



# NEWSLINK

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

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## Come gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove Pentecost - Sunday 15th May



Holy Spirit window, St Peter's, Rome, by Gian Lorenzo Bernini c. 1660



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[www.kingshospital.ie](http://www.kingshospital.ie)

# Bishop Kenneth writes

Dear Friends

Some of you, especially if you live in the Limerick region, will know that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Limerick held a 3 day Synod recently in Limerick City. I was invited, and was delighted to be asked to address the Synod during its opening session and to bring greetings and good wishes to the members on behalf of the Church of Ireland community. I was also asked to speak at the concluding Mass at St John's Cathedral. Not long before that, I was the preacher at the St Patrick's Day Mass at Sarsfield Barracks in Limerick.

So much has changed in our inter-church relations in a comparatively short period of time. It wasn't long ago that ecumenical contacts especially with the Roman Catholic Church were rare and generally surrounded by suspicion and wariness.

The brunt of those suspicions was often borne by inter-church families, and many's the family row that occurred because of that. I do hope that such frictions are well in the past, and certainly should not arise in families today.

I'm often asked questions by inter-church families as to what is or is not permitted, and what is acceptable today. Let me try to address some of the more obvious ones.

First of all, an inter-church marriage is a cause of celebration for everyone, and as a diocese and as a parish we do all we can to join in this celebration and to support the couple who wish to affirm their life-long commitment to one another through their marriage vows. Most of our clergy work well with their Roman Catholic colleagues, and can usually resolve any difficulties (or imagined difficulties!) which may arise. Clergy of both traditions sharing in the conduct of the marriage service is now the norm.

As a couple, and then as a family, all are welcome to participate in the life of the Church of Ireland parish as much as they wish, without compromising their commitment to the other church. In fact such involvement in each other's parish is a positive sign and witness especially to children, and the welcome the parish extends to all members of the family is an extension of this.



All, including children who have received First Communion, are welcome to receive Holy Communion in a Church of Ireland Communion service. The welcome we extend to all "who are communicant members of another Christian Church" is simply an affirmation of the fact that it is "the Lord's Supper" and not "the Church's Supper", though extending that invitation is not intended to pressurise anyone or to embarrass anyone into receiving Communion if they don't wish to do so.

That's just a brief response to a number of questions I've been asked in recent times, and may have triggered a number of questions in the minds of others – if you do have questions or any related questions, or any other questions, I'm sure our editor would be happy to receive them (anonymously if you wish) and to publish an answer.

*Editor: I would be delighted.*

With all good wishes

Sincerely,

+Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon

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## Diocesan Calendar

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

Sat 7th May CIYD Connect Training Day for youth leaders, CITI, Braemor Park, Dublin 14

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

Sun 15th May, 3.30pm Mothers' Union Diocesan Service & Commissioning of Mrs Lucy Kavanagh as Diocesan President, St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan

Sun 15th May, 7.30pm Pentecost Cantata, 'Holy Spirit, Breath of God', St Brendan's Church, Birr – free entrance

Wed 18th May, 2–5pm Spiritual Tourism Conference, West Gallery, Birr Castle, Birr, Co Offaly

(registration: [rector@churchofthesloes.ie](mailto:rector@churchofthesloes.ie))

Tue 17th May, 3.30pm Limerick Protestant Aid AGM, Richmond Terrace, Limerick

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

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

Fri 3rd–Mon 6th June Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Wed 8th June Mission Evening with Linda Chambers, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

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

Sat 18th June, 7.30–9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Richard Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City (2nd level students)

Sat 25th June, 10am–5pm Diocesan Synod, The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Sun 26th June, Choral Evensong & Farewell to Archdeacon Sue Watterson, St John's, Tralee

## Diocesan Review

*Cecil Hyland writes:*

Gordon Linney and I are looking forward to visiting a number of Parishes in the United Dioceses over the next few months and to taking part in some Diocesan occasions. We are hoping to meet with as many people as possible to get an insight into the Dioceses by listening to the views and ideas of clergy and people.

We do not see this review as being about parochial reorganisation: rather it is about identifying opportunities and building on what we have.

