



NEWSLINK

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

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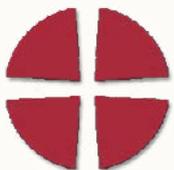
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Raising the Flag on Proclamation Day

with the pupils of St Michael's National School, Limerick City





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www.kingshospital.ie

Bishop Kenneth writes

DIOCESAN REVIEW

At a recent meeting our Diocesan Council warmly supported my proposal that we invite two experienced clergy from outside the diocese to review our common life in order "to ensure that our patterns of parochial life and our diocesan structures are relevant to the 21st century and fitted for the next phase of our life together." It was agreed that we invite Archdeacon Gordon Linney and Canon Cecil Hyland to get to know us for a period, question and seek to understand us and our challenges, and make recommendations for the future.

In conversation with them, they have decided that each will visit about four parishes each, meet lay people and clergy in these parishes and participate in services on one Sunday. They also hope to attend Diocesan Synod in June and may attend a meeting of Diocesan Council.

We all know the challenges we face – numbers, finance, and large distances. But we also have great resources – a very positive and committed laity and a great team of clergy, a united diocese with one Synod, Council and Finance Committee, strong community links and support, and growing ecumenical co-operation. It is on their strong foundations we will build for the future. During this period of review please pray for our Diocese, Archdeacon Linney and Canon Hyland. I suggest we use the following prayer:

*"God the Holy Spirit, come in power and bring new life to the Church; renew us in love and service, and enable us to be faithful to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."
(BCP p.149)*

COMMISSION ON EPISCOPAL MINISTRY & STRUCTURES

Two years ago, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland resolved to set up a Commission on Episcopal Ministry in the whole church. There

were a number of concerns – one was the way bishops are elected. While the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe has always been able to elect its bishop, other dioceses are finding this increasingly difficult. When an Electoral College for a vacant diocese fails to elect a bishop, it falls to the House of Bishops to choose a bishop, and the bishops are unhappy with this situation also. So the Commission will be recommending changes to the way we elect bishops.



Of much more immediate importance is the fact that the Commission is also looking at Diocesan boundaries, especially in the numerically smaller dioceses in the Republic, and our diocese is one of those under consideration. Our Diocesan Council has been engaged with this process all along, and will meet in early April to consider the latest set of proposals. Throughout, the Diocesan Council has insisted that we remain together as a united diocese, while being open to the possibility of boundary changes outside our current diocese. Proposals will come before this year's General Synod in May, and we'll try to keep you informed.

With all good wishes
Sincerely,
+Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
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Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

Diocesan Calendar

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

Thu 7th April, 7.30pm Diocesan Council, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

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

Sat 16th April, 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Dining Room, Basement, Richard Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City (2nd level)

Tue 19th April, 8pm GFS Diocesan Council, Roscrea

Sat 23rd April, 10am–4.30pm Long Term Church Working Group conference: How to have a Welcoming Church, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City

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

Thu 12th–Sat 14th May General Synod, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire

Wed 18th May, 2–5pm Spiritual Tourism Conference, Birr Castle, Birr, Co Offaly (Registration: rector@churchofthesloes.ie)

Thu 19th May, 2–5pm Fun & Fellowship for Mothers' Union and friends, Aghancon Hall

Thu 19th May, 7.30pm Diocesan Council, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

Sat 21st May, 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Dining Room, Basement, Richard Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City (2nd level)

Fri 3rd–Mon 6th June Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, Muckcross Youth Centre, Killarney

Fri 10th–Sun 12th June GFS Diocesan Camp, Faith Mission Centre, Durrow, Co Laois



(l to r) Professor Michael Hayes, President of Mary Immaculate College Limerick, Bishop Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, and Fr Seamus Madigan, Head Chaplain of the Irish Defence Forces, after the St Patrick's Day Mass in Sarsfield Barracks Limerick, at which Bishop Kearon was the preacher

Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry on Saturday 25th June 2016. Registration from 10am; Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.

Yvonne Blennerhassett
Diocesan Secretary

Editorial - Je suis Bruxellois

In a previous life I was a regular visitor to Brussels, mostly on European Commission business, but also for pleasure. It is a city I love where I have spent many happy times. So it was with horror that I saw news of the dastardly suicide attacks there on 22nd March, claimed by Daesh/Islamic State. As an Irish citizen of Europe I feel I too have been attacked and violated.

Following the attacks Archbishop Michael Jackson issued this statement:

"As the horrific events in Brussels unfold we hold those who have lost loved ones and those who have been injured and traumatised in these terror attacks in our prayers.

"I wish to express my sorrow and solidarity with the people of Belgium at this time and with all who have suffered and all who mourn the death of those dear to them. I wish also to express concern for members of the emergency services who experience horror and trauma as part of their commitment to service in their work. Brussels, as we all know, is home to people from all over the world and many Irish people will know the city well and identify with its citizens as they come to terms with what is happening there today.

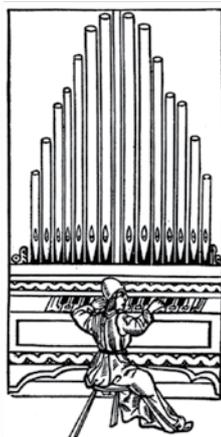
"As we travel through Holy Week towards Easter and the Resurrection, a time of sorrow and suffering followed by a time of hope, let us pray that there can be an end to such terror attacks and hope for a future in which peace and security will prevail over violence and destruction and the loss of human life."

Jesus tells us, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:43-45). This is a very hard teaching. But as we join in prayer for the victims and for an end to terror attacks let us also pray for those who perpetrate such atrocities, that their hearts may be turned from evil to good. It is what God requires of his sons and daughters.

God bless, Joc Sanders

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*Recent works include: Rathkeale Parish Church,
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Limerick.*

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Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, 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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Newslink is printed by **Davis Printers**,
Unit 6, Crossagala Enterprise Centre, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick

Deadlines

The next issue will be for May 2016, published for Sunday 1st May.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 15th April 2016 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2016

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

Delivered to pew in bulk €37

Individual copy by post €45

Collected from printer in bulk €30

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

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2016

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

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

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - April-May 2016

Each Sunday in April

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

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

Diocese: Archdeacon Gordon Linney & Canon Cecil Hyland, as they assist in our diocesan review.

3rd April, 2nd Sunday of Easter, White

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.

10th April, 3rd Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland and Most Revd Dr Richard Lionel Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Diocese: For those who provide energy for our homes, transport, agriculture and industry, and who help us to save energy, that through their work harmful emissions may be reduced.

17th April, 4th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan) and Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido.

Diocese: For the work of the Long Term Church Working Group, and the success of the conference 'How to have a welcoming church' to be held at Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City on next Saturday 23rd April.

24th April, 5th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East and Most Revd Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis, Archbishop of Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop in Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Diocese: For those who provide us with transport by road, rail, sea and air, that our communities may be connected by safe, reliable and efficient services

1st May, 6th Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday, White

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop Alan Abernethy.

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Kenya and Most Revd Dr Eliud Wabukala, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya.

Diocese: For farmers and all those who grow, process, distribute, cook and serve the food we eat, that they may receive a just return for their work and that we may enjoy healthy nourishment.



A version of The Lord's Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:



The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults
Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend, and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day. Amen.



13th-century wall painting of Saint Richard of Chichester

Canonised in 1262, Richard was Bishop of Chichester in England from 1244-1253.

Let us remember him on his feast day 3rd April by using his lovely prayer, translated from the original Latin.

Prayer for the Victims of the Syrian Conflict

We pray for those damaged
by the fighting in Syria.
To the wounded and injured:
Come Lord Jesus.
To the terrified and shocked:
Come Lord Jesus.
To the hungry and homeless, refugee and exile:
Come Lord Jesus.
To those bringing humanitarian aid:
Give protection Lord Jesus.
To those administering medical assistance:
Give protection Lord Jesus.
To those offering counsel and care:
Give protection Lord Jesus.
For all making the sacrifice of love:
Give the strength of your Spirit,
and the joy of your comfort.
In the hope of Christ we pray. Amen.

A View from the Pew - from Easter to Pentecost

by Salters Sterling



As I write it is still Lent but already the excitement of Easter is moving deeply within me, not because Lent hasn't been good. On the contrary it has been very good. We have been meeting as Birr Churches Together to reflect on prayer and to pray. The meetings have been hosted by our Methodist Friends in the same warm spirit of hospitality as we experienced when we shared worship with them some few months ago. The Archdeacon has

led in both thought and prayer and folk from all the Churches in Birr have participated. It is already clear that God has heard our prayer because across the world moments of reconciliation have been taking place. With that sense of being in partnership with God who wouldn't be tingling with anticipation for the coming of Easter.

With that same sense of things the wonderful words from the Letter to the Hebrews come constantly to mind. "Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever." That proclamation was written a generation and a half after Jesus had died and been raised from the dead. His friends had already experienced the whole gamut of human responses, fear, dread, doubt; elation, joy, fulfilment; persecution, alienation, abandonment; courage, conviction, commitment and still at the heart of it all and the centre of everything is JESUS. Linking this Jesus-centredness to the theme of my piece in the March issue of Newslink are the opening words in chapter 13 of the Letter to the Hebrews - "Continue to love each other like brothers (and sisters), and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison..." More words linking us to the words which Jesus used to define his ministry, and so here we find a completeness of understanding and experience that is totally transformative.

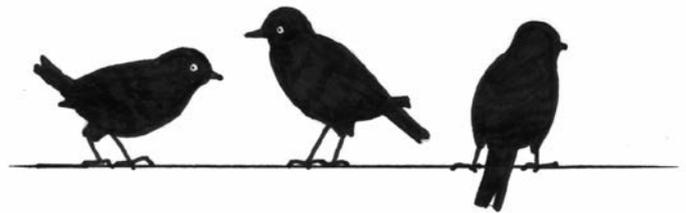
Growing up in Northern Ireland I was used to seeing the message "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and for ever" written on walls, on church notice boards, on the gable ends of houses. The hidden message was NOTHING SHOULD CHANGE. Even then I was uncomfortable with the implications of that message. Now, today, I am certain that it is a misreading of the message from God so radically disclosed in the events of Easter. Easter is about the most radical change imaginable. Easter is about death being transformed into life here and now and always. It is the central message from the eternal God - "Now I am making the whole of creation new".

For this Easter season this is my View from the Pew - a Church transformed, willing to be led to the new horizons where Jesus is at work - like of old he has gone ahead of us into Galilee; waiting for the Spirit at Pentecost so that we may be given the words for a new message to a deeply divided world in Ireland, in Europe, in the United States, in Syria, the list is endless - a message of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation. A view of the Church willing to be transformed itself for that ministry of reconciliation, finding the way in the Anglican Communion to reconcile the unseemly differences that are there,

given that all people are made in the Image of God; finding the way in the Church of Ireland to redefine episcopal ministry not by geographical boundaries but by pastoral and teaching function; finding the way in the Churches in communion with the See of Rome to promote the vision of Francis rather than to frustrate it; finding for ourselves what for each of us is the new way that Easter inspires. The closing words of Hebrews sum it up:

"I pray that the God of peace, who brought our Lord Jesus Christ back from the dead to become the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood that sealed an eternal covenant, may make you ready to do his will in any kind of good action; and turn us all into whatever is acceptable to himself through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen."

When you hear those words in the Easter Blessing please say Amen with all your heart and soul and mind and strength.



UNITED DIOCESE OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT
LONG TERM CHURCH WORKING GROUP

Invite you to a Conference

How to Have a Welcoming Church

Saturday 23rd April 2016

Castletroy Park Hotel, Castletroy,

Limerick City

From 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Cost €20 (includes lunch)

The Conference is open to anyone involved in Parish/Diocesan activities.

Booking Essential by telephone, text or e-mail to Edward Hardy (087 2907553 or edhardy70@gmail.com)

no later than Wednesday 20th April.

Spiritual Tourism

Editor: Rev Simon Lumby presented this report to Diocesan Council on 25th February on his spiritual tourism initiative. We feel it will be of interest to many more.

ESTABLISHING A BRAND

When the Revd Simon J Lumby took up his post in Killarney in July 2014 Bishop Trevor tasked him with investigating the potential for the Diocese's ministry in the Tourism Sector and amongst Tourists. It soon became clear that there was a major gap in the market and that Killarney was ideally placed in two ways.

Not only is Killarney the centre of a major tourism destination, it also has an intriguing name. Cill Airne translates as "Church of the Sloes" and that means the Blackthorn tree which has special spiritual significance both in pagan and Christian tradition. No-one has made anything of this intrinsic spiritual link. It's a new way for the Church to engage with the life of the town, especially where that community finds its wellbeing in the industry of tourism. So making our church a quality part of the tourism endeavour shows God is present in their own lives, not just in the Church's.

