - Maundy Thursday Eucharist at 8pm in Nenagh.
- 25th - Good Friday 12 noon service of prayer and reflection on the Crucifixion in Nenagh.
There will be two ecumenical Walks of Witness on Good Friday: the Nenagh walk at 5pm and the Templederry walk at 6pm.
- 27th - Easter Sunday - 9.30 am HC Templederry, 11 am HC - St Mary's Nenagh and 12.15 HC - Killodiernan

EASTER VESTRY AND A 'PEEP' AT THE RECTORY!

The Easter Vestry will take place on Monday 4th April at 8 pm in St Mary's Church. The Rectory will be open to Parishioners to view from 7.30 pm that evening.

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Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Canon Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
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COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

The date of the cookery demonstration has been changed. Edward Hayden will come to the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, on Thursday 28th April. Tickets at €15 will be available from Borrisokane parishioners. See advert on page 16 for more details.

BAPTISMS

Noah Richard Patrick Foley, infant son of Michael and Melissa (née Austin), Waterford, was baptised in Borrisokane on the 24th January 2016. Lucy, baby daughter of Gary and Karen Hayes, was baptised in Borrisnafarney on the 14th February 2016. Both of these babies have been welcomed into the Christian family and we wish them and their families every blessing for the future. The photo of Saoirse Stanley in last month's Newslink, shows her very happily held in her Aunt Lauren's arms, sister of her mum Gemma.



Lucy with her parents and godparents



Noah with his parents and godparents

GFS

We look forward to welcoming members of the GFS for their annual service which will be conducted by their chaplain, Revd. Canon Jane Galbraith in Cloughjordan on the 12th March.

MOTHERS' UNION

By the times these notes appear, the Fashion Show will have taken place in Moneygall Hall on the 29th February. Look out for people wearing accessories with a difference!

Advance notice that the Festival Service will be held in Cloughjordan on Sunday, 15th May at 4 p.m. when the incoming Diocesan President, Mrs. Lucy Cavanagh, will be commissioned. The special preacher will be the Revd. Canon Liz Beasley, Rector of Adare.

ST KIERAN'S CHURCH

We are very grateful to those who come to supply organ music on Sundays since Pamela Armitage sadly died. Thank you to Betty Powell and June Chadwick for coming so willingly and to John Armitage who has kindly offered to help out too.

METHODIST AND CHURCH OF IRELAND CONGREGATIONS

The united service for both congregations held on the 31st January was a tremendous success with everyone having an opportunity to meet over a cup of tea afterwards. Many thanks to the Revd. Shannon Delaureal for the invitation and to Valerie Stephens who made arrangements with Church of Ireland people. Details of the united service to be held in Cloughjordan will be available in the parish newsletter issued on the 28th February.

PASTORAL

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill or who are going through a rough time. We remember especially Reggie Neill whose lovely wife Marie died suddenly on the 23rd January. Deepest sympathy is extended to Reg and her brother Sean, relatives and friends. Marie's funeral Mass was held SS Peter and Paul's Church, Borrisokane, on Tuesday 26th January.

We also remember in our prayers those who are ill, particularly Bobby Powell and Bob Kelly and those who care for them. May the peace of God which passes all understanding uphold all those who suffer in any way.

LONG TERM CHURCH

We had a very useful time to share thoughts and ideas after the Ash Wednesday service and many thanks to those who attended. Among things suggested is to have a family service, possibly on a regular basis. If you have any ideas you'd like to share please have a word with Ruth. Also if there are any musicians out there (any instrument!) and/or singers, please make yourselves known!

BUSHY PARK NURSING HOME

Thanks to the kind hospitality of the staff, some relatives and friends join in with a services of Holy Communion in the nursing home. These are held once a month on the first Thursday at 3.30 p.m. If you have a relative or friend there, or would like to join us, you will be most welcome.

FACEBOOK

There is a Facebook page online now, Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes. If anyone has photos of interest they'd like to share, please email to the Revd. Ruth.

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

EASTER DAY

There will be celebrations of Holy Communion in all 4 churches at the usual times.

Good Friday: Service in Shinrone at 3pm and Aghancon at 8pm

Holy Thursday: Celebration of Holy Communion in Clover Lodge Nursing Home at 10.30pm Everyone is invited to come to this service. It will be the united service for the whole group.

Please let Reverend Denis know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion this Easter.

General Easter Vestry meetings will be conducted after Easter by Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

BAPTISM

On Saturday 13th February, in Dunkerrin Church, Emily Rose, daughter of David and Christine Grant, Surrounded by family and friends and assisted by Father Joe Kennedy, Emily Rose was baptised by Reverend Janet. We pray the God will greatly bless this child and her parents.



Emily Rose at her baptism

AGHANCON HALL

On Friday January 8th there was a 'Mens Night Out' in Aghancon Hall Over 70 men enjoyed a lovely meal and were entertained with singing and storytelling. This evening was made possible by an Offaly Isolation Grant It is hoped that this will become an annual event. The catering is done by local ladies and men! There will be a Whist Drive in Aghancon Hall on St Patrick's Day Night.

The Diocesan Board of Mission held a very interesting and thought provoking meeting recently in Tralee. The next meeting will be in CloughJordan Parish Centre on Wednesday the 6th April at 8pm. This meeting is open to everyone of any denomination or none. It will be on the subject Mission from a Methodist perspective. It promises to be a very interesting evening. Please try to be there and bring a friend, if you have an interest in Mission, either at home or abroad.