After about six months the Bishop has invited us to report on our findings and to bring forward some suggestions as to how the Dioceses might move forward under God's guidance.

Should any member of the Dioceses wish to get in touch with either of us please feel free to contact us as follows:

Ven Gordon Linney, Bellevue Cottage, 208, Upper Glenageary Road, Glenageary, Co Dublin. Tel 01 284 8503 Mob 087 254 1775 Email [glinney@eircom.net](mailto:glinney@eircom.net)

or

Canon Cecil Hyland, 34 The Vale, Skerries Rock, Skerries, Co Dublin. Tel 01 810 6884 Mob 086 838 5317 Email [cecilhyland@hotmail.com](mailto:cecilhyland@hotmail.com)

# Editorial - The housing emergency

Our country is in the midst of a housing emergency – homelessness stalks our cities. In January 2016 official statistics recorded 5,700 people – including 1,800 children – in emergency homeless accommodation, B&Bs and hostels, around 40% up on 2015. But this is only the tip of the iceberg: many more without an affordable home are living with family and friends in unsatisfactory conditions; others are on the verge of repossession because they cannot afford their mortgage; and many in private rentals face demands for unaffordable rent increases, or fear eviction by a property company which bought their original landlord's debt at a discount – a 'vulture fund' – to make a profit by selling their home.

All this just a few short years after we saw unfinished ghost estates across the land! During the bubble bad spatial planning meant houses were built far from jobs where people didn't want to live. Since the crash construction has ground almost to a halt, so that now there are not enough homes available to meet demand, particularly in the cities, causing rents to soar. We must not kid ourselves that this is only a Dublin problem, because there is large and growing homelessness in Limerick, the centre of our diocese.

So what is to be done? Well intentioned people call for rent supplement to be increased to match rising market rents, but the state is understandably reluctant to do this: landlords would likely pocket the increase without building more homes. The problem is one of supply, and can only be solved by building more affordable homes. According to housing agencies like Focus Ireland a minimum of 40,000 social houses are needed over the next 5 years, costing of the order of €6M to build. Why are they not being built? Private developers are clearly unable or unwilling to meet the need, so the State must step in to unblock construction. The incoming Government – when we get one – has a big job on its hands.

God bless, Joc Sanders

# Letter to the Editor from Rev Ted Woods

Dear Editor,

Readers of your Diocesan Magazine Newslink might be interested in my ebook which has been published on Amazon. It is called 'And Some There Were' and is a light look at the 'Good, the Bad and the Ugly' in the clergy of the Church of Ireland's past, and includes a chapter on the Dingle Mission. There are 25 sketches, historically accurate, of priests and prelates from Reformation times to the 20th century which will inform and entertain. The book includes the rogues as well as the righteous, the murdered as well as the murdering, priests and bishops alike. It can be previewed on Amazon. The eBook is only €1.99.



I am a retired Rector of the C of I, having most recently been Rector of Rathfarnham Parish, Dublin (1993 – 2014). I was Rector of Kilcolman Union from 1973 – 1978. I am now living in Liverpool where my wife, Revd Anne Taylor is Vicar of St. Peter's Formby.

Yours etc, Ted Woods

# Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe Et 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](http://www.limerick.anglican.org).

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

## Editor

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

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

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## Deadlines

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**All material must reach the Editor by Friday 20th May 2016 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.**

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,  
Email: [peterschuetz@gmail.com](mailto: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 - May 2016

### Each Sunday in May

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

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

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

### 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 we may enjoy healthy nourishment.

### 5th May, The Ascension Day, White

*A hymn of glory let us sing,*

*New songs throughout the world shall ring,*

*Christ, by a road before untrod*

*Ascendeth to the throne of God. Alleluia*

### 8th May, 7th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea and Most Revd Paul Kim, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea & Bishop of Seoul.

Diocese: The General Synod to be held in Dún Laoghaire in the coming week and our diocesan representatives.

### 15th May, Pentecost, Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Melanesia and Most Revd David Vunagi, Archbishop of Melanesia & Bishop of Central Melanesia.