LAUNCHING THE CONCEPT

To make the presence of the Church felt in a new and exciting way—a way not just relevant to the Church of Ireland's local presence in Killarney but in the wider context—the idea of a new kind of tourism was launched: Spiritual Tourism. This isn't pilgrimage, it's much more than that. Spiritual Tourism is about getting back to the Celtic tradition where heart and mind are not separate, but part of one thing. This is the imago Dei, God's image, out of which we're made. The Celtic Christians were imbued with a natural instinct for noticing the presence of God and God's importance in every aspect of life and Creation. God was not somewhere else and having to be invited. God was and is always present; it's we who have to be invited to participate in God's life in God's Creation.

The idea of Spiritual Tourism is to take this natural tendency of the Celtic Christian—an innate capacity in all Irish, indeed in all humanity—and bring it back to the surface. A tourist can be called an Unwitting Pilgrim, in the sense that the feeling of uplift they get in the heart when they are inspired by beautiful scenery or creativity is a spiritual communication with the divine.

The purpose of Spiritual Tourism is to empower the tourism sector, helping them embody this message in their own material and promotion of this wonderful corner of Creation we call Ireland. To do this we start by showing we can work to their highest standards of quality in our promotional material and treat seriously their desire to promote prosperity through culture.

THE FIRST TOURISM CONFERENCE

The first Spiritual Tourism Conference took place in Killarney at and sponsored by the Killarney Park Hotel on 4 November 2015. It was attended by 18 members of the Diocese. The Conference was designed to introduce people to the concept of Spiritual Tourism.

The idea of Spiritual Tourism was presented. It was shown how the cultural and spiritual history and the presence of that history, not just in ruins, but also in the very soil and rock of the land, is able to communicate to the heart of the visitor something of the presence of God.

Thus God is not only present and to be experienced by the visitor, God is also concerned for the life of the people of our towns and townlands, on their own terms. That's what incarnation means.

When Fáilte Ireland launched their Wild Atlantic Way they launched an idea; local businesses are invited to use the badge to buy into its potential. It's proving to be very successful. So why not have a Spiritual equivalent? Use our churches and the spiritual history and story they represent as a "way in" to discover and experience the imprint of God's hands in God's Creation.

There will be a series of workshops run in key places in 2016, where local churches can audit the spiritual history and story (ecumenical) in their area and use it both to place themselves on the map and to grow their local tourism industry. A draft audit questionnaire is in process. This will start with the honeypot places: Adare, Killarney, Limerick, etc. This is not just for us, it's for our communities and for their visitors.

A 2nd Conference on Spiritual Tourism is confirmed for Birr Castle, West Gallery on Wednesday 18th May 2016 from 2-5pm.

Bookings by email to
rector@churchofthesloes.ie

This is a repeat of the 1st Conference in Killarney, particularly aimed at the North and East of the diocese.



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 6th April

Students from Mary Immaculate College

Works by Mozart, Sammartini, J.S. Bach and Irish traditional music

Wednesday 13th April

Shannon Golf Club Choir

Music by Sibelius, Verdi and Dvorak

Wednesday 20th April

Yukatope String Quartet

Music by Schubert and Mozart

Wednesday 27th April

Helen Houlihan (soprano), Irina Dernova (piano)

Music by Dvorak, Massenet and Brahms

Wednesday 4th May

Michele Sanzo (bassoon), Claire O'Donoghue (piano)

Music by Faure, Elgar and Rachmaninov

*Free admission - retiring collection in aid of
the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music*

Letter to the Editor – Pastoral ministry

Dear Editor,

My wife has recently become a temporary 'health care worker', covering South Offaly and North Tipperary. On a number of occasions I have been 'persuaded' to do driver/navigator on first time home visits with the result that I have become more familiar with the infrastructure of the local community. I am amazed at the number of old people living alone in very remote areas of the country side, some very elderly who never meet anyone on one visit of a health care worker to the next. Preparation of food, personal hygiene & health, companionship and security would appear to be their main concerns. I would guess that the same situation applies in most parts of rural Ireland.

I was reminded of an excellent programme on BBC 1 about 18 months ago on loneliness, especially among the elderly in an urban environment. On further reflection I thought of the letters we see on the odd occasion in the Gazette, mainly from retired clergy bemoaning the demise of pastoral ministry, especially in the area of home visiting. Our clergy are no different in many respects to all the other professions, which suffer from the modern affliction of excessive bureaucracy and the ever increasing number of rules and regulations, not forgetting the possibility of litigation over an error of judgement or management. We also have a large number of parishes with no full time Rector and from what I can gather we are not being

inundated with a flood of applicants to fill them! The result is that the diocesan clerical team are overstretched with less time available for pastoral work and visiting of hospitals etc - all of which are very time consuming but essential elements of ministry.

In some large city parishes, members of the laity are trained in pastoral work and visit elderly or ill parishioners both in the home and in hospital. They keep the Rector fully informed and up to date vis-a-vis special requests, Holy Communion etc. etc. Could the same principle not be applied in a rural setting? We are often told that the Church is becoming irrelevant to modern society. I would have thought no better way to show Christ's Church in action than for a pastoral care worker and/or Rector to visit the home. It can also have a 'knock on effect' on other members of the family allowing the Spirit to 'work in mysterious ways'.

This is not a criticism of Rectors or priests in charge. We, the laity, are not prone to public expressions of appreciation, but their 'good works', known and unknown, visible and invisible, do not go unnoticed. However, 'the times they are a changing' and, as we were told at the last Mission Evening, we must be flexible to meet them in order to survive to portray the Gospel of Christ both in proclamation and in action.

Yours etc, David Frizelle, Birr Group of Parishes.

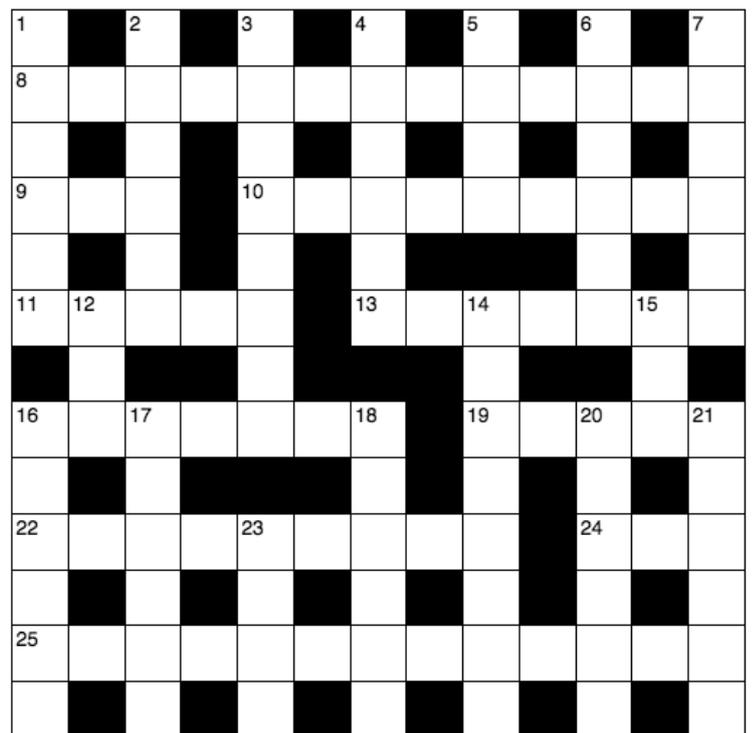
Crossword

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



Solution to the March Crossword

Congratulations to Miriam Henderson, Nenagh Union of Parishes, who submitted the only correct entry in time for the competition and wins the prize of €25.

Scribble Box



Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZEDAY 2016
See page 21 for photos.

Our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving Day was held in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on 12th March. Canon Jane Galbraith led the service of Holy Communion. We learnt that her favourite biscuits are Jaffa cakes because "Jesus A Friend For Always" – JAFFA. Thank you to Canon Jane for a lovely and thoughtful service.

The theme of the service was taken from the Bible Study syllabus – "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength". The girls took an active part in the Service – carried banners, received the collection and Mission contributions from each branch. Cloughjordan girls acted out the Fiery Furnace in the form of a TV chat show. Birr girls sang the song 'When Peter & John went to Pray'. Nenagh girls lead us in prayer during which everyone stood up and did some stretching exercises.

After the service Bishop Kenneth awarded prizes for Bible Study and our Central President Mrs. Sylvia Quinn awarded prizes for Crafts. Congratulations to all our girls who were very successful. We were also joined by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Dean Gary Paulsen and Canon Ruth Gill.

Cloughjordan branch provided wonderful refreshments in the adjacent Hall after the Prizegiving. Thank you to leaders and parents of girls in all the branches for the lovely cakes they brought.

Thanks to all Leaders who organised the Sales Stalls which were well supported and provide much needed funds to GFS. Everyone had an opportunity to view the wonderful work of the girls and leaders as the crafts and bible study were displayed in the hall. WELL DONE to everyone involved.

BIBLE STUDY RESULTS

Ages 3 & 4: 1st: (Joint) Lily McLoughney & Emily Drought, Cloughjordan 2nd: Orlaith Houlihan, Roscrea

Age 5: 1st: Roisin Houlihan, 2nd: Charlotte Roe & 3rd: Phoebe Hodgins, Roscrea

Age 6 1st: Julia Klisiewicz, 2nd: Charlotte Clements & 3rd: Isabelle Harvey, Birr

Age 7: 1st: Abigail Clarke, 2nd: Aimee Fitzgerald & 3rd: (joint) Louise Stanley, Cloughjordan & Alice Hayes, Nenagh

Age 8: 1st: Alison Grant, 2nd: Emma Armitage, Cloughjordan and 3rd: Nicola Jozwiak, Birr

Age 9: 1st: Leah Shaw, 2nd: Sinead Johnson, 3rd: Julia Swigon, Birr

Age 10 : 1st: Sabina Kozalika, Birr 2nd: Laoise Gaffney, Cloughjordan & 3rd: Kelly Ross, Birr

Age 11: 1st: Robyn Fitzgerald, 2nd: Hannah Austin and 3rd: Abigail Quinlivan, Cloughjordan

Age 12: 1st: April Hayes, Nenagh

Age 13: 1st: Rebecca Reid, Roscrea

Age 15 – 18: 1st: Tara St Leger, Roscrea

Age 18 – 21 : 1st: Michelle Armitage, Cloughjordan

CRAFT PRIZE WINNERS

The list of Prize Winners will be in next month's Newlink.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Branch Mini-Market has ended for this year and provided a healthy amount for GFS Missions.

The Branch was delighted to welcome all the Branches and clergy of the Diocese to Cloughjordan for the Service & Prizeday on the 12th March. Congratulations to all our girls who did so well. A special mention goes to Alison Grant, Robyn Fitzgerald, Michelle Armitage, Aimee Fitzgerald, Lucy Fitzgerald, Laura Armitage and Lorraine Armitage whose entries go to The All Ireland Competition.



NENAGH BRANCH

During the Easter break Emma Gordan is going to Uganda as part of the Zest4Kids team from Villiers School. At the Diocesan Service & Prizeday girls and leaders from Nenagh branch presented Emma with a donation of craft items for the children she will meet on her travels. We wish Emma every good wish and God's blessing on her travels for this worthwhile cause.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, Durrow.



*Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church*

Diocesan Board of Mission

Church of Ireland
LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL

IN

THE PARISH CENTRE

CLOUGHJORDAN

AT: **8.00 P.M.**

MISSION IN THE MODERN WORLD

SPEAKER: Dr. SALTERS STERLING

- **Everyone** (irrespective of Christian denomination) with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas, is very welcome to attend.
- Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Our quiz team headed off to Co. Clare for Round 2 of the Credit Union Schools' Quiz on February 28th where winning teams from the chapters in Co. Limerick and Co. Clare competed against one another. The results were very close and well done to our team on coming in third place, only a couple of points behind the winning team. Congratulations to Marie, David, Arthur and Katie on representing the school so well.

The senior classes took part in Limerick's 5-a-side soccer competition and two of our teams made it through to the second round, thanks to some wonderful goal scoring and defence. Round 2 proved to be more competitive and although some great goals were scored neither the girls nor the boys made it through.

We were all very saddened to learn of Rev. Bill Olmsted's death and we will miss his visits to the school. We have lovely memories of all the stories he told and all the fun we had in his company during his time in Adare.