SHINRONE SALE - SATURDAY, 11TH JUNE 2016

There will be some changes, but mostly the 'usual' - Raffle tickets will be on sale shortly. Prizes have generously been donated, and €500 will again be donated to the Special Care Room in Sandymount Community Care Unit, Birr; Dog Show and we are grateful to all 'our friends of the parish' - especially Joe Bergin, John Brown and Lorraine Malone who were at the meeting, and whose excellent ideas are much appreciated.

What we really need is more people to help on the day. Please tell everyone and let's all get involved. We need all the 'Friends' we can find.

Congratulations to Joe and Berna Dempsey on becoming grandparents for the first time, and they've done it in style as Robert and Jane became the proud parents of twin girls, Bella and Layla on the 9th February!

BEREAVEMENT

Our sympathy to Orla Stanley on the death of her father, Jim O'Donnell in Galway.

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or who have been bereaved.

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HOLY WEEK takes on a fresh format this year of 2016. It seemed to the Rector an inspired moment to pick up the theme of the Jubilee of Mercy instigated by Pope Francis and thus share with our wider neighbours the essence of the Passion of our Lord.

In a specially written prayer for the Year of Mercy, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, "with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind." The text of the prayer follows:

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;

the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;

made Peter weep after his betrayal,

and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

"If you knew the gift of God!".....

.....You are the visible face of the invisible Father,

of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified."

Accordingly, on Holy Thursday, traditionally the re-enacting of the Foot Washing by Jesus, in St Columba's we will have an ecumenical act of reconciliation with footwashing between selected leaders representing the "divisions" within our community life.

Likely, this event will be preceded by a walk of solidarity, reconciliation and witness within the centre of Ennis. A key aspect of the symbolic rapport between neighbours will be that between Christian and Moslem, settled and refugee, townsperson and traveller. Please pray for this event.

Holy Week will also consist of early morning (8.15am) Readings from the Passion by local school principals and teachers. (Mon-Thursday). Good Friday : Words from the Cross (Noon, St Columba's); 7.30pm Kilnasoolagh.

EASTER SUNDAY: 10.00am HC Drumcliffe; 11.30am HC Kilnasoolagh; 10.00am (Please note change of times.)

CONFIRMATION

We pray blessings on brothers Cathal and Cormac Brown from Quinn as they link in with the Limerick City Parish students preparing for Confirmation on Trinity Sunday 22nd May 2016 in St Mary's Cathedral. Parents are Derek and Maria.

BEREAVEMENT

The Rev Dr Patricia McKee Hanna wishes to thank all who shared their condolence on the death of her mother Peggy, aged 97. Peggy had been in a nursing home in Nenagh close to her second daughter Ann McKee Walshe for the past five years. An active member of Abbey Church, Parnell Square, Dublin, her funeral service took place from there with the cremation ceremony at Mt Jerome.



The rector realised that deciphering and trying to make sense of esoteric texts was still an important part of the job

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

On Saturday 6th February Bishop Kenneth led a memorial service for Canon George Flynn in St John's Ballinasloe. It was a poignant opportunity for us all to celebrate Reverend George's life, to give thanks for the remarkable contribution that his ministry made to the lives of the people of Aughrim and Ballinasloe, to name the loss and grief that we share, and to affirm our continuing love and support for Gwyn and the family. We are deeply grateful to the guest preacher, Father Bernie Costello, and to Gwyn Cooper-Flynn for their eloquent addresses. During the service the bishop dedicated two burse and veil sets in memory of Canon Flynn. The children of The Glebe National School presented a collage of photographs of their late rector and the parish presented flowers and a sundial for the family's remembrance garden in Castletown. A lunch reception followed the service in Gullane's Hotel.



Bishop Kenneth & Father Bernie Costello with the family of Canon George Flynn

In an open letter to the parish on February 9th, Gwyn wrote:

'Dear Friends,

I will forever treasure the time George and I spent among you: you are all part of the extended family George tried to promote. I count myself lucky, as I know George did, to share some wonderful, some sad, but mainly happy times with you all ... I have been truly humbled by the love I have received from people over the last 16 months ... I appreciate so many of you taking time out of your busy lives to attend the (memorial) service ...

God Bless and much love

Gwyn'

As a parish family we marked the anniversaries of May, Michael and Richard Cruise on Jan 24th in St John's Ballinasloe. The guest preacher was Reverend Michael Godfrey, preaching for his son for the first time. Our deepest sympathies are with the family of Marjorie Salter on the death of her brother Douglas on February 9th.

We wish every blessing to Principal of the Glebe National School, Mrs Lisa Fenton, as she prepares to take her maternity leave on February 25th. Best wishes go to Mrs Orla Delaney who will be covering in Lisa's absence. The School Open Day takes place on March 2nd, 5-7pm.

On January 31st, St Catherine's Ahascragh hosted a united family service for the feast of Candlemas. Many thanks to all who decorated the church so lovingly and for all the young people who lit up our worship.

The rector helped to lead an ecumenical Children's Remembrance Service in Portiuncula Hospital on February 1st – a deeply moving occasion.

On February 18th, Ballydugan House hosted a talk by Sean O'Cluaid on St Paul's travels in Ehesus and Athens – with thanks to Claire Besnyoe.

Classes are now underway in preparation for our confirmation service on April 10th.