Diocese: For the Holy Spirit to bring new life to our churches and parishes throughout the United Dioceses.

### 22nd May, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico and Most Revd Francisco Moreno, Presiding Bishop & Bishop of Northern Mexico.

Diocese: For Methodist congregations within the United Dioceses and for our covenant relationship with them on this Sunday closest to John Wesley Day, 24th May.

### 29th May, 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Diocese: For doctors, nurses and all healthcare professionals, that they may be blessed in their work, and that their skill and compassion may bring us healing and comfort.

### 5th June, 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh and Bishop Ferran Glenfield

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) and Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar & Bishop of Yangon.

Diocese: Young people in our diocese, in particular those attending the Confirmation Weekend in Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney this weekend.

## John Wesley Day – 24th May

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Born in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children. Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford. John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a "Holy Club" while still at college, dedicated to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such methodical discipline soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: "I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?"

Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this 'true' conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God "chased away the darkness of my unbelief". Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John's turn. As he wrote in his journal:

*"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed".*

John and Charles Wesley devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Britain and Ireland. When John was refused permission to preach in established churches, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners. His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small "societies" attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death. Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" - in all, he wrote nearly 7000 hymns.

Thanks be to God, the division between Methodists and Anglicans is fast becoming a thing of the past. The Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland have agreed a Covenant, which now allows for interchangeable ministry. Church of Ireland congregations are encouraged to celebrate the Covenant relationship with neighbouring Methodist congregations on or around John Wesley Day (also known as Aldersgate Day), May 24th, each year.

### A Prayer for John Wesley Sunday

Holy God, Spirit, Son and Father;  
One in self-giving, self-receiving love and unity.  
You raised the People called Methodists as a family  
To look upon the whole world as their parish.  
Grant that we in communion with one another  
May come to know and achieve the vision of your perfect  
love  
And draw all people to you, to whom we offer all praise  
and thanks  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# A View from the Pew - for Pentecost, 2016

by Salters Sterling



Easter was every bit as good as I had hoped it would be. The rich fellowship with our Methodist Friends was renewed in our Holy Thursday celebration of the Lord's Supper and in the recollection of the passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday. Both were deeply moving engagements with the tap roots of our faith. Even more so was the celebration of the Easter Vigil Ceremonies on Holy Saturday. These public acts of the People of God relate us back across

something like 1900 years of Christian living and worshipping and sweep into their embrace the origins of our faith in Ireland through Patrick's demonstration of the power of our God to the leaders of the Druidic religion of his time. The privilege of being part of this faith journey across time and space is both mind-boggling and spine-tingling in an age of built-in obsolescence. The Old Testament readings remind us of the great story of God at work in his world and relate us to the faith history of Jesus' People, the Jews, and their liberation and frequent faith renewal. The Gospel Reading of the account of Jesus living after dying carries the crucial warning "DANGER GOD AT WORK" and the renewal of our Baptismal Vows re-roots us in our own liberation experience with the Easter Eucharist renewing our crash helmet of salvation for work on God's building site. Participating in this experience in Lorrha, itself the site of centuries of Christian worship, is to be commended to all who want to understand the significance of the affirmation that our God is the one who works within and indeed creates history. As the Jewish people say 'next year JERUSALEM', let us say 'next year LORRAH ". Or rather let us create our own experience of the Easter Vigil and invite all who will to share it with us.

Just as Easter relates us to the Passover and the freedom March out of Egypt as well as to the raising of Jesus from the dead so Pentecost relates us to the celebration of the Spring Harvest and to the giving of the old Law to Moses as well as to the giving of the Holy Spirit. For us, of course, it is the latter that is of supreme importance because it is the occasion when the men and women Friends of Jesus are transformed from being transfixed by fear and confusion into becoming witnesses to the mighty acts of God in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Pentecost is the affirmation and the confirmation of the resurrection of Jesus. It is the proven and proving success of the great experiment of Love, the beginning of which we celebrate at Christmas and the breath-holding moment of 'will it work or will it not work' we contemplate on Good Friday, with Easter Day the initial signal of success. Pentecost is the moment we can shout EUREKA or in the more traditional language of the church, HALLELUJAH - IT HAS WORKED - JESUS IS LORD.