The pupils in 6th class welcomed representatives of the local Alzheimer's Association to school where they handed over a cheque for €280, the proceeds of their coffee afternoon. Noel and Liza McMeekin and their team visited school on March 11th to present prizes to all the pupils for their hard work in Bible Times during 2015.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was an action-packed week this year as it also involved Proclamation Day which took place on March 15th. This year pupils took part in a Tráth na gCeist (quiz) with mixed teams.

There was a mix of easy and difficult questions which suited all age groups. We also had a Treasure Hunt as Gaeilge when competing groups had to follow the clues and collect letters. Finally they had to work out the answer from the letters collected. This year the answer was 'Naomh Pádraig'. Seachtain na Gaeilge finished with a 'céilí mor' in the playground. As the weather was lovely and sunny this year, it was decided to move our céilí outdoors and this proved to be a great success. Well done to the pupils and teachers who dressed up in green, white and gold for the occasion.



A haon, dó trí agus a haon, dó, trí!



Presenting a cheque to the Alzheimer's Association in Adare



Searching for some clues during Seachtain na Gaeilge in Adare

As part of the school's commemoration of the 1916 Rising, the senior pupils worked on a project which was presented to parents on Proclamation Day. Mr. James Clarke, chairperson of the Board of Management, raised our flag on Proclamation Day and this was followed by a reading of the Proclamation by three pupils, Bianca, Ronan and Marie. Then Katie, Olivia and Bryan read from our own Proclamation, devised by the senior pupils. We were delighted that so many parents were able to join us for this gathering.

Later this month, on Saturday 16th April, the Parents' Association will hold their annual Cake Sale and Coffee Morning in Adare Village Hall. All are welcome!

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

Spring has finally arrived with glorious sunshine and brighter days. What a difference it makes to rise in the morning with sunlight!

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



Busy shopping!

Ms Hogan completes her time with 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes as Mrs Quin returns from her maternity leave following the Easter vacation. We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Quin but also delighted to say that Ms Hogan will be staying with us as she covers for Mrs Maher's maternity leave which commences following the Easter vacation.

Our School Fair proved to be a very enjoyable day on the 11th March. The boys and girls participated in a number of activities such as: penalty shoot-out, knock all the cans, guess the number of sweets in a jar and much, much more. Delicious treats were on sale on the cake stall and some great reads were available on the book stall at bargain prices. The children were delighted to receive the news that they raised €600 in total. Half of this will be utilised for the purchase of science equipment and the remainder will be given towards charity work being completed by a past pupil, Emma Gordon, on a trip to Uganda.

A very exciting day was had by all on the 15th March in conjunction with our 1916 celebrations. On the run up to this event, the children were steeped in history as they learnt about the events around this time and this culminated in a ceremony and raising of our Irish Flag.

We hope that all readers have a peaceful and happy Easter!

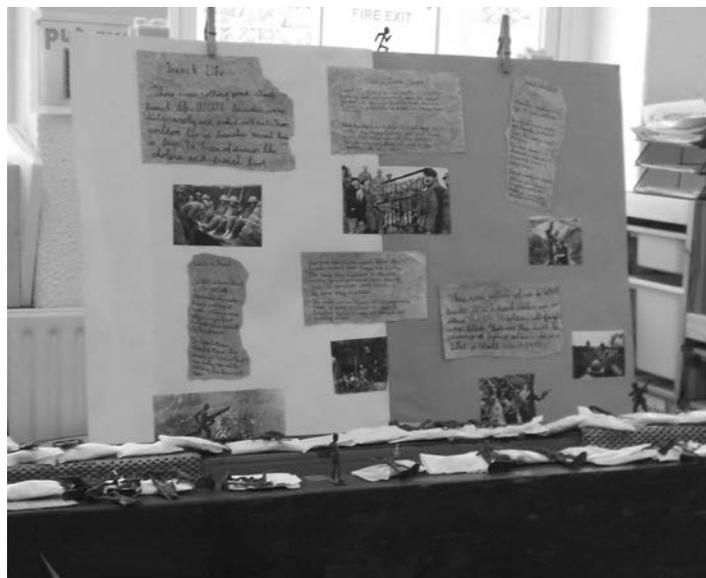
St Michael's National School, Limerick

It has been a short, but busy term in St Michael's National School. Teams from Fifth and Sixth Classes competed in the annual Spikeball Tournament in Villiers School. One of our mixed teams qualified to contest further in Ballinasloe, where their challenge ended. Pupils from Ms Fossitt's classroom also had a busy day recently playing soccer in Seancoill, Corbally and again, one team qualified for a second stage. Well done to all the positive teamwork!

Many parents joined with us on March 15th to commemorate the Decade of Centenaries, to remember events happening one hundred years ago, both in Ireland, and in Europe. This began with a short

ceremony to raise the Irish Flag and hear some of the senior pupils' proclamations read aloud. Our long-time caretaker, Jimmy Lynch, raised the flag. Bishop Kenneth Kearon and Dean Sandra Pragnell attended our Easter Assembly, the theme of which was peace. Each pupil was given a commemorative booklet to pass on to the next generation.

Parents then visited the exhibition of the projects and displays of the work carried out by the senior pupils, who were dressed to suit the occasion.



Replica of a First World War trench

Previously 3rd and 4th Classes were fortunate enough to be invited to Mary Immaculate College to enjoy some science challenges set by the final year teaching students. This time, it was 2nd Class's turn to travel to participate in some mathematical activities concerning chance and probability. There were many intriguing questions about jellybeans, spiders and flowers! We are lucky to be within walking distance of the college.

Again this year we have been privileged to have had two Final Year Physio students come to St Michael's to gain practical experience working with school-age children. Working with these physiotherapy students, our pupils benefited greatly from having more opportunities to engage in meaningful physical movement activities.

Ms Fossitt and 5th & 6th Classes would like to thank Michaela Tuccillo, one of our parents from the Limerick Baptist Church who kindly gave of her time and expertise in our senior classroom. The pupils were brought on a journey through the Old Testament through means of drama, choral speaking and mime. It was a most refreshing and stimulating experience.

Professor Jerome van De Wiel of UCC, one of our parents, gave a stimulating and informative lecture on the Easter Rising in the European context, organised by St Michael's PTA as this year's annual lecture. Last year Sky broadcaster David Blevins had discussed and debated the late Ian Paisley.

It is always a pleasure to welcome back past pupils of the school, and in the last couple of months we have had Isobel Wheeler and Elliot Redden on work experience. We are always delighted to be able to avail of new skills acquired since leaving St Michael's! Celine Laing, our UL co-op student from last year, has also returned in a voluntary capacity to offer her services to the school which is a wonderful windfall, and from which we truly benefit.

St Cronan's National School, Roscrea

During Lent this year the pupils in 6th Class raised money for St Anne's Playground. We are grateful to those who joined us on Pancake Morning to launch this project.

The pupils enjoyed Yoga, Rugby and Dance this term and are looking forward to tennis and swimming in the term ahead.

The pupils who play hockey after school with George Blackwell took part in a mini blitz against the first years in Villiers School. They thoroughly enjoyed the time spent there and got to watch the Senior Cup Final between Villiers and Newtown.

We raised our Flag on Proclamation Day and performed Damien White's Play *A Triumph of All Sorts* before reading our own Proclamation for a New Generation. Pupils read Poems they had written retelling the events of Easter Week 1916. A great number of Parents and Friends joined with us to mark the occasion. View the images and read our Proclamation on our school website www.stcronansroscrea.ie or Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/StCronansNs>

The Pupils took part in the Kilkenny Peace Prom Concert on the 5th March, singing a wide variety of songs with the CBOI: Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. This was truly a wonderful experience for the pupils involved and as one child said afterwards "that was way cooler than I thought it would be."

Enrolment Application Forms are now available from the school office. We have lots to offer your child so please come along and view our school, talk to the staff and parents and find out more about us. Visit our website www.stcronansroscrea.ie

Thank you to all who are involved in organizing these events and experiences staff, parents and pupils are a team: together everyone achieves more.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

Congratulations to the Rev'd Canon Ruth Gill, Chairperson of our Board of Management, who was installed as Canon in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

Our Third – Sixth Classes enjoyed a visit to the Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Centre, bringing to a close the Artist in School Project, funded by Tipperary County Council. Pupils enjoyed working together as historical detectives and completed a very enjoyable and educational history trail on 1916. Thank you very much to Joanna Parkes for organizing this very successful visit.

It is a pleasure to welcome back Emily Greene, in Transition Year in Wilson's Hospital School, on work experience. We are grateful for all Emily's help and wish her every success as she pursues her secondary education. An extra pair of hands is always a great help!

Well done to Odhran Fitzmaurice, Stuart Fox Powell, Senan O'Brolchain and Zoe Whelan who represented Third and Fourth Class, at the second round of the Credit Union Schools' Quiz in Borrisokane. It was a great achievement for the team to get to this level and we congratulate them, Ms. Cromer, and their parents for helping with the preparation.

Congratulations to Robyn Fitzgerald, Hannah Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald, Lisa Mooney, Ross Austin, Tom Larke, Stuart Fox Powell and Andrew Hayes who, once again, represented the school at the

Munster Schools Table Tennis League. It was a busy day with over 150 children participating and not one of the sixteen table tennis tables idle all day! Both teams enjoyed success on the day – the girls won Division 5 and the boys won Division 3.



Winning teams at the Munster School Table Tennis League 2016 in Kinsale

Well done to Laura Armitage, Amy Clarke, Robyn Fitzgerald, Sadhbh Lummis, Lisa Mooney and Sophia Whelan, our Girls Soccer Team, who enjoyed participating in the FAI Primary Schools Competition in Thurles.

To mark World Book Day all classes visited Sheelagh na Gig bookshop in Cloughjordan and enjoyed a short storytelling session by local author Nigel Quinlan, and an opportunity to use their World Book Day Tokens

Fifth & Sixth Class pupils really enjoyed Michael Moylan's History Live Show "The Rising" in Nenagh Library. We are very grateful to Nenagh Library for generously making this opportunity available.

There was a very large turnout at our dancing displays in school. Junior and Senior Infants, followed by First and Second Class, performed a variety of dances and received rapturous applause. A big "Thank you" to Claire Nealon for teaching dancing and for preparing the children for their displays, but most of all for the fun had whilst learning.

Our Bring and Buy Sale and Easter Egg Raffle were a great success. A very big thank you to everybody who helped us to raise €1200. We were delighted to donate €600 to the Autistic Unit at St. Michael's N.S. and €600 to the Billy Goulding Recovery Fund.

We are very grateful for generous donations from Cloughjordan Pharmacy of a large, fully equipped First Aid bag and a set of sports bibs. These are very useful donations and very much appreciated, and Super Valu, Roscrea for a giant Easter Egg to our school and to the businesses in Cloughjordan who are selling lines on behalf of the school. The lucky winner will be drawn when school reopens on after Easter.

There was a large attendance at Proclamation Day at school on 15th March. A big thank you to our pupils who put in a lot of work preparing for the event. Olivia Swan played The Foggy Dew as a solo on tin whistle – to the admiration of all present. Pupils, under the musical baton of Mrs Crawford played the national anthem on tin whistle and others led singing of the anthem. We were delighted to welcome Joanna Parkes our Guest of Honour on the day to speak and to raise the National Flag, assisted by Sofiya Percy, Joshua Kennedy, Ella Wakefield, Artsiom Deane, Katy Williamson, Dylan Wallace, Alastair Grant and Laoise Gaffney. It was very interesting to hear pupils unveil their vision of Ireland and their hopes and dreams for the future.



Pupils from all classes and guest of honour, Joanna Parkes, raise the National Flag at Proclamation Day

Kiltallagh National School

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME (J.E.P.)

Congratulations to our sixth class J.E.P. Team - Clara Wharton, Charlotte Orme, Natasha Griffin, Avril Murphy, Syanne Dowd, Sarah Flaherty and Kate Moroney on the wonderful work which they put into their business idea-Kiltallagh Cards and Cookie Kits.

Kiltallagh Cards are a pack of 10 cards -with 2 of each design-A Note to Say, Good Luck, Thank You (in 7 different languages) and Boy/Girl Birthday Cards. Each card was hand designed by the JEP Team and printed by Listowel Printing Works.

The Cookie Kits, made with the help of Ballymaloe Chef-Ciara Orme, came in two flavours-Cranberry /White Chocolate and Double Chocolate Chip - and hand packaged, complete with baking paper and cellophane, and easy to follow baking instructions.

The girls are delighted to report a profit of €400 at the time of going to print!