Congratulations to Bertie Walshe and Kitty Sides who celebrated their 96th and 94th birthdays respectively in February.

St John's Ballinasloe hosted this year's World Day of Prayer service on March 3rd



Glebe School visit to Holy Trinity Church on Feb 4th



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

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday January 31st in St Paul's Banagher Siobhán Julia Delahunt was baptised. Siobhán is the daughter of Alan and Janice Delahunt who are residents in Orlando, Florida. The godparents were Ivan Delahunt and Yanira Ramirez. Siobhán grandparents are Mr & Mrs Edward Delahunt of the parish of St Paul's, Banagher. We welcome most warmly Siobhán into the Christian faith.

VISIT OF BISHOP KENNETH

The Select Vestries of the parishes in the Group very much appreciated the visit of Bishop Kenneth.

It was an opportunity for the Bishop to hear the concerns of the parish 'going forward' and for the vestries to hear of the possibilities ahead of them. Whilst there are many financial concerns in both the society at large and the Church of Ireland nonetheless the message of persevering strongly in the faith as we 'strengthen the things that remain' was the conviction of many who attended the meeting.

ST GOBNAIT'S DAY (February 11th). St Gobnait, the Patron saint of honeybees, gave an opportunity to hear from some parishioners of the importance of these pollinators, and indeed all pollinators for our environment. In particular we were asked to consider the importance of our hedgerows and road sides for the health of all pollinators and indeed of our health too. "Please do not cut the roadsides during the insect foraging season, allow the growth of wild flowers, and be very careful and discriminating with the use of herbicides" was the message.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY Portumna at 10am (Please note this earlier time as the Service will be slightly longer than usual) Banagher at 12noon.

WEDNESDAY Eliza Lodge Parish Communion at 11am

MAUNDY THURSDAY Eyrecourt at 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY Banagher at 11am

SATURDAY Portumna Vigil Service at 7pm (1st Eucharist of Easter)

EASTER DAY Holy Eucharists Eyrecourt at 10.30. Banagher at 12noon

CANONS

We extend our very best wishes, appropriate congratulations and delight that both Rev Ruth Gill and the Rev Jane Galbraith are now both Canons of our Cathedrals' Chapter.

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 (on sick leave)

BEREAVEMENTS

05 February – Trevor Morrow – our deepest sympathy to his son, Keith, daughter-in-law Sheelagh, his daughters Lesley and Helga and his grandsons, Glenn, Rowan, Calum and Craig together with the extended family and friends.

29 January – Betty Chambers – our deepest sympathy to her husband, The Rev'd Canon George Chambers, son George and daughters Anne and Mary, their families and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Kavanagh, son of Joe and Lucy Kavanagh, and Deirdre Mullally who were married on February 5th in The Church of the Assumption, New Ross. Very best wishes to David and Deirdre for lots of happiness and a future enriched by God's blessing.



Kavanagh Mullally wedding

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967

FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

A Quiet Day in St Mary's Cathedral on 6th February was offered by Dean Sandra as a preparation for Lent. Scripture and the following reflections were based on scriptural texts focussing on the mother of Jesus - her call and obedience, her hope and trust over the years, the vigil at the foot of the Cross, and the ascension and our call to mission. Copies of icons were placed in the O'Brien Chapel to aid prayer and reflection. There were also some images of Mary placed on the High Altar, dedicated to her, which added to the atmosphere of calm and tranquillity. The sense of peace and quiet in the cathedral was a rare experience given the usual bustle and noise. Lunch was shared in the Consistorial Court, and the final reflection led into a short but dignified celebration of the Holy Communion at the High Altar.

SPECIAL PALM SUNDAY CONCERT

We are pleased to be able to begin Holy Week in some style this year at St Mary's Cathedral with a special concert of sacred music taking place on the afternoon of Sunday 20th March (Palm Sunday) at 5pm. We are privileged and delighted to be welcoming celebrated choral director Mark Duley and the Collegium Chamber Choir from Galway. Please see the advert on page 16. The centrepiece of the programme will be Kenneth Leighton's stunning cantata 'Crucifixus pro nobis' for tenor soloist, choir and organ. It is a moving and spine-tingling meditation on the Passion of our Lord. Admission is free, with retiring collection to help defray the costs of this event.

THREE HOURS DEVOTION ON GOOD FRIDAY TO BE LED BY BISHOP KENNETH

We are very fortunate that Bishop Kenneth will be leading the Three Hours Devotion in St Mary's Cathedral on Good Friday, 25th of March, at 12 noon. Whether you have been to this meditation in word, music and silence in previous years or not, it is definitely worth making a note of it now in your diaries, and making a point of being there on Good Friday. By tradition, the Cathedral choir sings appropriate sacred music during the last hour (2 to 3pm - Liturgy of the Cross).

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

By the time this reaches the pew, the World Day of Prayer will be over but services were held in Villiers Square on Thursday 3rd March, and in the Parish Room of the Holy Rosary Church, Ennis Road on Friday 4th. The speaker at this service was Helen Culhane, Children's Grief Project. The service this year was prepared by the Christian women of Cuba and the theme was "Receive Children, Receive Me".

WHIST DRIVES - Villiers Square - Saturday 12th March all at 7.30pm .

The last Whist Drive took place in St. Michael's on Saturday 5th of March and we will be back on the 8th of October.