I hope you will prepare to experience that exuberance of Spirit at this coming season of Pentecost when the new Law supplants the old. I write in this fashion because Pentecost is the moment when the gift of the Spirit - originally asked by Jesus for his Friends from the Father on Holy Thursday evening, and first received when the risen Lord breathed on his Friends following his resurrection -

empowers those same Friends with Love and Joy and Hope. And like those first Friends we need to stay together in prayer and support of each other, for it is to the united, prayerful, caring People of God that the liberating and empowering gift of the Spirit is given, and the rule of the new law of Love becomes possible. Here is a simple guide to the way of the Friends of Jesus. At Christmas we are accepted in Love. At Easter we are saved by Love. At Pentecost we are empowered to Love. You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul and mind and strength and your neighbour as yourself. So be it.



## 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



### Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May

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

Music by Faure, Elgar and Rachmaninov

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Choir of St. Cloud State University, Minnesota

Including music by Mozart, Dove, Barber and Mendelssohn

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

David Simon (organ)

Music by Preston, Bednall, Laurin and David Briggs

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Edel O'Brien (mezzo soprano), Irina Dernova (piano)

Music by Dvorak, Milhaud and Ravel

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Annina Ahola (violin), Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Music by Bach and Brahms

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

# Dignity in Church Life

Everyone expects to be treated with dignity and respect. However, our human relationships are imperfect and, when difficulties arise, we need to emphasise the need to treat others as we would wish to be treated and to pursue reconciliation. It is in this context that the Church of Ireland has adopted a Dignity in Church Life Charter, and has developed a number of supporting policies to guide members of the Church in dealing with some of the sorts of situations that can arise in Church life and that may have the potential to affect relationships within the Church community.

The starting point for the Dignity in Church Life Charter is that Church membership implies a commitment to relationship, reflecting the Gospel's invitation into a relationship with God and with all who are likewise part of the life of the Church. The Charter, which was approved by the General Synod in 2015, is underpinned by the following Christian principles:

- Building and supporting harmonious relationships in church life across all its structures
- Upholding the right of all equally to be treated with dignity and respect
- Seeking reconciliation where there is disagreement or conflict.

The new policies that have been developed in support of these

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principles aim to bring clarity to how the Church will respond in three particular situations: where bullying or harassment is alleged

between Church members; where grievances are reported by members of the clergy; and where members of the clergy experience long-term illness. Information about the policies is available online at [www.ireland.anglican.org/hrpolicies](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/hrpolicies).

A copy of the Dignity in Church Life Charter will shortly be sent to every parish and it is hoped that this will be displayed prominently within the parish. Copies of the policies and accompanying guidelines will be circulated to every parish. Every effort will be made to ensure that all members of the Church of Ireland are aware of the Charter and of these Church-wide relationship policies. Church members, dioceses and parishes accessing the policies will be able to raise any queries with a central human resources advisor. It is hoped that the Charter, and the policies and guidelines developed in support of it, will be of practical assistance to members throughout the Church of Ireland in resolving issues and affirming relationships within the Church community.

## Diocesan Organisations

### Girls Friendly Society

#### BIRR BRANCH

Birr Branch are busy working on their Floral Art Badge and had a very successful Flower Arranging Workshop with Majella Fetherstonhaugh. All the girls went home with a beautiful arrangement and a bunch of daffodils in a novel container. Our second badge this year is Environmental and Nature Study and we have already made bird feeders and seed heads for this. We are going on a trip to visit the recycling centre next.



Nine girls from Birr Branch enjoyed the All Ireland Camp in Kilkenny College during the Easter Holidays. It was very well organised and

the activities and crafts were very much enjoyed by all. As well as the girls meeting other GFS members, All-Ireland camp is a great opportunity for leaders to interact with leaders from other branches and dioceses and to share ideas.

Congratulations to all the prize winners at the Open Day in March for their crafts and Bible study. The standards were excellent as usual.

#### ROSCREA BRANCH

Well done to all the girls that took part in Craft and Bible study Competitions. Some of our entries have gone to Dublin for The All Ireland Competition.