Junior Entrepreneur Team with their products-Kiltallagh Cards and Cookie Kits

NEW BABY

Our junior infant Charlie O'Neill was delighted to become a big brother to Jerry recently. Congratulations to mum Katie and Dad David on the birth of their baby son.

I.I.R.C.

Congratulations to one of our past pupils, Katie Boyle, who competed in the 2016 All Ireland Indoor Coastal Rowing Championships recently, in the University of Limerick. Katie won silver medals in both the four minute race and the 500 metre Race in the Under 14 age group.

COMMUNITY GAMES ART AND HANDWRITING

Congratulations to

- Sharon O' Dowd who won a silver medal in both the handwriting and art competitions in the Community Games recently.
- Leanne Griffin came 3rd in the Art in the u-8 section
- Rachel Boyle won a bronze medal in handwriting.
- Syanne Dowd, won a silver medal in the u-14 Art competition.

RAPUNZEL FOUNDATION

The Rapunzel Foundation charitable organisation works to improve the lives of those living with hair loss through fundraising as well as through hair raising.

Hair is raised through the Rapunzel Foundation's Pony Tail campaign, where people commit to growing their hair 14 inches or longer with a view to their hair being sent to help make much needed wigs to improve the lives of those living with hair loss. One of our 6th class pupils Clara Wharton recently donated 14 inches of her hair to the foundation. Well done Clara-What a wonderful thing to do!

TAEKWONDO

Clara's younger sister Sarah-Lynn recently competed in the National Taekwondo Championships in Meath and won a bronze medal.



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TALENT SHOW

Our 5th class pupils-Garrett, Gavin, Elva and Alazne recently organised a talent show in school. Many various acts included Frank and Bean Ui Bhriain who played some traditional music, Leanne did some hip hop dancing to 'Happy', Molly and Ella recited a poem about The Owl and The Pussy Cat, complete with an artistic display of The Pea Green Boat, Sarah Lynn and Lauren gave Hoola Hoop and skipping rope demonstration, while 6th class pupils Clara, Avril and Charlotte gave a DIY lesson on how to brighten up your bedroom at minimal cost!

Sarah Lynn also showed some of her Taekwondo skills- she is certainly one not to mess with! Her younger sister Kayla showed some of her beautiful drawings from her art portfolio.

The entire Junior Room gave a heart- warming rendition of Ireland's Call- to get everybody in form for the Six Nations Cup.



PET DAY

We were delighted to welcome Garrett and Sharon's pet goat Buddy to our school recently, as part of our ongoing Pet Days:

Clergy Succession Lists of Limerick, Ardfert & Aghadoe Dioceses

Canon David Crooks has completed a true labour of love in editing this magnificent volume, updating Canon J B Leslie's unpublished lists for Limerick from 1936. It is published by the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast at a price of UKE50. The photo shows Canon David Crooks presenting a copy to Bishop Kenneth at the Diocesan Council meeting on 25th February.



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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

In Mountshannon there was planting of seven oak trees at the harbour to mark high the proclamation and the seven signatories of the proclamation. Fr Jones and Dean Gary Paulsen planted a tree as well as some of the local politicians, people of the community and the local school children

The World Day of Prayer on the first Friday of March was held at St Flannan's Cathedral to remember the people of Cuba this year. The local school of St Anne's again played an important role in the liturgy guided by Veronica Sheehan the school chaplain. Fr James Grace and Fr Donagh O'Meara did readings with our own parishioners leading the prayers. We thank everyone in the community for emphasising this day and to all who provided lovely treats and teas and coffee after the service

Patrick Comerford visited the diocese and gave the address as the Diocesan community commemorated 1916 at St Mary Cathedral followed by the installation of two new canons, Jane Galbraith and Ruth Gill. Patrick was the preacher on the Sunday morning at St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe and it was a privilege and pleasure to have him with us.

Villiers School Transition Year students visited St Flannan's on 29 February. It was a wet morning but it did not stop them from doing their hike and then have Bruce Carrick and Bryan Brislane show them around the Cathedral and take them up the bell tower.

Clare Drama Festival took place for the 69th year in Scarrif. It is wonderful to have this festival in our rural context each year and to have the opportunity to see a different play each night for 10 nights. The school hall is filled each night of the festival is a wonderful achievement over so many years. Two of our parishioners Alan and Gina Sparling have played their part in this over many years now. Our good wishes to them for many more years.

Mothering Sunday service was held at St Flannan's Cathedral as we continue to emphasise the role of the mother church in the diocese. The other churches in the union were closed and we had the one church service as we have had now for the past three years. Barbara Hartigan made some posies which the children handed to the mothers in the congregation. A big thank you to all who came and those who so faithfully provide the teas afterward.

Gordon Atkinson died and his funeral service was held at St Flannan's Cathedral on 15 March. Gordon was a real gentleman and led by example. Colin his son did a beautiful tribute to his father at the funeral with the other siblings and grandchildren all joining in doing the readings and the prayers. The Atkinson family are such an asset to the church and the community. We give thanks for Gordon and hold his widow Jean in prayer and his children, their spouses and grandchildren as they mourn the loss of Gordon as we all hold him fondly in all our thoughts.

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

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 17th April at 11:30 in Birr. Confirmation classes are continuing, with candidates from Birr, Clonfert, Shinrone, and Cloughjordan Groups of Parishes. The candidates are assisting with the Holy Week and Easter services. At the Confirmation, we will be joined by candidates from the Roscrea Group of Parishes.

BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our Ecumenical Lenten Evenings concluded in the week before Holy Week, with a good number of people from the Church of Ireland, Methodist, and Roman Catholic congregations meeting for discussion and prayer. We gathered in the Methodist Church for most of the sessions, and in the Rectory for the last one due to another meeting in the Methodist Church. We plan to continue the prayer meetings on a monthly basis; the next one will be on Tuesday, 12th April, at 8:00 pm in the Rectory. Other 'BCT' events will be announced.

MRS PAULINE HICKIE

On the 28th of February, Pauline Hickie passed away in her 100th year. Pauline, a resident of Terryglass, was a longstanding member of Lorrha Parish. Her reception service was led by Canon Ruth Gill, and held in Lorrha Church on Tuesday, 8th March, and her funeral service was led by the Archdeacon the next day in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Terryglass, by kind permission of Fr Michael Cooney, Parish Priest. She was laid to rest in Terryglass Churchyard next to her beloved husband, Shamus. Sincere condolences to her sons William and A.G. and their families, and her many friends.

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Registration from 1.30pm

Rehearsal starts promptly at 2pm

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The event is open to all singers, individuals and choirs alike, affiliates and non-affiliates. A performance will follow the rehearsal and refreshments. Cost: €10/€8 (concession).

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MR GEORGE WATKINS

On Tuesday, 15th March, George Watkins passed away in his 97th year. George was a longtime resident of Elm Grove Nursing Home in Birr, after many years as manager of Fayle's shop in Birr. The funeral service was held in Birr Church on Wednesday, 16th March with the Archdeacon officiating. The sermon was delivered by Canon Ruth Gill, a longtime friend of George and his late wife, Florrie. George was buried in Clonoghill Cemetery, next to Florrie. Sincere condolences to his nephew, Ray Dempsey, and niece, Violet Dreaper, and his family and friends.

BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

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

- Ecumenical Celebration of the Old Grave Yard – originally planned for 23rd April, a new date will be announced.
- 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 of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

GFS DIOCESAN SERVICE AND PRIZE DAY our girls did themselves proud again. Prize winners in the Bible Study 'I Can do Everything Well Through Him Who Gives Me Strength' were Orlaith Houlihan, Roisin Houlihan, Charlotte Roe, Phoebe Hodgins. Rebecca Reid and Tara St.Leger's entries go to the next level in Dublin. Congratulations to all the girls.

Proclamation Day The rector was invited to Colaiste Phobal Roscrea for an ecumenical service of blessing and raising of the Irish Flag. During the ceremony, the Proclamation was read. Later on that morning, in the grounds of St.Cronan's National School, parents and parishioners watched the Irish Flag being raised and then were enthralled by 'A Triumph of All Sorts'...a play with a whole school cast, complete with Irish Volunteers, Ulster Volunteers, assorted Dubliners poor and the well heeled, and children; O'Donovan Rossa, the seven signatories, a handful

of spies, British soldiers; even Cha and Mia were there! recalling 1916.

After that 'The Proclamation for a New Generation' was read. Hopes included continued hard work to ensure peace in our land as well as a 'céad mile fáilte, for all who come to live here. The seeds of equality already sown need to be nurtured for the future generation. The education system must include keys to unlock learning for all children. Bullying will not be tolerated, neither will littering be accepted. Teachers must continue to be valued as they hold the future in their hands. Healthy foods and lots of exercise is advised. Recycling and wise use of resources were also on the list. The Proclamation ended with 'We must always think before we act, listen before we speak and ensure we treat others the same way we want them to treat us.

St.Patrick's Day Parade went well. The rector was greatly honoured to be the invited guest to speak before proceedings got underway. Adrian Hewson and other judges had a difficult time picking winners, however there were no complaints when the results were revealed. The Killavilla Footballers Club prize was accepted by Master Brennan De Loreal.

Many thanks to our organist Marjorie McCorduck for playing great hymns for at all our mid-weekly Lenten services and on St.Patrick's Day. Marjorie is also getting us ready to explore 'Thanks and Praise'... painlessly. Thanks also are due to our assistant organists Madalene Hodgins and Jordan Lewis who step in on a rota basis on Sundays for now.

Youth Club News Car Treasure Hunt: €20.00 a car. This is the main fundraiser and enables even more weird and wonderful plans to spring forth from Rosie and her helpers' heads, to be fed to the hungry hoards. Everyone is welcome to what promises to be a great evening. Saturday April 9th. Meet at 7.00pm. sharp, Methodist Hall.

May event: Birr Outdoor Pursuit Centre, meet there at 9.30 a.m. Bring money on April 9th. €45.00 for non-regulars and €25.00 for regulars. Home at 5.30p.m. More details are available.... phone leaders.

Ecumenical Prayer Service commemorating 1916 with Roscrea Community Choir takes place on Wednesday April 13th. at 7.30p.m. in St.Cronan's Church Abbey St. All are welcome.

St.Cronan's Day Sunday April 24th. The annual pilgrimage walk will include the new walkway between the first monastery of St.Cronan and Monaincha. Meet at 3.00. Led by Adrian Hewson with reflections en route.

Nenagh Union starts on page 21



New Rector for Cloughjordan & Borrisokane

Bishop Kenneth has announced the appointment of The Rev'd Terence (Terry) Mitchell as the new Rector of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane. The Rev'd Terry is married to Julia, who is currently completing a PhD in art therapy. They have two adult children. Rev'd Terry has a wide range of interests in Spirituality as well as sport.

Rev'd Terry comes to us from the Diocese of Capetown in South Africa, where he is currently Rector of Christ Church, Grahamstown. Born in Pietermaritzburg he initially trained as a teacher, and taught English and History as well as Guidance Councillor. He was first ordained for the Methodist Church, serving in Grahamstown and in Northern Ireland, before being ordained as an Anglican priest.

The details of his institution will be announced shortly, in the meanwhile we offer Terry and Julia a hearty welcome to our diocese.



Reader Ministry - following God's call

Marjorie Cavanagh in conversation with David Brown

Editor: A licensed diocesan reader, Marjorie is married to Rev Michael Cavanagh, priest-in-charge of the Kenmare and Dromod Union of Parishes. David Brown is Co-ordinator for Lay Training at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. This interview appeared in the Church of Ireland Gazette for 19th March 2016 and is reproduced by permission – see gazette.ireland.anglican.org.



David Brown

MARJORIE, COULD YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I grew up in the north of England in an inner city suburb. I suppose we were poor but I didn't notice that. I would attend Sunday School but rarely church. I've felt close to God throughout my life. I tasted a few different approaches to worship and by the time I reached adulthood I had settled into an Anglican tradition. It has only been in the last 15 years or so that I felt God nudging me to serve him actively in new ways – and this came as a bit of a surprise.

SO, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THAT PERIOD OF CALLING?

I think I felt God stirring things up when I decided to look a little deeper into the Christian faith – some 20 years ago, maybe. I wanted to find out more about ways in which my personal belief fitted into the faith of the Christian Church and undertook some further study. I joined a local group to share and learn with others and was surprised how much I discovered through this. I went on to lead something called The Bishop's Course and later to undertake a Foundation in Ministry Course organised by the Diocese of Chester. This was designed to enable folk to explore their calling. This course drew people together; some were to become readers, parish assistants or parish evangelists while others would continue into training for ordination. At the time, I believed my path was towards evangelism. Jesus has called each one of us to serve, to go out and make disciples of all nations. I think we learn not purely in the sense of reading, studying and writing essays but in a practical sense too.