CONFIRMATION 2016 will take place in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 22nd of May at 10.30am. Please contact the Dean for information and for an application form.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock Et Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

Lent has begun, so soon this year, as we all know. Here in our Group, we are well into the season, with some changes in our Sunday worship and with a Lenten class on images of God's salvation that appear in the Bible and reflecting on how they appear in our own lives.

The Sunday for the celebration of the Presentation of Christ was a good day, with two special services that day. In the morning, we celebrated the baptism of Daniel Leddin, the infant son of Barry and Hazel Leddin,

at the church in Adare. Daniel's family, many of whom attend various parishes in our Group, joined together in Adare for the momentous event.

In the evening, we celebrated with Evensong in Kilpeacon Church. The service was part of an effort to have evening services for all the parishes in the group on fifth Sundays. It was not your traditional Evensong service, as several commented on their way out. Because the Presentation of Christ is also called Candlemas, people of different ages lit candles and thanked God for the light given to us in so many ways. We read the Gospel in parts, and for our statement of faith, we sang the hymn "In Christ Alone."



Daniel at his baptism

And now we look ahead to Mothering Sunday, with a special service in Kilmallock, and then Holy Week later in the month.

We will have a special guest for our Maundy Thursday service on 24 March, in Adare, with the Rev. Harold Good being our guest preacher. Rev. Good is a prominent Methodist clergyman who played an important role in the peace process in Northern Ireland. He will be in Adare to fill in at the Methodist Church for Holy Week and Easter. We look forward to welcoming him to St. Nicholas Church.

Because of where Holy Week falls in the month and our normal schedule for Easter services, we are changing the typical service schedule for the last two Sundays in March (Palm Sunday and Easter).

Palm Sunday (a 3rd Sunday) will have Holy Communion in Kilmallock and Adare, and Morning Prayer in Croom and Kilpeacon.

The most important Christian service of the year, the Easter Vigil, will be held in Kilmallock on Saturday evening, 26 March, beginning at 8.00pm. We will light the new fire, hear of God's saving works in history, renew baptismal vows, proclaim the resurrection of Christ, and receive Holy Communion.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

(Holy Communion unless otherwise specified):

Croom: 8.45am

Kilpeacon: 10.15am

Adare: 12.15pm

Kilmallock, Morning Prayer, 10.00am

And note that the clocks go forward an hour in the middle of the night!

For Holy Week itself, plans are still being put in place, but right now the plan is to repeat the schedule from last year.

Mon, 21 Mar, 8.00pm: Tenebrae Service, Croom

Tues, 22 Mar, 8.00pm: Taize service, Kilmallock

Wed, 23 Mar, 8.00pm: Agape Supper, Kilpeacon

Thurs, 24 Mar, 8.00pm: Maundy Thursday, Adare

Fri, 25 Mar:

Family Service, Kilpeacon, 10.00am

Kilmallock, 12.00pm

Adare, 3.00pm

In case of changes, please check the Group website: www.adarekilmallock.org/events/.

A blessed Lent and Easter to all.

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

Our sympathies go to the family of Liz Shannon who recently died at her home in Bantry. Liz was a good friend to our parishes and she will be missed by many of us.

Our parishioners seem to have gone in for grandchildren in the last few weeks. Congratulations to Norah Fitzgerald on the arrival of two new grandchildren, to Anne and Ralph Drew on the arrival of one granddaughter and to Simon and Hilary White on their new grandson. Just to add to the fun we will be back at the baptismal font in April to welcome Jonathan Langford, son of Andrew and Carol. Watch this space.

Congratulations are due to Rayelene Downes who obtained her Diploma in Legal studies recently.

By the time you get to read this it will be March and Easter will be galloping up on us so here are our Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter services:

Holy Week

Tuesday March 21 Evening Prayer 8:00 p.m. Tarbert

Wednesday March 22 Evening Prayer 8:00 p.m. Castletown

Thursday March 23 Holy Communion 8:00 p.m. Askeaton

Friday March 24 Good Friday Walking the Way of the Cross followed by short service: Rathkeale starting at the Grotto. Time to be confirmed

Saturday March 25 10:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Light/Eucharist Castletown

Sunday March 26 9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Rathkeale 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Askeaton, 12: noon St. Brendan's Tarbert.

We will be holding the Easter General Vestries after Easter as follows, Askeaton and Castletown Tuesday 12th April, Tarbert Wednesday 13th April and Rathkeale on Thursday 14th April.

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

Each Wednesday throughout Lent there will be a service of Holy Communion in Tralee at 11am, a service in Ballymac' at 8pm, and a time of reflection in Kilgobbin at 7pm.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 20th. Family Communion Ballyseedy at 9.45am, in Tralee at 10.45 and Ballmac' at 12noon. Kilgobbin at 10am and St James Dingle at 12noon.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Service in Ballyseedy at 8pm. Tralee and Camp as above.

Maundy Thursday. Diocesan Chrism and Renewal of Ordination Vows in Tralee at 11am. No evening service.

Good Friday Tralee 2pm. Kilgobbin 2pm. Ballymacelligott 8pm.

Holy Saturday Ballyseedy 7pm Easter Eve Vigil.

Easter Day. Family Communion Tralee 10.45am. Ballymac 12noon.

Kilgobbin 10am, Dingle 12 noon.