The GFS Easter Festive table in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea displayed some of the girls' crafts and prizes.

Tara, Rebecca and Emma, Senior Members, attended 'Holiday Club Training Weekend' in Ovoca, Co Wicklow which was organised by Rev Nicola Halford and Enniscorthy & Monart Union of Parishes. The weekend was extremely beneficial to the girls as they returned full of enthusiasm as Junior Leaders. We look forward to them bringing new energy to GFS in Roscrea.

Three Roscrea girls attended All Ireland Camp in Kilkenny College. Roscrea Leaders, Madeline, Serena and Karen wish to thank Grace Healy and the Cloughjordan leaders for looking after Roscrea girls. Beaming smiles as they recounted their time at camp said it all!

20 leaders attended Diocesan Council meeting in St Cronan's School on 12th April. We thank Ann Powell, School Principal, for permission to use the venue and for assisting with the setup.

Music badge is now completed and we will be working on the Explorers and PE Badge during upcoming meetings.

#### NENAGH BRANCH

Girls have been working on their Discovery & Science badge. Well done to Ciara Drummond who attend All Ireland Camp in Kilkenny.

## CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

GFS All-Ireland Camp was held in Kilkenny College from 31st March - 2nd April. Cloughjordan branch was well-represented with three leaders and thirteen girls in attendance. It was a wonderful experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all, a great way to renew old acquaintances and to make new friends.

Enrolment Service took place on Sunday, 10th April in St. Kieran's Church. We were delighted to welcome our Diocesan President, Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney. Mrs. Caroline Stanley was enrolled as a leader and ten girls were enrolled as Junior Members, four as Members and two as Candidates. It was wonderful to have the girls participating in the service which was led by Canon Ruth Gill. Refreshments were served in St. Kieran's Hall afterwards and everybody enjoyed the chat.



*GFS Cloughjordan Enrolment*

We sincerely thank Canon Ruth Gill for her commitment to GFS during her time with us and wish her God's blessing in the future.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Roscrea Enrolment Service will take place in St. Cronin's Church, Roscrea on Sunday, 8th May at 10.45am.
- Central Council Meeting - Saturday, 14th May in the Parish Hall Christ Church, Dun Laoghaire. Winners of All Ireland competitions will be announced at this meeting.
- Leaders Camp Meeting - Wednesday, 18th May in the Back Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Nenagh at 8pm. This meeting is for all leaders who are travelling to the Diocesan Camp in June.
- Diocesan Camp will take place in June (10-12) at the Faith Mission Centre, Durrow. Girls will enjoy Icebreaker games, activities and crafts. Best of all, they enjoy lots of fun, fellowship and friendship together. Camp is for girls aged 9 years and over. Events for the weekend and costs will be finalised at the Camp Meeting on 18th May. Following the meeting Branch Leaders will be in touch with parents regarding costs and requirements for the weekend.



*Campers*

# Boys' Brigade



## 1ST TRALEE COMPANY

*Captain Collette Price writes:*

Our Enrolment Service was held in St. John's Church and the Company was enrolled by Rev. Susan Watterson. We started the year off with a Rugby World Cup evening; we played tag rugby, created a Rugby World Cup tournament board and taught the children how to sing Ireland's Call. At Harvest time we made a display of fruit and vegetables in St. John's Church, we also wrote prayers of thanksgiving on Autumn leaves. The children took part in Bible Studies. Each evening we read a Bible story and at the end of the story the children were asked questions and were given a memory verse related to the story to take home and learn for the following week. We took part in the MS Ireland Read-a-thon and raised €200. At Christmas the children put on an alternative Christmas play for friends and family. Our play was based on Superheroes finding out there was a new superhero in town and worried that he would take their jobs, only to find out that the new superhero was baby Jesus. We followed the play with a carol service. The Company also enjoyed a trip to Siamsa Tire to the Christmas Pantomime.