I started out by doing a little 'research' in the church I attended and began to discover the expectations and needs of individuals – and these were diverse.

We tried to include everyone by providing wider options and fresh approaches – hard work but nevertheless successful. There would be 'something for everyone'. The result? Our attendance grew.

I became a little more involved and then, on moving from England to South Kerry, I felt strongly pushed by the Lord – and the rector – to get on and become a licensed diocesan reader.

Looking back, I can see this was God's plan for me all along. Whether I didn't recognise it or preferred to ignore it, no one can say.

HAVING RECOGNISED GOD'S CALL, WHAT WAS THE NEXT STEP?

I was accepted to study at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) and undertook a further two years of study – an excellent experience and one to be recommended. However, it was pretty challenging and the demands upon my time became greater than ever.

The Study Days at CITI were really helpful and the staff were always very supportive. It was good, too, to share with others from different parts of the country and to experience the diversity of approaches to worship discussed within our groups – and to share an act of worship together.

MARJORIE, COULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT FROM BEING A DIOCESAN READER?

I suppose each of us is on a lifelong learning journey; we never stop learning. My role enables me to continue on this journey as I am encouraged as a member of our worship team to develop and grow. We learn from others by being involved in the day-to-day issues within our communities and faith communities. Here in Kenmare we work actively together with other denominations and have done so for several years now. It is a pleasure and privilege to be invited to lead worship in our local churches and the local Methodist Church. For the last four years, we have worked as an ecumenical team to provide World Day of Prayer services, carol services, Bible studies and all sorts of ecumenical gatherings. This has been a real joy and time of growth – not just for me but for our community. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and marriage preparation all provide great opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus.

ANY REGRETS, MARJORIE, IN FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL?

Regrets? None whatsoever! I would encourage others to listen to God's call and to follow – wherever that might lead. He is a God of surprises and a God of provision. The strength we need each day is given by him and him alone.

A FINAL COMMENT?

As Christians, we are called to serve – called to use the gifts and talents we've been given in order to build up God's Kingdom. To equip us, we have each been given specific gifts at different times in our lives – although we often fail to notice. God is working his purpose out in all of our lives.



Marjorie Cavanagh

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Girls' Friendly Society Prizeday



Continued from page 17

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

RECTORY

The spring sunshine at the end of March has encouraged us all and we have been able to get the tree surgeon into the grounds of St Mary's and the Rectory to do the necessary remedial work to ensure that it is now safe to walk along the footpath – not that there was any danger, but the Council requested that the overhanging limbs be checked and removed where necessary.

This will also mean that the contractor will be able to put the finishing touches to the landscaping around the refurbished Rectory – which is looking fantastic! Canon Ruth Gill, the Rural Dean, came along to do the "official inspection". She complimented us on the wonderful job undertaken and the excellent workmanship – the attention to detail, the use of space and most especially – the wonderful light throughout the house, and the Rector's Room. So we are all hoping that our vacancy will soon be filled and the warmth and comfort of our Rectory enjoyed by the new incumbent and family!

PASTORAL

We continue to keep in our prayers those in our Union of Parishes who are not so well, especially Leslie Stanley as he begins his treatment, and also those in the local nursing homes.

EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry will be held at 8pm on Monday 4th April in St Mary's. Do please do your best to attend this important meeting for the life of our parish union. If you come early you will be able to visit the Rectory from 7.30 pm to inspect the results of the great work that has been done. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the team who have managed it on our behalf.

JOC WRITES

As I write this on the equinox, the first day of astronomical Spring in the Northern hemisphere, we look forward to Holy Week and Easter, the age-old drama of new life arising from passion and death. In my garden the daffodils bloom their socks off, the bees buzz in the blossoms of an early cherry tree, every kind of herb pushes up fresh shoots, and the sound of the lawn mower is heard again.

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The fertility and flowering of Spring speaks of an abundantly creative God who is the source of the potent life force beating at the heart of the world. Created in God's image, we are called to participate in this generous creativity ourselves.

In our hearts we begin to hear again the great cry of hope:
Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Easter season lasts for 50 days through until the day of Pentecost, 15th May this year, the day when the disciples in Jerusalem began to flower through the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we journey through Spring with them this Easter, may their experience inspire us to flower ourselves, sharing our gifts in service to others.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Canon Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 913 5341 Mob: 087 948 4402

Email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

Easter General Vestry Meetings

Monday 11th April: Borrisnafarney in Moneygall Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th April: Cloughjordan & Ballingarry in Cloughjordan Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Thursday 14th April: Borrisokane in the Hall at 8.30 p.m.

The Easter General Vestry gives parishioners the opportunity to keep up-to-date with the affairs of their parish and also to get involved

in different ways. When more people are involved, so the workload is distributed more evenly. Anyone may attend but only those who are registered may vote.

MOTHERS' UNION

It was great to see so many at the Fashion Show hosted by the Mothers' Union in Moneygall Hall. The models did a superb job and the cup of tea and chat afterwards was the icing on the cake! People were very generous in leaving donations in the basket and this has been passed on to the Billy Goulding Fund.

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



Mothers' Union's models

UDYC South West Alive and Spring Madness Weekends



Having Fun @ Zip it Forest Adventures, South West Alive,



Group at South West Alive in Cork



Group at Spring Madness



Late evening at Spring Madness in Kilfinane

COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

Edward Hayden is giving a cookery demonstration in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, on Thursday 28th April. Tickets at €15 are available from Borrisokane parishioners. A great time is promised!

DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

The Board are hosting a meeting in Cloughjordan Hall on the 6th April.

GFS

The Enrolment Service will be held in Cloughjordan on Sunday 10th April. Congratulations to everyone involved with the Diocesan Service on the 12th March and to the girls for all their work.

TABLE TENNIS

The season has been very busy for the Cloughjordan Junior Table Tennis. We have been training and participating at local, provincial and national levels. We have met other clubs in friendly meetings such as in Cross Patrick and Rathdowney. Athletes have taken part in provincial competitions and also in National Competitions throughout the four provinces. Celtic Table Tennis Challenger was held in St. Kieran's Hall, Cloughjordan on Saturday 27th February. About 60 children took part coming from our club and others throughout the Midlands. It was a fun filled active day thoroughly enjoyed by all. Proceedings ran smoothly, in all five divisions, with the generous help of many. It's great to see such enthusiasm for and participation in the sport in the Midlands. In coming weeks we plan specialised training sessions. The committee formed in 2015 endeavours to support and encourage young people at all levels.

METHODIST AND CHURCH OF IRELAND CONGREGATIONS

The united services are proving a very worthwhile venture for both congregations. The service held in St. Kieran's on the 13th March was well attended and it was lovely to hear such wonderful singing.

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Again, the time after the service to enjoy a cup of tea also gave an opportunity to meet up and take time to have a chat.

CLOUGHJORDAN NO 1 NATIONAL SCHOOL

After a long time waiting and many communications between the school and the Department, permission has at last been given for the extension to be built.

INSTALLATION OF CANONS

It seems such a long time ago now but the memories are good! Many thanks to those who were able to travel to Limerick on the 20th February, it was lovely to have you there. Many thanks also to all those who sent best wishes. The talk given by Canon Patrick Comerford was extremely interesting and very much appreciated by everyone.

At this point, we are greatly looking forward to welcoming the Revd. Terry Mitchell and his wife Julia to the Group of Parishes on the 29th April.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston

St Mary's Rectory, Church Road, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 0505 47164 Mob: 086 608 6567

Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Palm Sunday We are delighted to be able to report that Canon Michael has returned from sick leave and conducted the services in Shinrone and Dunkerrin. He received a great welcome from the parishioners, who were also delighted to be able to chat with him and Evelyn. We thank God for his return to health and pray that he can now enjoy his duties as our pastor and that we, as parishioners will support him in all his endeavours.

Shinrone Heritage Group had an excellent commemoration for 1916, and also of local doctor, Patrick Doyle who took part in it, when a student. In doing so he missed his finals, and had to re sit them. He fought at Jameson's Brewery under Con Colbert. It all started with a Service of Remembrance, during which Patrick Pearse's poem "The Fool" was read by Father Frank Meehan. Yeat's "Easter 1916" was read by Very Revd Denis Sandes, with bible readings by Revd Tom Kingston, and his wife Gillian. A wreath was laid at the Doyle Monument, and this was followed by speeches, entertainment and refreshment in the Hall. It was thoroughly enjoyed by those members of the parish who attended.



Shinrone Heritage Commemoration Group

A big thank you on behalf of all the people involved in Daffodil Day. An amazing €1,255 will be sent to the Irish Cancer Society's campaign as a result. People are so generous with their time and money. It is much appreciated.

MOTHERS' UNION

The seasons Closing Service will be in Aghancon at 8pm on Monday April the 4th. It will be followed by a sale in the Hall, and members are reminded that their Overseas Collection Boxes are due then.

On Thursday 14th April, the annual Dinner will be held in Parkers Restaurant, Riverstown at 7pm. All are welcome, members and non members, to what promises to be a most enjoyable evening. Tickets are €25 each, payable by 10th April to Ruth Stanley 0505 47278

It is anticipated that there will be an afternoon meeting in Aghancon on the 19th May

TABLE TENNIS

Clubs have been Active in Shinrone and Aghancon. The Finals are over and the award ceremony was in Ollie Hayes Pub on 1st April. It's has been a most enjoyable season. Well done to the Shinrone C team who came 1st in the League. Reid Armitage, Brendan Hough, David Wakefield and Howard Hendy, who won a most sporting finals against the Borrisokane team.

Hard luck to the Aghancon team who were runners-up in their section, but played valiantly.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT WHIST DRIVE

Aghancon's whist Drive on St Patrick's Night was a great success making over €500 for church funds. There were 13 tables, and some new faces. You were all very welcome. Thank you to everyone for their support. Those who helped with the organisation, those who donated prizes and food, and those who played!

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL FUNDRAISER COFFEE DAY

This is being held in Cloughmoyle School on Saturday 16th April from 11am to 3pm. Donations of cakes and other goodies will be gratefully received, as will your presence! Please bring 'Friends'!! with you.

Kinnitty's graveyard is looking very tidy and well kept. A neighbour has been invited to let his pedigree sheep act as lawn mowers! Now that saves petrol!

Lent is over but good intentions and resolutions should continue! I find it's never easy to find time for bible reading and study, but this has been made a lot easier by the Bible Reading Fellowship app on my phone! A subscription is required, but after that it's just a matter of opening it up, clicking on 'today's reading', reading the explanation of the bible passage which is only another click away!

Rev Janet

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

GOOD wishes to Julie Dickerson, businesswoman, mother of two and wife to Clinton...and Kilnasoolagh worshipper....as she adds her experience and expertise in management in the aviation sector to Shannon Chamber of Commerce which recently co-opted her onto

its Board. Welcoming South Africa-born Julie to the board, chief executive Helen Downes said her appointment would "add huge value to the Chamber's undertakings at a time when the aviation sector at Shannon is poised for change. We look forward to working alongside Julie and will value her contributions on key strategic issues."



Mrs Julie Dickerson who joins the Board of Shannon Chamber of Commerce.

Living in and around Shannon since 1996 she has built up experience with GE Six Sigma in the area of aircraft engine leasing. In January 2013 she was appointed managing director of SES—a wholly owned subsidiary of CFM International, a 50/50 joint venture between GE and Snecma (Safran).

Husband Clinton runs his own company from home, developing new processes and systems that enable businesses to develop and grow. Children Brendan and Nicolas are at third level study in Galway and Dublin. Clinton created a website for the Drumcliffe Group with Kilnasoolagh.

FLEADH CHEOIL

St Columba's community has the opportunity to be at the centre of the mammoth all-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil this August when an expected 300,000 people will mingle in the cultural and music festival.



The outsized bodhran, fiddle and concertina that formed the centrepiece of the Fleadh Cheoil entry in the Ennis St. Patrick's Day Parade certainly drew attention to the fact that the town will be hosting the 2016 Fleadh Cheoil in August

The attractive, central and popular Victorian Church building is a prize asset to the event, according to festival co-ordinator Ruari Casey, an Ennis solicitor and leading national Comlthas figure who happens to be a neighbour of the St Columba church community.