VESTRY NEWS

At this time of year clergy are often busy making applications for grants to assist with the cost of works to various church buildings. There are very few grants available at present, the Kerry County Council Heritage Grants are very much reduced this year, thankfully Ballymac' has been very fortunate and has been offered some financial assistance with the cost of re-slating the exterior of the South wall of the church. Whilst this may not seem to be the most urgent of issues with the building, our architects have again assured us that this problem needs to be addressed before anything else, to keep water out and also for safety reasons. The expected funding will bring less than half of the overall cost of €13,000 which leaves quite a shortfall.

In 2014 major work was undertaken on the tower of St John the Evangelist Tralee, water ingress has been a problem for many years, and the damage to plaster and mouldings in the Chancel below is quite extensive. A close eye has been kept on the area over the past two years, and whilst a little water ingress was noticed last Autumn, it turned out to be a minor problem and has since been rectified.

Sometime ago, the Vestry decided that at the end of this winter if the area was still dry, an inspection would be carried out with a view to re-decorating the Eastern Chancel and restoring some of the plaster work and tiles. Obviously it would be fool-hardy to begin restoration if there was any sign of water, but despite the severe wind and rain of the past few weeks the building remains dry. Thank you again to the benefactors who made the Impervu Treatment of the tower possible. It has made a tremendous difference to the condition of the stone.

Our next task is to raise funding for the re-decoration, it will not be hugely expensive, but with carpeting and attention to furnishing and restoration of the tiles which form part of a Denny family memorial—it could come to around €6,000. The Denny family have agreed to make a contribution toward costs.



Renewal of vows on St Valentine's Day

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

WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS:

It really has been a long wet Winter with opportunities for outdoor exercise very limited indeed. However, in the immortal words of Percy Bysshe Shelley – who, coincidentally spent three weeks in the Killarney

wilderness – If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? Well, we hope not and with that in mind we're planning our annual "Wilderness Walk" for late March or early April (see photo from last year below). The concept of wilderness as an entity which still exists in Ireland today is alien to many in our modern technological society, but this is a misconception. Robert Macfarlane reminds us in his wonderful tome *The Wild Places* that now, more than ever, we need to connect with wild places to understand our place in nature and how vulnerable it really is. The walk will cover a myriad of ecosystems including woodland, open moor and riverbank and the native flora and fauna will be explained as we move.



Eadie and West Clan on last year's Wilderness Walk

We will also reminisce on why Jesus chose to fast for 40 days on Mount Quarantania before His encounter with the Devil as outlined in the Gospel of Sunday 14th February. Indeed there are other examples of visiting the wilderness and fasting in the Bible when we think of Elijah and Moses for example. So wilderness and being in it, even for a short time, enhances our spirituality and is an important preparation for all of us for what's to come in our lives.

The chosen destination this year is Cloghfunne Upper – don't bother looking for it on a map – and the walk will be off-road, off-track, off-everything in fact, and is suitable for adults with a reasonable level of fitness. It is definitely unsuitable for pre-teens, so please keep that in mind. If parishioners from other parts of the diocese wish to be informed of the finalised date with a view to joining us in this 4 hour excursion contact Mike O'Sullivan @ 087 6862832.

THE RAILINGS:

Done and dusted at long last! Readers of Newslink will be delighted to note that the work has been completed and the end result looks stunning. Everyone involved should be rightly proud of their efforts and the support of the wider Killarney community has humbled us – thank you all. Unfortunately we are still a little off budget so any donations – however small – will still be gratefully received by Rev. Simon.

CONCERTS & MUCKROSS VENTURE CENTRE:

So we move from one perennial to another; or should that be a hardy annual? Either way, the concert season is almost upon us and the Chair of the Ard Chomhairle, Andrew Eadie, has issued a proclamation that as many as possible attend the organising meeting on February 26th, which was followed hot-on-the-heels by a meeting of Muckross Youth Venture Centre on the 29th.

CONCERTS FOR MARCH:

March 1st	St. Anselm Choir
March 8th	Radford University Concert Band and Ensemble
March 9th	Monmouth College Band
March 14th	Newsome High School and University of Southern Iowa
March 19th	Lyons Township Illinois Massed Choir
March 22nd	Hiliard – Darby Symphonic Choir
March 29th	Shotime Productions Choir, Livinia, Michigan

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 1 st & 3 rd

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation preparation began with a meeting and service for the children and their parents on Sunday the 6th of Feb.

Classes are continuing every Saturday morning in St Michael's Church. The candidates will be involved in the Mothers' Day service in Killorglin on the 6th of March.

Our candidates are: Avril Murphy, Ciara Byrne, Charlotte Orme, Clara Wharton, Isabel Stephens, Kate Moroney, Katie Boyle, Natasha Griffin and Sarah Flaherty.

BAPTISM

Luke Arthur Sean Healy was baptised in St Carthage's Church , Kiltallagh, Castlemaine on Sunday the 14th Of February. Luke is the son of Nicola(Stephens) and Colm Healy who reside in Dublin.



Nicola, Luke and Colm Healy, Georgina Stephens and the Rev Jim Stephens



Hazel and Ger Daly with their son Denis after his baptism in St Michaels Killorglin, with Godparents Linda Meara and Adrian Boyle Et Grandparents George and Muriel Boyle

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

As I mentioned in last month's notes we had two services planned, The first was a schools service with the children of Kiltallagh and Ballyfinane National Schools, Fr Luke Roche PP and the Rev Jim Stephens led the service. It was wonderful to see the two schools come together and great credit is due to the school principals, Paula Ní Briain and Clare Foley who organised the service. It was followed by tea and goodies in Kiltallagh.