The children enjoyed a trip to Bowling Buddies just before the Easter break. We had a visit from Trish Fitzpatrick from Tralee Garda Station who gave the children a talk on how to stay safe. She also let the children look at her handcuffs and baton and everyone got to take a look inside the squad car with the sirens blaring. We also had a visit from John Leahy from the Irish Reserve Defence Forces, who gave a talk on what it was like to be in the Army. John brought in equipment that the army use including a fully packed backpack, helmets, webbing and a replica rifle. The children also gave a demonstration of their marching.

We held a Science evening, were the children conducted various science experiments, these included how far a balloon can travel on a piece of string, the trajectory of paper planes and making a catapult from marshmallows and skewers.

I would like to thank all the Officers this Session, Mr. Colin Boyle, Mr. Gerhardt Martiz, Ms. Raffella Carter and Mr. David Tough, without whose, dedication and commitment, the Company could not continue to meet.



*1st Tralee Company in St John's at Harvest*

## 1ST NENAGH COMPANY

What a great day we had in Multyfarnham! More about that from our Leading Boy, Denis Sheehy:

*Last Saturday, the Boy's brigade went to Wilson's Hospital School for a multi activity day. There were over 100 boys from all over Ireland and the whole place was buzzing with excitement. Our first activity was a treasure hunt. The treasure hunt was really fun because we were all running around like mad trying to find the clues. After the*

treasure hunt, we went swimming. We got to the pool which was outdoors in the cold. Shea and I were one of the few people to jump in. It was FREEZING!! We had some games to warm ourselves back up afterwards. Then we played some cricket and a game of rounders. Shea was awesome at rounders. After that, we did an obstacle course, some of the games in that were very challenging but Andy flew through them. When that was over we played a few games of duck- duck- goose. Before we knew it, it was dinner time. We were all exhausted and were looking forward to a nice long rest when we got home. It was a fun and energetic day and we all had a brilliant time there. Thanks to Lisa and Jim who made possible the super day.

We started the new term with a nice treat for the older boys (Juniors). They had a great time with snooker player and Chairman of the Nenagh Institute Snooker Club, Patsy Farrell. Nenagh's snooker club is one of Ireland's oldest, established in 1887 and the boys enjoyed hearing a bit about the history, before the real business of coaching, practice shots and a few impressive tricks from Patsy! Patsy has worked with us on several occasions, usually basketball, and we are grateful for his support. The younger boys (Anchors) enjoyed some fun and games back at base!

We are looking forward to our trip away to Portarlinton to enjoy lots of activities with companies from all over the Midlands region, and we have invited Roscrea to share an evening of friendship, competition and fun with us in early May.

Our bake sale and enrolment service on Sunday 17th April was a great success. Thank you to all concerned, boys and parents for baking, and to everyone who bought tasty treats – and in lots of cases made a donation. We made an unbelievable €240! The boys added to the enjoyment of the service with their readings in contemporary language taken from "The Word" and their prayers, most of which were written by them, which is extra-special.



The Wilson's Hospital outdoor pool was FREEZING

## Mothers' Union

On May 21st we are all looking forward to the Diocesan Festival which will be held this year in Cloughjordan at 3.30pm, especially so as it will also be the commissioning of our new Diocesan President, Mrs Lucy Kavanagh. It will be a very special day and hopefully many will come to wish Lucy well in her new role as our President and to enjoy a lovely Festival Service.

### LIMERICK BRANCH

In May we are looking forward to a demonstration of 'No Cook Meals and Salads' by Gordon Shier.



Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brook with members and friends from Adare, Askeaton and Limerick City Branch following our Lady Day Service

### SHINRONE BRANCH

The Mothers Union held their annual dinner again, this year, in Parker's Restaurant in Riverstown. Over 20 people enjoyed each other's company over an excellent meal.

There will be an outing to Bellfield Gardens, by kind invitation of Angela Jupe, on Saturday 28th May at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come to this, regardless of gender!

On Thursday 19th May at 2pm in Aghancon Hall there will be an afternoon of Fun and Fellowship. Again, this event is open to everyone, male or female, who would like an afternoon out.