Said Ruari: "St Columba's has captured the heart of the townspeople and beyond throughout the county with its beautiful ambience and concert-standard acoustics. It is a splendid venue for all sorts of musical events and we are so grateful to the Vestry of Drumcliffe

for their willing co-operation in providing essential facilities for this huge and important gathering."

Last year the neo-Gothic church with one side isle and special works of art and stain glass co-hosted the all-Ireland Flower Festival with artists and architecture producing a stunning experience for many.

PROBUS

The Shannon-based fraternity for retired Professional and Business people (formed originally worldwide from Rotary International) PROBUS paid a visit to another of our treasured buildings, Kilnasoolagh Church, Newmarket-on-Fergus where parish honorary secretary Edwin Bailey treated them to two of his home-made audio visual productions, one on Kilnasoolagh Church and its history, linked with the Inchiquin O'Briens of Dromoland Castle and the Fitzgeralds of Carrigoran, and set on a 750 year-old ecclesiastical site opening up mission into Clare from an original Bunratty based community. Another was on celebrated stain glass artist Harry Clarke, a fascination of Edwin's who, in retirement, has built up skills in photography and audio visual presentation, claiming so many trophies that Frances, his wife is feeling the burden in the dusting!



Kilnasoolagh's Max Halliday (centre) with Probus visitors.

The PROBUS group finished off with a nice cup of tea and goodies provided by Mrs Ann Knowles, partner of Kilnasoolagh glebewarden Herbie.

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

DEATHS

On March 7th a funeral Eucharist was held for Bill Dooley in Ardrahan Church. Our heartfelt sympathies are with Shirley, Jennifer, Stephen and all the family. The funeral of Anne Hyde took place on March 19th in St John's Ballinasloe, with a burial afterwards in Holy Trinity Aughrim. Our deep condolences are with Michael, Anthony, David, Roland, Nicholas, Timothy and all the family.

BABIES, BAPTISMS & CONFIRMATIONS

Congratulations to Georgina and Marc Connaughton on the baptism of their daughter Emily Georgina in Ardrahan Church on March 19th. We rejoice with Robert and Jill Cooke on the birth of their granddaughter Ava Kate on March 7th.



Children of The Glebe NS present Miss Fenton with gifts as she begins her maternity leave

Our love and blessings are with Lisa Fenton, principal of The Glebe National School, and her husband Eoin on the birth of their son Tom on March 15th. Excitement is building amongst the eight young people of the parish who are preparing for confirmation. There will be a united confirmation service in St John's Ballinasloe on April 10th at 11am.

The World Day of Prayer was marked by a well-supported ecumenical service in St John's Ballinasloe on March 3rd. This year's service was on the theme of Children, so the young people led prayers, readings and even taught the grown ups the actions for The Butterfly Song! Well done to all involved in preparing and leading such a joyful event. Many thanks go to Michael McCullagh who helped to lead a bus load of pilgrims from Ballinasloe to an ecumenical 'Songs of Praise' style service in Knock Shrine on March 12th. On March 15th the Glebe National School marked the centenary of the Easter Rising with a short outdoor service, as we raised the national flag.



World Day of Prayer in St John's Ballinasloe

The events of 1916 were also honoured in many of the contributions to the St Patrick's Day parades in Ballinasloe, Ahascragh and Aughrim. On St Patrick's Day night the good people of Ahascragh turned out in numbers to support a fundraising dance in aid of St Catherine's Church: well done to all involved! Fundraising efforts continue when St Catherine's take a parish stall at the Caltragh Craft

Fair on April 10th (10am to 2pm in Caltragh Community Centre). On March 21st Holy Trinity Church Aughrim welcomed visitors from the South East Fermanagh Foundation, a cross-border group of people who have been directly affected by the violence of the Troubles, as part of their three-day respite tour in the West of Ireland.

Holy Week celebrations commenced with a Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion in Holy Trinity Aughrim at 7.30pm. Outdoor ecumenical Way of the Cross services in Ballinasloe and Ardahan at midday and 6pm respectively on Good Friday, and a united family Eucharist at 11am on Easter Day in St John's Ballinasloe - followed by an Easter egg hunt! On May 8th, Holy Trinity Aughrim will welcome parishioners of the Redemptorist Church in Esker, reciprocating the hospitality offered to our rector by the Redemptorists on Ash Wednesday.

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

The past month saw the ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service held in Eyrecourt Church. It was transferred from the Catholic Church as the PP felt he could not guarantee sufficient warmth in his church to hold the ecumenical event. Correspondingly many people welcomed the warmth of the Church of Ireland church. Portumna Church then moved quickly to install new heaters to maintain their reputation for 'a church fit for comfortable worship in adverse conditions'.

An inspiring Mothering Sunday Group Service in Banagher was led by the Parish Reader, Mr Jerome Phair, with a great participation of people from all the churches.

Portumna Church was host to 60 children from the Portumna Community School who with their chaplain and with the Rev'd Patrick Towers took part in a postponed Ecumenical Service. The lively question and answer session caused some concern to the Chaplain who wrote to apologise for the over-the-top behaviour of certain pupils. Interestingly the Rev'd Towers thought such behaviour was "lively with a light sprinkling of healthy mischief". It was pointed out that their behaviour would have caused no worry to the said cleric as he himself was one of the "lively ones" when he was at School at that age. He says he no longer plays 'April Fool' jokes though the discerning reader might find mischief hidden within these notes.

Easter Vestries were held. There was little change this year in Church Wardens and Glebe Wardens. Mrs Kathleen Kenny becomes a Glebe Warden and the two Wardens for Clonfert Cathedral are Mrs Olive Kenny and Mrs Kathleen Kenny. Once again the heavy duty work of being a Treasurer has been undertaken by Caroline Haslam (Portumna), Gibson Stoddart (Eyrecourt) Edward Hardy (Banagher) and Mrs Olive Kenny (Clonfert Cathedral). We all are very grateful for their time and undoubted competence.

Mrs Olive Kenny who was away this year upon extensive travels through the Antipodes was briefly in hospital on her return. She is recovering from her 'travelathon' and happily has been discharged from the Hospital. Mrs Val Bertram is also back in circulation after a brief hospital stay with her arm in a sling but nonetheless she could exchange the Peace formidably except she doesn't do the Peace.

We have just heard the sad news that Mrs Anne Hyde, of the neighbouring parish of Aughrim has passed away. We extend our deep sympathies to her husband Michael and his family.

All the churches have been richly blessed by live music throughout the last year: our many thanks go to Carol Underwood and Kenneth Bracken and Mrs Delahunt and Mrs Isobel Finney. Portumna are looking to upgrade their organ: that is such good news!

We have in addition fine parish secretaries, excellent flower arrangers, and well-kept churchyards.

A full programme of Holy Week and Easter events and series will no doubt be either past or underway as this spring edition cheerfully arrives. You make take it that we pilgrimed our way from sadness to joy to hope.

EVENTS IN APRIL

The bi-centenary of the birth of Charlotte Bronte and her connection through marriage to her husband who is buried in Banagher Churchyard will be commemorated on Thursday, April 22nd at 7pm in Banagher Church. Bishop Kenneth will be present and will unveil a plaque and perhaps will entertain us with a quick rumination on protestant clergy daughters' contributions to the rise of the novel. Hopefully as many as possible clergy daughters will join fans of Jane Eyre and lovers of Charlotte Bronte at the event

International Earth Day, Saturday 22nd April, will be kept by the ceremonial planting of a tree as part of the Sunday Morning liturgy. Tree planting will be part of the world-wide planting of trees on that day to help combat climate change. (Details later on Tree Planting later).

That's all folks! Have a good spring!

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's and Abington Churches

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 March – Henrietta Blennerhassett - our deepest sympathy to her sons, Stanley and Douglas, extended family, relatives and friends,

09 March – Peggy Kavanagh - our deepest sympathy to her son Joe, daughter-in-law, Lucy extended family, relatives and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Andrew & Noreen Ellerker on becoming grandparents and to their son Gordon and partner Maika on the birth of a baby boy, Lua on the 5th of March.

to Mabel O'Toole who celebrated her 101st birthday on Monday 7th March.

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

For the occasion it was a united service for Limerick City Parish with pupils from St. Michael's School. The children participated by reading the lessons and leading the prayers. They sang "Think of a world without any flowers". Dean Sandra blessed the flowers and knitted teddy bears which the Mothers' Union had made for children who have been in accidents and needed comfort; also there were emergency packs made up for people who found themselves

in hospital unexpectedly - a very valuable service to provide. Towards the end of the service the children distributed flowers to their mothers and all the ladies and indeed some men in the congregation. The service was well attended.



Mothers Sunday

LENTEN LUNCHESES held in St Mary's Cathedral in aid of St. Vincent de Paul were very successful. Many thanks to Noreen Ellerker, Dean Sandra and Margaret Schutz for their contributions of food. The total raised was just over € 795.00. Many thanks to all who supported this endeavour.

BAPTISM

On the 28th of February, Shauna Johanna Rothwell, daughter of John and Padraigin, was baptised in Murroe Chapel and this inter-church family wanted a C of I priest present so Father Tom Ryan warmly welcomed Dean Sandra to share the ceremony with him.

WHIST DRIVES:

The last Whist Drive of the season took place on Saturday 5th March. The Raffle winners were: Suzi Eckhardt, Tracey Lyttle, Val Beck, Gillian Cheatley and Catherine Mulcahy. We would like to thank everyone who has donated prizes, made scones and bracks, helped on the night and particularly those who attend. We will be back in October after a well deserved break!!

SPECIAL FEILE PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT

We are privileged to be hosting the Prizewinners' Concert for Feile Luimni in St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 10th April, 3.30pm to 6pm. Please come along and hear some wonderful young musicians, mainly under 18 years old and including students who have won national and international prizes already in their short lives!

LCP EASTER GENERAL VESTRY takes place in St. Michael's Church Hall on Thursday 21st April at 8pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend this Annual General Meeting of the parish.

CALLING ALL SINGERS & 'MESSIAH' ENTHUSIASTS!

Singers of all voice types (sopranos, altos, tenor and basses) are warmly invited to come to St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 23rd April at 1.30pm for an afternoon of fun singing of favourite choruses from Handel's famous oratorio the Messiah. It was given its first performance in 1742 on Irish soil (in Dublin) and this is a fairly rare opportunity in the mid-West to join with fellow enthusiasts and raise the roof of the cathedral in some stirring choruses such as 'Worthy is the Lamb', the famous Amens and of course the really seriously famous 'Hallelujah Chorus'. We are delighted that our organist/accompanist for the afternoon will be Mr Trevor Selby. Please see the advert on page 16 for all the info.

CONFIRMATION 2016: is taking place in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 22nd May at 10.30am. We pray for those preparing for Confirmation - Cathal Browne, Cormac Browne, Jonah Colgan, Giovanni James, Anderson James, Jessica McNamara, Adam MacMahon, Rachel Rusk and Eliza Zawadka. Confirmation Classes take place in Villiers School on Wednesdays at 4pm.

VILLIERS SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to Vivienne Crowley of Limerick City and David Teskey, of Adare, Co. Limerick, past pupils of Villiers School - Vivienne is also a former member of St Mary's Cathedral Choir - who were recently elected as members of Limerick City and County Council. Very best wishes to both for a happy and successful time as Councillors.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

At this writing, we are getting ready for Holy Week and Easter. But that will all be over by the time this issue appears! I pray that all have had joyous celebrations of our Lord's Resurrection.

Several special events took place this past month, one of them a sad occasion. The Rev. Bill Olmsted, Methodist minister of Adare and Ballingrane, died on 24 February. The Methodist Church held a memorial service for him at St. Nicholas Church, Adare, with leaders in the Methodist Church in Ireland coming from around the island. The church was full of people whose lives Rev. Bill had touched in his relatively short time in Ireland. We will miss his good humour and faithfulness.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

On Friday, 4 March, members of our Group of parishes participated in the service for the World Day of Prayer held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Adare. This year the service was focused on the country of Cuba. After the service, we were treated to tea and scones at the Adare Heritage Centre. It was good to worship with members of the other churches in our community and to join together in conversation over refreshments.

The Kilmallock Parish celebrated Mothering Sunday, 6 March, with a special service sponsored by Mothers' Union in which the children of the parish participated.

Kilmallock Churchwarden Jessie Griffin hosted a very successful Daffodil Day on Friday, 11 March, at her home in Bruree. The day ran from 10am to 10pm. The people attending consisted of church members, members of the surrounding communities, and even American tourists staying in Jessie's holiday home. All were treated to tea or coffee and delicious baked goods and contributed toward the large collection of €1,610 taken for the treatment of cancer. Thank you, Jessie.