The second service was the area service and it was hosted by the Church of Ireland in St Michael's, Killorglin. The Rev. Simon Lumby from Killarney preached the homily. It was a very positive occasion and it was wonderful to see so many parishioners present. Many thanks to those who very generously provided the tea after the service. One of our

parishioners, Inara from Latvia prepared a traditional Latvian tray bake in honour of the occasion.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Ash Wednesday service was held in Kiltallagh Church at 12.30 and it was led by the pupils of Kiltallagh National School, many thanks to the teachers and staff who prepared the children so well.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to David and Katie O Neill on the birth of their second son Jerry, a brother for Charlie.

Congratulations to Hazel Prendergast nee O Neill and her husband Michael on the birth of their Son Darragh.

These two boys are the 13th and 14th Granchildren to Merry O Neill of Killeenifinnane, Castlemaine. She is now the proud grandmother of twelve grandsons and two granddaughters.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Peter Evans and Pauline Dobbins who were married in Killarney on the 11th of February. They plan to have a service of blessing with friends in St Michael's Killorglin later in the spring.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Communion in Kiltallagh on Maundy Thursday evening at 7.30pm
Tenebrae in Killorglin at Sundown on Good Friday. Time to be announced.
Easter day services at the usual times on Easter Sunday.

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



Bill Topham

It is with great sadness we have to report the loss of our Glebeward and friend Bill Topham in a boating accident on the last day of January. Bill was a hugely respected and loved member of the church community of St Patrick and the wider Kenmare area, as evidenced by the 4,000 plus people who queued in the rain to sympathise with Bill's wife Geraldine, daughters Helen, Sarah and Rachel, sisters Jane and Elizabeth and brother Harry and their families as he lay in repose. At the funeral, St Patrick's

was filled to overflowing with a congregation of some 400, with at least 200 more people standing outside the church in terrible weather just to be part of the farewell service relayed into the Car Park. Among many, the most moving tribute was that given by Bill's youngest daughter Rachel, who spoke with great eloquence in a loving, personal – at times both humorous and poignant – testimony to her father. On behalf of Geraldine, the family, and the wider community, our thanks go out to all who turned up to help with the search for Bill; special mention must be made of the professionalism of the emergency services, especially the Coastguard.

It was therefore especially appropriate that on the following Sunday, we welcomed a young man named Alex Ellis-Roswell to our church services; Alex is currently half way through a walk around the coast of England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, a trek of around 6,000 miles, in support of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He has been walking

now for two years, with another two years to go before he completes his project. If you live anywhere on the coast, please look out for him – a bed and/ or meal for the night would be much appreciated. You can follow his journey on Facebook: www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell, and should you wish to donate, you can do so via www.bt.com/longwalkround



Alex and lifeboat

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Vacant

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.

Editor: As we go to press, we have just learned that Rev Bill Olmsted had died. The Newlink team extend our prayers and sympathy to his family in the USA, and to the circuit, for his loss. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rev. Shannon DeLaureal is Acting Superintendent for Adare and Ballingrane. She is the superintendent minister on the North Tipperary circuit, and as well as general responsibility for our circuit, is also available for emergencies. Her address is: The Manse, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Telephone: 0505 21670
E-mail: shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

We are very appreciative of the ministers and local preachers who have come to take services each week and of Rev. Shannon's oversight.

We give thanks for the life of Mrs Nan Ruttle who died on 14 February, aged 98, and we remember in prayer her family. The funeral services in Ballingrane were conducted by Rev. Shannon DeLaureal and Rev. Tom Kingston.

World Day of Prayer, Friday, 4 March Holy Trinity Church, Adare – 10.30 a.m.

Enniscouch Sheltered Housing Community Room, Rathkeale at 8.00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Harold Good, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland will be with us for Holy Week and Easter Day and will lead our services.

Services for March:

- 6 March Rev. Shannon DeLaureal Adare 10.15 a.m.
Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.
Holy Communion at both services
- 13 March Rev. Tom Kingston
Visit of the President of Methodist Church in Ireland – Rev. Brian Anderson
United circuit service in Ballingrane at 11.00 a.m.
United circuit service in Adare at 7.30 p.m.
- 20 March Preacher to be confirmed Adare 10.15 a.m.
Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.
- Wednesday, 23 March, Rev. Dr. Harold Good Adare 8 p.m.
Good Friday, 25 March, Rev. Dr. Harold Good Ballingrane 8 p.m.
27 March EASTER DAY, Rev. Dr. Harold Good United circuit service
in Adare at 11.00 a.m. with Holy Communion

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

METHODIST WORLD MISSION DAY CONFERENCE

*Brian Park reports on the Conference held at Mitchelstown Co, Cork
on Saturday 20th February 2016.*

This was a most interesting and topical one day conference organised by the Methodist Midlands and Southern District. The purpose of the day was to look at Global Issues that are affecting the Church. There was a very good attendance – in fact the room was filled almost to capacity! The format was a series of talks and presentations that addressed a number of different issues. The day opened with welcome and short period of worship; this was led by Rev. Sahr Yambasu

The first presentation entitled "Islam and Muslims" was most interesting. It was led by Imam Abdul Raheen McCarthy who was based in Cork but now lives in Waterford. He was highly articulate and clear in his presentation. He explained the "Five Pillars of Islam" and then went on to talk about the "Six Pillars of Belief". After his presentation there was a time for questions. These ranged from the difference between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, Sharia law, the threat posed by ISIS, and the possible infiltration of militant Islamic Fundamentalists as part of the arrival of Muslim refugees into Ireland. The questions were, I thought, most relevant and the Imam answered them very clearly. He was supported by three other Muslim men.

The next presentation was from Olunmi Olayisade who is based in the UK and focuses on partner churches in Africa. She spoke briefly and then played a long video about Eritrean Refugees who were attempting to travel to Israel where they hoped to build a new life. While crossing the Sinai Peninsula, en route to Israel, a number of them had been captured by Bedouin tribesmen who had tortured and abused them. This was a particularly disturbing video and described how in some instances the only means of escape for these people was to pay a ransom to the tribesmen often between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per person.

After lunch, we had a presentation from Tiffy Allen of the "City of Sanctuary" movement. She described how progress is being made in a

number of different centres to welcome immigrants into Ireland; there was a particular focus on the work that is being done in Waterford. This was an interesting and lively session.

The final presentation was given by Roger McKay of Frontiers Ireland. Roger explained the work of Frontiers Ireland and in particular the work they are doing to bring the Christian message to Muslim peoples who would otherwise have no exposure to the story of Jesus and the message of the Gospel. It was very encouraging to hear of the progress that is being made by Frontiers Ireland and in particular the dramatic growth in the number of Muslims who are converting to Christianity.

All in all I thought it was a most interesting day and congratulations to all those who made it such a success.

PARENTS & PRESCHOOLERS GROUP

One of the jolliest mornings very week in Christ Church is Tuesday. Our parents and preschoolers group has grown over the last couple of years with parents from many different countries joining in the fun with their children. For the next few weeks we're delighted to have Michelle with us on placement from the Mary Immaculate teacher training course. You can see her in the photo accompanying Jumoke and the group in a rendition of – you guessed it – the Wheels on the Bus!



The wheels on the bus go round and round...

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Karen Spence
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Suzie Gallagher
Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team: Ed and Jean Ritchie
Tel: 064 6620580

The Gateway KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee)
Bible study Tuesday 8pm and Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am
Youth Club second and fourth Saturday 7pm – 8.30pm

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm
Drop in Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm

KILLARNEY
Sunday services 9am and 11am
Prayer meetings Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 9am
Lent Bible study Wednesday 7.30pm
Bible Study Friday 10am
Drop in for coffee Friday 11am
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
Youth Meeting Friday 8pm
The Giving Space monthly as arranged Saturday 3pm – 5pm

There are also fellowship groups in Dingle, Castleisland, Gneeveguilla and Ballybunion contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

The Lighthouse in Millstreet has been a collecting point for clothing for Help for Humans Ireland as they travelled to Greece to meet the needs of migrants seeking shelter. Those who went will be speaking in the Lighthouse in February. The ministry of the Lighthouse continues to develop with a drop in every Thursday morning where people can have coffee and a chat, explore the wonderful bookshop, pick up a bargain and can leave prayer requests or receive prayer if they wish. The congregation are looking forward to celebrating St Patrick's Day by being a presence in the town serving tea and coffee!

At the start of this year the congregation in Kenmare decided to meet more regularly for prayer on a Wednesday morning at 9.15 before the Bible study. The early start did not put people off and the room is regularly packed with intercessors and this time has become such a blessing to individuals and to the community. The Lent bible study has also proved to be a wonderful time of discussion, reflection and study that leads to action!

In Killarney plans are well in hand for the St Patrick's Day celebration including a couple of bouncy castles, some music and testimonies and free tea and coffee. The Giving Space which is a monthly group primarily for children has continued to grow, with the children enjoying a variety of craft making activities, learning about Jesus and eating food!

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 Sunday's

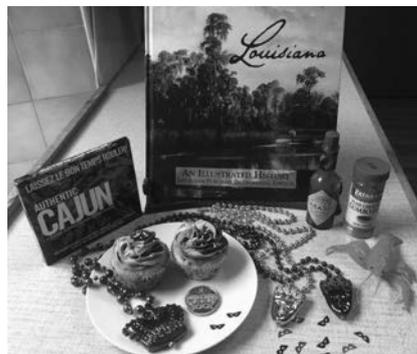
10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sunday's

11:45am – Roscrea

7:00pm – Shinrone

A good night was had by all in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall as 60+ members gathered for food and fellowship on a Friday night in February. The theme was a Louisiana Mardi Gras and everyone received a coloured necklace (called Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday" beads) to wear as they walked through the door. In true Mardi Gras fashion, even the men wore the beads! Doug DeLaureal, my husband, gave an excellent history lesson (yes, I am biased!) about the migration of the French Acadians or Cajuns to Louisiana. There was a power point slide show that showed scenes of Mardi Gras in New Orleans as well as other outdoor scenes of Louisiana and the French-influenced culture.

The highlight of the night was the food. Chicken & sausage gumbo (a thick Cajun soup with rice) and red beans & rice were the main entrées. American chicken salad sandwiches along with other "regular" Irish sandwiches were served. Dessert included King Cake cupcakes, King Cake cream cheese bars, peanut butter cookies, and praline bark. These were all a huge hit. King cakes are a



Louisiana Mardi Gras tradition which symbolizes the three wise men that found and worshiped the baby Jesus. Cajun music was playing in the background in the hall but I don't think anyone heard it . . . the chatter and the laughter drowned out the music, which was a good sign that folks were enjoying each other. Enjoying meals together with friends and family is a Cajun tradition.