In other news, Croom Parish has a new musical instrument! One of our newer members, Jed Wetherill, had on occasion been playing an old harmonium we had. But the instrument had fallen on hard times, and woodworm prevented our being able to fix it up. So Jed offered to run a 10-kilometre race in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, on 6 February and sought sponsorship for doing so, with all the donations going toward the cost of a new (or newer) harmonium. We already had €200 set aside for the purpose, from a donation given to the church. The sponsorship raised more than the additional €300 we needed. Jed completed his race, despite the rain and wind that weekend, and Croom now has a newer and more powerful harmonium. Thank you, Jed! And thank you to those who contributed.

The dates for the Easter Vestry meetings have been set: Easter Vestry for Adare / Croom / Kilpeacon, on Tuesday, 5 April, 8.00pm, at Adare. Easter Vestry for Kilmallock, on Wednesday, 6 April, 8.00pm, at Coote Hall in Kilmallock.

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

Last month a mistake was made: We announced the death of a good friend of the parish, Liz Shannon. It was Violet Shannon who died. Many apologies for the error, and for any distress caused.

This year of commemoration saw a busy St. Patrick's Day for all our communities. The Rathkeale parade is always a particularly colourful one. This year a new group Ráth Caola Le Chéile (Rathkeale Together) emerged in the town, supported by an ecumenical project in which our diocese participates, entered the parade for the first time. It was a real joy to see them in the parade and see the first little shoots of nearly three years of hard work emerging.

On Tuesday April 4th our Mothers' Union will attend the Diocesan Mothers' Union Service to be held in St. Michael's Church, Limerick. We offer many congratulations to Rathkeale parishioner, Adam Teskey, on becoming a member of Limerick Council.

This month is Easter General Vestry Month, and our meetings will be as follows:

Tuesday April 12th Askeaton and Castletown in joint session at The Rectory

Wednesday April 13th Tarbert in St. Brendan's Church Tarbert,

Thursday April 14th Rathkeale at The Rectory.

All the meetings will begin at 8:00 p.m.



Celebrating St Patrick's Day in Rathkeale

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 there is a service of Holy Communion in Tralee at 11am, followed by coffee in Mozart's Café.

Congratulations to St John's Parochial School Tralee on such an excellent result of the Whole School Evaluation which took place during the first week of March. Despite the short time our new Principal Mrs Benton has been in post, the report is exceptional and promises a brilliant future for the school. Well done to Aoife, Patricia, June, David and the team.

Congratulations to Alison Conway and Christopher Cregan who were married in St John the Evangelist Church Tralee on April 2nd. Every blessing for the couple as they begin their married life together.

Jovia Skylar, daughter of Sam Kiwanuka and Annette Mayanga and younger sister of Jotham, was welcomed into the family of the church at her baptism on March 12th. May Jovia grow in grace and faith.

A word of appreciation is perhaps in order for the hard work which continues in the Soup Kitchen each Saturday. A joint venture

between the parish and the Lyons Club – the volunteers come from various back grounds and under the guidance of parishioners Collette and Dawn a three course meal is served to over 100 people each Saturday. This meal plus provisions for the week from the Food Bank which runs in conjunction with the Soup Kitchen is a lifeline for many. Well done to Dawn and Collette who work so tirelessly and are now well into their third year with the venture.

On April 28th the 'Meeting the Neighbours' Ecumenical Group will meet in Teach an tSolais at 8pm, and will be joined by staff of St Vincent de Paul in Tralee. As there is so much food poverty and unemployment in Tralee at present, the churches in the town are hard pressed on occasions to meet the demands made by callers to their premises. The staff of VdP will advise the group on ways forward as well as sharing something of their work in town. The meeting will be followed by refreshments and begins at 8pm.

The Confirmation Group and Parish Youth Club had an enjoyable Games and Pizza night on St Patrick's evening which was a break from the usual classes. Our next social event will probably be after the Confirmation on May 6th, when we plan to go to the Bowling Alley. Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates – Holly, Orla, Jen, Lilly, Charlotte, Zac, Darragh, Adam, Jack, and Michael

A big thank you to those who have made such generous donations for the work needed on Ballymacelligott Church and for the restoration to the East Chancel in St John the Evangelist Tralee. Almost all the money is now in hand for the re-decoration and carpeting in Tralee, the cost of restoring the tiles has yet to be met. Ballymacelligott have over half the money raised to repair the south wall, and a Table Quiz has been organised in O'Riarda's pub for 8pm on Friday 22nd April. Spot prizes would be most welcome

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

THE ORGAN

I started last month's Newslink notes with a quote from Shelley, so I might as well go straight to the master this month and give William Shakespeare the nod with an appropriate line from Twelfth Night: If music be the food of love, play on. And we can do just that in St Mary's once more thanks to Peter Clandillon who has worked the oracle again getting the organ motor back up and running – thanks Peter.

THE WESTERN ALLIANCE

Moves are afoot to reorganise the diocese with a proposal to co-join Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert with parts of or all of Tuam, Killlalla & Achonry. Whereas there will always be resistance to change, it is critically important for people to realise that for anything to survive it has to be sustainable. If the amalgamation makes the Church of Ireland more sustainable in the west of the country – where numbers are small – then it should be embraced by all. It is a momentous decision and we should pray for those who have to take it to be well guided.

THE EASTER VESTRY

Now that Easter has passed we are all set for the important Easter Vestry elections. Nominating, or indeed becoming nominated, for the Select Vestry brings with it a huge amount of responsibility. The least of this responsibility is just turning up for parochial monthly

meetings, or indeed attending the Diocesan Synod. The most important aspect is that one is stating that for the year to come "I will do whatever needs to be done to promote the church in my locality and to have the buildings and grounds as presentable as possible for parishioners and visitors alike." One is not only making this pledge to one's peers but to God Himself because it is, after all, God's House and deserves nothing other than 100% commitment.

So, because we get somewhere in the region of 40,000 visitors annually and St Mary's is slap bang in the middle of Killarney town, our church needs to be kept to a standard that goes beyond what you would find in, say, a smaller church in the country which is only open for Sunday services. Another important fact with regard to St Mary's is that non-Church of Ireland businesses and individuals in the town have recently made a massive financial contribution to the railings replacement fund and they rightly expect what's inside the railings to reflect their commitment to our church. This means tidy lawns and flower beds, clean toilets and walkways and a dust and dirt free interior.

We cannot expect others to do the day-to-day work that's required to achieve the foregoing just because we're on the Select Vestry. Counter to that, just because you're not on the Select Vestry doesn't mean you don't have a role in this day-to-day work. Everybody needs to kick in and work together to maintain and enhance our beautiful church so that locals and visitors alike will find a place where they can spend time reflecting and praying without the distraction of seeing dust on the pews or crumbs on the floor.

It is vital, therefore, that everybody attends the Easter Vestry and that the composition of the elected Select Vestry represents St Mary's to the highest possible standards. For those who are not nominated, or indeed who decline nomination, please reflect on your own role and commit to looking after some aspect of maintaining the church for the coming year. If you are unable to clean or do any maintenance work in the church, consider going in for a half hour once a week to be a presence in the church to welcome visitors and locals alike. By doing so, you will be doing yourself and the church a great service and God will indeed thank you for it!



Lord and Lady Kenmare (aka Simon and Nolleen)!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

MOTHERING SUNDAY

The Mothers' Day service was held in Killorglin Church and the confirmation candidates were involved. They led the scripture readings, the intercessions and the brought up the offertory as well as distributing daffodils to all the ladies of the parish.

Many thanks to the Sunday school leaders who organised the daffodils. This day as always gives us an opportunity to give thanks to God for our mothers and for all who mother us in so many ways.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Neil and Arlene Stephens on the birth of their daughter Clodagh, who will be a sister for Alexander. Congratulations also to her grandparents, Joe and Dorothea Stephens of Kilderry.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Shauna Moroney of Killorglin who successfully completed a 90km cross country ski run in Sweden in just thirty five hours. What a wonderful achievement.

Congratulations also to Katie Boyle of Castlemaine who won a silver medal in a recent indoor rowing event in UL.

SYMPATHY

To Carmel and Matt Murphy of Killorglin on the death of Carmel's brother Tony in Newbridge. Tony like so many of his family including his brother in law Matt was a member of the Irish Defence Force.

His funeral was held in Newbridge.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

I was invited to represent the Parish on the viewing stand in Milltown for the St Patrick's Day Parade.

It is always an eye opener to see all the voluntary organisations who contribute so much to the life of our communities. Sporting, cultural, educational and scouting and so much more. All together in one place at the one time is a sight to behold. It brought home to me once again the generosity of those who give life to these organisations.

It was also wonderful to see so many parishioners walk with their clubs, some of whom displaying trophies that they had won. One of the highlights for me was Ken O Neill's mini train, Well done to all.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Classes continue and the next service they lead will be a family communion service on the 3rd April in Killorglin. This is part of the practical element of their preparation.

NEW ENTERPRISE

Best wishes to John Orme of Callinafery who has now gone out on his own with his company FSE, Fire Safety and Environmental.

John previously worked with ARK. John supplies Fire Extinguishers and provides training on their use as well as general safety training and he is now qualified to provide training to Knap Sack users on the applications of the recent laws on pesticide.

JUNIOR ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Well done to the senior cycle in Kiltallagh and to their teachers and

mentors in their achievements in the Junior Enterprise Programme. I believe that they have sold all of their produce.

EASTER VESTRY

This annual general meeting will be held in Killorglin on Tuesday the 12th April at 8pm.

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

After some delays, the first trickle of Syrian refugees is arriving in Ireland; the Irish Red Cross is working on behalf of the government to make them welcome, first by giving them shelter in dedicated reception centres, providing clothes and other necessities; in parallel, the IRC are looking at more permanent accommodation and checking for suitability. It was therefore timely that the 'Suitcases of Welcome' appeal delivered a Ford Transit full of items in order to give them to families who have encountered such terrible hardships in getting to a place of safety. With each suitcase went a letter of welcome, and our prayers are that this country can offer them a safe place in which to settle and grow. Many thanks to the generous congregations of Kenmare, Killarney, Sneem and Tralee who responded to the appeal so readily.



The annual World Day of Prayer, celebrated jointly with our friends in the Gateway Methodist and Holy Cross Kenmare was this year held in St Patrick's; helped by the Kenmare Girl Guides, and surrounded by butterflies, the theme of the service, produced by the women of Cuba, was 'Receive children, Receive me!'



Kenmare Girl Guides at the World Day of Prayer

In what has become an annual tradition, we enjoyed a Seder meal on Tuesday of Holy Week; led by Canon Alan Shaw, numbers attending increased again, and all present learned more about the ritual likely to have been the meal shared at the last Supper. Elijah didn't turn up – but then, since we have Jesus Himself, he didn't need to.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Vacant

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

Rev. Shannon DeLaureal is Acting Superintendent for Adare and Ballingrane until we welcome our new minister in July. 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.delaueal@irishmethodist.org

We would like to express our thanks for the support and sympathy we received from so many people during Rev Bill's prolonged illness and his death. We and the Olmsted family were very appreciative of all who attended the thanksgiving service.

Our on-going thanks to the ministers and local preachers who are continuing to come to take services each week and to Rev. Shannon's for her oversight and help in ensuring that services and visits to the sick run smoothly..

METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND The 57th Midlands & Southern District Annual MWI Weekend Conference will be held on 15th -17th April 2016 in Castlerosse Hotel Killarney. The speaker will be Rev. Dr Stephen Skuce and his theme is 'The neighbours we have from You'. Everybody is welcome – not only MWI members, and not only women!

SERVICES FOR APRIL

3 April Suzie Gallagher Adare 10.15 a.m.
Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

10 April Ruth Matthews
United circuit service in Ballingrane at 11.00 a.m.

17 April Rev. Tom Kingston Adare 10.15 a.m.
Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at both services

24 April Gillian Kingston Methodist Women in Ireland united circuit service in Adare at 11.00 a.m.

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

Early March saw Christ Church cleared of chairs again for an amazing exhibition. Last year's success prompted Limerick School of Art and Design ceramics students to come back again for 'Crank it Up,' a completely new exhibition inspired by a project brief containing evocative words. Each student chose and interpreted words from the brief to express their own individual creativity. There was a great deal of diversity; Michelle Collier bold and impressive pieces were inspired by the 'grubby, almost forgotten parts of a

city – the beautiful in chipped paint, a rusty girder and peeling billboards. The contrast of textured surfaces against sharp clean cuts forms echoes the man-made city structures and the materials that ultimately define them,' while Geraldine Ayres-Quinn's unusual and exquisite piece Tormented Tranquillity explores the religious icon of the Crown of Thorns. Geraldine wrote that she was 'drawn to the organic beauty in the universally recognised Christian symbol and the notion of finding serenity in a symbol of sacrifice; the power of an icon to inspire stillness and awe – the vehicle for religious experience.'