Jesus thought it was important for people to gather in fellowship and to break bread. He did that often with his disciples, with religious leaders, with friends and also with folks who were not considered valuable members of society. In all of these situations, he shared himself . . . his thoughts, feelings, and wisdom about God's nature and kingdom. He taught lessons, shared friendship, and even debated religious truths over a meal. He instituted a new covenant during his Last Supper . . . "this bread is my body, broken for you. This cup of wine is my blood shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." As I reflect on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, I am reminded how much Christ gave of himself . . . and how he continues to do that when we break bread with one another. As we gather in the weeks to come, may we have eyes to see and ears to hear that he is with us, transforming us, renewing us, and empowering us to rejoice in his resurrection and to be his witnesses in a world that desperately needs him.

Faithfully,

~ Rev. Shannon

ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB – This secondary school-aged youth club will meet next for an all night barn party! 16th March from 9pm-9am in Shinrone. Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

SPRING SYNOD – This district meeting will take place on Saturday 19th March in Bandon Methodist Church. The representative sessions begins at 2pm with a celebration of Holy Communion. If you are a member of a synod committee please note the meeting times: Property: 11.30 – 12 noon Home missions: 12 – 1.00pm

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Sunday 20 March 7pm – President of MCI, Rev. B. Anderson, preaching in Borrisokane Methodist

Wednesday 23 March 7pm – Seder Meal with Col in Roscrea Methodist
Thursday 24 March 8pm – Holy Communion Service with Col in Cloughjordan Methodist with Community Choir singing.

Friday 25 March 8pm – Tenebrae Service in Shinrone Methodist

EUROPEAN SUMMERTIME BEGINS!

DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE CLOCKS – SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT, 26 MARCH 2016.

EASTER SUNDAY:

Borrisokane 10am – Rev. Tom Kingston: Service with Holy Communion
Cloughjordan 10:15am – Rev. S. DeLaureal: Service with Holy Communion

Roscrea 11:45am – Rev. S. DeLaureal: Service with Holy Communion

Shinrone 7pm – Mr. John Armitage: Service of Easter Praise

CIRCUIT BIBLE-STUDIES:

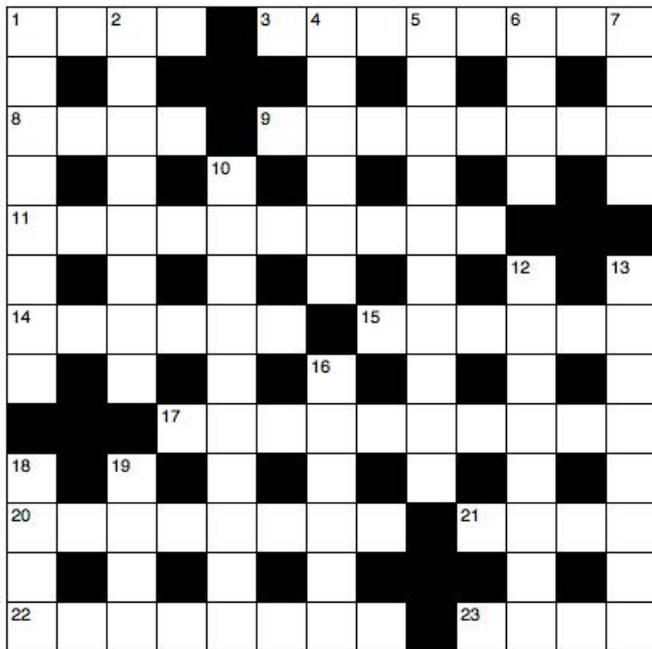
Borrisokane/Cloughjordan – Group meets on Mondays at 7:30pm in Borrisokane vestry. Theme is the Book of Galatians.

Roscrea – Group meets on Thursdays at 8pm in the vestry. Theme will be on "Pilgrimage."

Everyone is welcome to these studies. Bring a friend!

Prize Crossword

We are offering a prize of €25 for the 1st correct answer drawn from the Editor's hat – entries should be returned to Joc Sanders, Turravagaun, Dromineer, Co. Tipperary by Friday 18th March.



Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on – –' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill – be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his – – is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that – , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, – of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and – to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' – – , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas – (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' – – of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was – – of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be – Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)



Children's Corner

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Madatum novum da vobis'

– a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

Then comes Good Friday – a lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

HOT CROSS BUNS

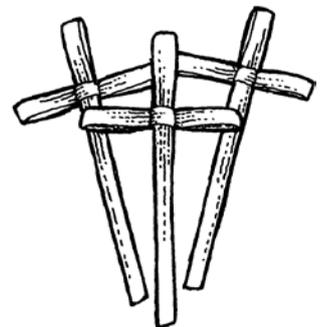
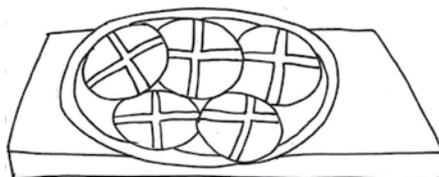
One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words

H O T C R O S S B U N S

Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



1. What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?
 2. Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter?
1. A hot cross bunny.
2. He didn't have the hare fare.

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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

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