Ceramics 2016

While Geraldine was in the church she noticed our cross on the wall. This simple mosaic piece was made by members of the congregation several years ago from broken tiles that had expressions of individual brokenness written on the back. It's a striking piece of community artwork permanently present in our sanctuary. Geraldine was obviously moved by what she was seeing and experiencing and felt that her ceramic Crown of Thorns should remain in Christ Church. We felt very honoured and delighted to have such a beautiful piece of work donated to us and placed it on the Communion Table for our Good Friday Tenebrae service. It will remain on display in the church.

Our next exhibition will be from lens based media students.

CB1 has also seen some diverse and beautiful artwork and we would continue to invite you to visit our gallery and coffee dock 51a O'Connell Street.



Zimbabwean Mothers' Union warm up

We had a very welcome visit from our sisters in Dublin Central Mission. Local preacher, Josephine Masawi, organised a visit from the Zimbabwean Mothers' Union who usually meet in DCM with a few extra guests from Galway. The women looked great in their uniforms of red and white and there was a lively service of song, prayer and scripture. The theme was the story of Zacchaeus. There was one notable difference from our usual services in Christ Church; this one was conducted entirely in Shona. I rarely understood a word but it did however show quite clearly that you don't need to speak

the language to know that God is present and praised and that you can raise your voice in song even if you don't know the words. It was quite a liberating experience!

There are regularly new requests for groups to use our facilities and the latest is from Novas. They are the main service providers for the homeless in Limerick and after several months of discussion they have decided to begin a Parent and Toddler group which they will be running in the church hall with hopefully a food bank service to follow. We are delighted to be supporting them. And we have good news from our Failte Isteach (English conversation) younger group. Two young women, originally from Pakistan, in the Maths group are signed up for honours Leaving Certificate Maths. So we are keeping them in prayer as they prepare for their exam later in the year.

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 Ricthie

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.

ST PATRICK'S DAY HAS BEEN AND GONE!

Hundreds of cups of coffee and tea and juice were served and hundreds of biscuits eaten in Killarney and Millstreet as we sought to bless the communities God has placed us in! Killarney had the added attraction of bouncy castles, live music, face painting and testimonies all giving glory to God!

Such a simple thing to do yet it was all greatly appreciated by those who stopped by in either Killarney or Millstreet. We were blessed by dry weather and a team from Charis bible college in USA who helped the local churches in Killarney reach out to the community!

Christians together in Kenmare enjoyed Lent bible studies led by Michael Cavanagh

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

On Tuesday 15 March, I attended two Irish flag-raising ceremonies commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising. One was in a secondary school while the other was in a primary school. Both ceremonies were moving and educational for this American! I now have a more knowledgeable appreciation of the struggles, triumphs, and losses this country experienced on its quest for freedom and home rule. A parent from one of the schools remarked how a pupil was quite moved by the actions of these men who sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. He just couldn't believe their courage and strength!

It was also noted that pupils in primary school were having difficulty remembering the difference between the Easter Rising story and the Easter Story! In one significant way, these two stories are quite similar . . . for Jesus sacrificed his life for the sake of our freedom! What kind of freedom does Christ offer? He offers freedom from the power sin has over our lives; freedom from the troubles our sinful behaviour can cause; freedom to live a life centred on the values of Christ rather than our contemporary culture – this moves us from a sense of competition to one of contentment; and the freedom to start anew and to be transformed by all these things. Christ came so that we might have freedom and hope for a new and better tomorrow. Yes, I can see how the Easter Rising story can get mixed up with the Easter Story. As we thank God for the brave men and women who helped shaped this nation's history, may we place our faith into the hands of the One who is our tomorrow as we strive to live out the ideals of the Christian-based proclamation of peace, equality, and justice.

Faithfully,

~ Rev. Shannon

St. Cronan's Youth Club Fundraiser– Everyone's invited to a Car Treasure Hunt on Saturday 9th April from 7pm – 9pm. The hunt starts at the Methodist Church Hall. Come enjoy tea in the Hall afterwards. €20/car. Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

Ecumenical Prayer Service Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising – This special service will take place on Wednesday 13 April at 7:30pm in St. Cronan's Catholic Church. All are welcome.

St. Cronan's Ecumenical Walk – This event will take place on Sunday 24th April in the afternoon. We will walk around Roscrea praying for its future as we remember its history and the contribution of Saint Cronan, himself.

Care for Creation – Small steps to nurture our planet



We thank God for the Paris agreement on Climate Change at which 195 countries made a promise to keep rising temperatures well below 2°C and if possible 1.5°C. But these promises will be no more than hot air unless people in every country start to adopt sustainable lifestyles. The way to

make the big changes that are needed is to make a start with small steps, and then progressively bigger ones. So it is right that Christians should reflect on what they can do personally and as church communities to nurture the gift of this beautiful planet God has placed us on. Here are a few ideas from Eco Congregation Ireland (for more see their website www.ecocongregationireland.com).

EAT LESS MEAT

It takes far more land & water & 10 times the amount of energy to produce animal than vegetable protein, so why not cut down on the amount of meat you eat? Meat-free Mondays, anyone? According to UN specialists, one meat-free day per week would help to tackle climate change more than reducing car journeys. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says that livestock production is one of the major causes of the world's most pressing environmental problems, including global warming, land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

ENJOY CREATION

Take time to see heaven in nature! Get out and about in the countryside, the local park or even your garden and open your eyes to the beauty all around. Take time to wonder at the colours and intricate patterns and breathe in nature's many different fragrances.

FLY LESS

An abundance of cheap flights doesn't mean that we must spend every holiday abroad. Choose to holiday at home sometimes and explore some of our own beautiful country (without forgetting to pack your raincoat and wellies)! When you do fly, offset your air travel by investing in renewable energy projects. When it comes to reducing the emissions associated with air travel, we really only have two choices: buy carbon offsets, or don't fly at all. Look at it as a donation to a good cause rather than a way to excuse bad behaviour!

WALK/CYCLE OR TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

As well as saving on energy and CO2 emissions (and your purse), walking/cycling will help improve your cardiovascular health and reduce your risk of obesity. For longer journeys, use public transport (where possible)! Consider telecommuting if you live far from work. Or consider moving closer. Lobby your local council to increase spending on paths and cycle lanes.

GROW YOUR OWN

Enjoy fresh food and reduce air miles to air metres by growing your own salads, herbs and vegetables. Lettuce, rocket, chives and many other quick growing salad ingredients can be planted outside any time from April to the end of August. Basil and coriander can be planted in small pots and kept on the kitchen windowsill, though you need to water them every day. Many vegetables can be grown without greenhouses or any special treatment - just plant them in the ground in a sunny spot and water them every alternate evening. You can grow courgettes, tomatoes, beans (round and runner), peas (podded and mangetout) and lots of others this way. It's remarkably easy and very satisfying to eat your own produce and it's excellent for the environment! See www.giyireland.com.

SAVE WATER

Fix dripping taps and put a water hippo or two-litre plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet cistern. Shower rather than bath. Collect rainwater from downpipes in a water butt and use to water the garden. Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they're full. Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle). Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week. Did you know the average toilet flush uses 10 litres of water?

BE ENERGY EFFICIENT

Don't leave televisions or computers on standby - switch them off when not in use. Use energy-efficient light bulbs - when a light bulb runs out, replace it with an energy-efficient one. Energy-efficient light bulbs last 12 times as long as traditional bulbs.

DON'T THROW AWAY

If you decide to upgrade your TV/computer, don't throw it away - take it to a second-hand shop, so someone else can use it. Computers can be restored and sent overseas - see www.camara.ie. If it's broken, recycle it. It is now illegal (as well as lethal to the environment) to send electrical and battery-operated items to landfill.

From acorns grow mighty oaks

Loving God, creator of the galaxies and of the tiniest seeds, sometimes we are overwhelmed by the immensity of the task of changing the habits and practices of the world so as to counter climate change.

May we remember that the tallest oak grew from a small acorn and that every small change each of us makes has its own effect, and that together all our efforts can produce the change we seek.

We ask in your Son's name. Amen.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...

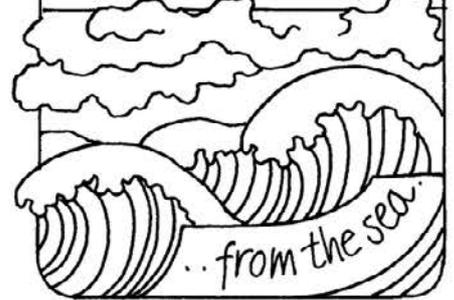
When God first made the universe it was empty and shapeless. God said..

Let there be light!



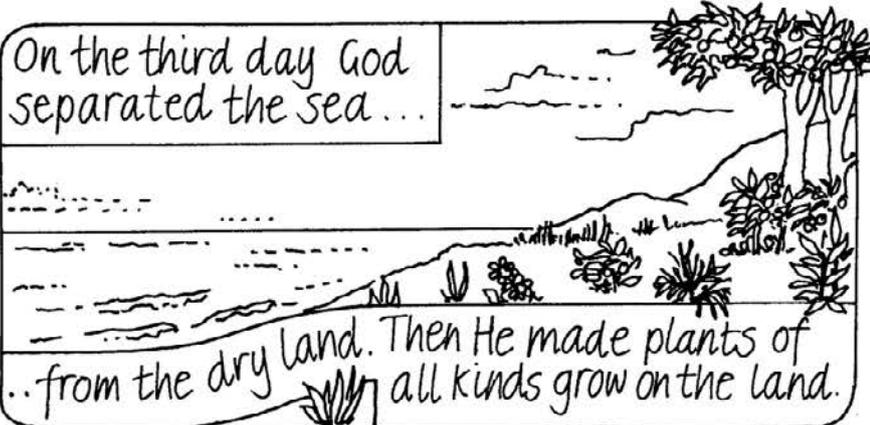
God separated the light and dark.

On the next day, God separated the sky...



.. from the sea.

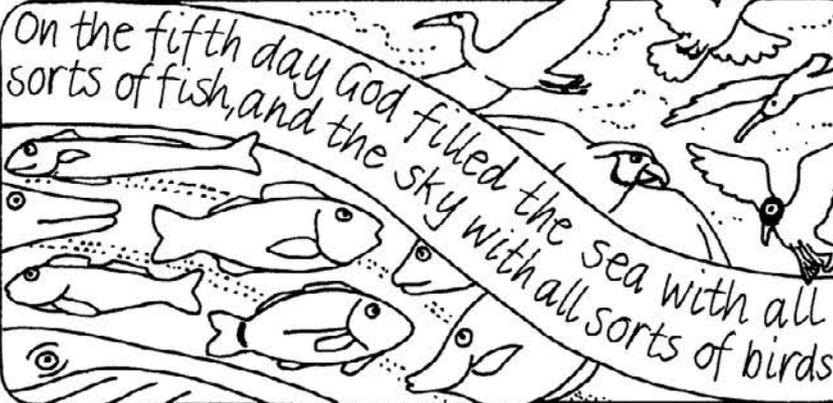
On the third day God separated the sea...



.. from the dry land. Then He made plants of all kinds grow on the land.

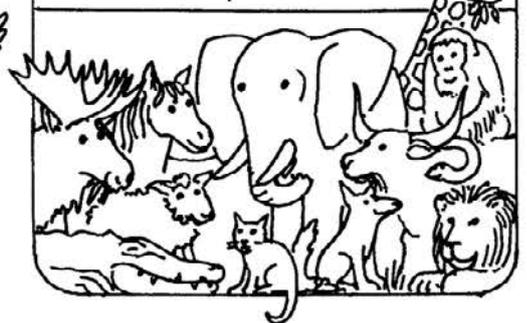


On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.



On the fifth day God filled the sea with all sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds

On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals..



and then He made people, men and women.

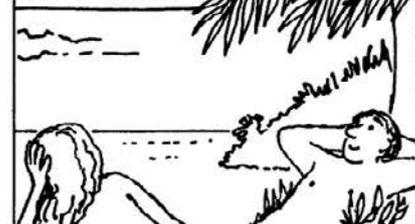
God told the people....

Take care of all I have made.



God saw that everything He had made was very good.

On the seventh day God rested...



and so did everyone else!

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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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