Enjoying the annual dinner in Parker's Restaurant, Riverstown

### FORWARD PLANNING!

On September 22nd at 2.30, the Mothers' Union General meeting will be hosted by Winchester Diocese and Archbishop Justin Welby will preach. We will be celebrating the faith, life and achievements of the Mothers' Union over 140 years. For more information on the General Meeting please go to [www.mothersunion.org/general-meeting-2016](http://www.mothersunion.org/general-meeting-2016)

## United Diocesan Youth Council

### TAKING A LEADING ROLE PART 3

*Sophia Levie writes:*

On Friday the 1st April we gathered for the final part of leadership training in Cloughjordan.

We stayed in the lovely Django's hostel in the Eco Village. The first evening we had a session about how to deal with children with difficult behaviour led by Eleanor Walker, and a Bible study on Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well led by Damian Shorten. The rest of the evening was spent getting to catch up with everyone until the early hours of the morning.

The next day was an early start, travelling to the UL Activity Centre for an action packed morning doing team work activities. We started

off on high ropes and climbed the tricky Jacob's ladder in groups of four. The task could only be completed by helping one another climb up. This taught us the important lesson that you are only as strong as your weakest link. We then raced each other on the high ropes obstacle courses. This was followed by team work games where communication was key. We returned to the hostel tired and hungry to a delicious lunch cooked for us by Rachel Davis. Once refreshed we started on a session about how to organise an event and all the planning that needs to go in to it.

Later on in the day Amy McCrea led us in a session about how to organise and lead a group worship session, taking into account factors such as age. In the evening we were joined by other youth leaders from UDYC for Safeguarding Trust training where we learned all about child protection guidelines.

On our final morning we went to a lovely church service followed by an exploration of the Eco Village. We had two more sessions, the first on how to cater for a group. In our final session we all had to organise worship from songs to readings to prayers, even a theme. The weekend finished off with the presentation of certificates. The afternoon arrived and we all had to part, wishing one another luck in exams and promising to see each other again in the summer when we are all leaders.

The following 10 young people received certificates for completion of the course over three weekends: Jordan Lewis (Roscrea), William Phair (Banagher), Laura Cooke (Kilpeacon), Lucy Gardiner (Adare), Sophia Levie (Mountshannon), Katie Phair (Banagher), Emma Phair (Banagher), Charlie Brickenden (Limerick), Kate O' Brien (Castleconnell), Carol Millar (Limerick).

#### FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

On Saturday 16th April our first fundraising ventures for 2016 took place at Shinrone Parochial Hall. A big thanks to all those who supported the event in so many ways with particular thanks to Sandra Wakefield and many of her family members for organising the day. A total of €490 was raised at the time of writing these notes.

#### DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Please note that our Diocesan Confirmation weekend will take place from Fri 3rd June – Mon 6th June at Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross Killarney, Co. Kerry. This weekend will be for all 2015 & 2016 Confirmation Candidates. As well as confirmation training sessions the group will enjoy plenty of fun activities. Transport: to and from Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh, and Limerick & Adare. Cost €80 and €20 extra for transport. We do hope that as many as possible will join us for this special weekend.

#### CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

... to Damian Shorten & Amy McCrea on the announcement of their engagement on Easter Sunday.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Henry on (086) 2235755, Email: [udyc@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:udyc@limerick.anglican.org) or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 1339996



Young leaders displaying their certificates (missing from photo - Katie & Emma Phair)

# Children's Ministry Network

## HOW TO DO BLESSINGS AT HOME BEFORE BED

Start simple: Blessing children can be very simple, short and sweet: "I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" or, "I bless you in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer".



Be creative: If you've got wiggly and squiggly little ones, try weaving their bodies into the blessing: "I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. From the top of your head to the tips of your wiggly toes. From the fingers on this hand to the fingers on this hand. And everywhere in between – on the inside, outside, and when you are upside down."

TRY ONE OF THE BLESSINGS BELOW, OR CREATE YOUR OWN.

### Basic blessings

I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I bless you in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

### Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

### Parent blessing

I love you and bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; the God who knows and loves you, who watches over you and keeps you safe, growing strong, living, loving, and serving more and more. Amen.

### Parent blessing

I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, this night and always. God give you good rest, and keep you growing stronger, wiser, kinder, and ready to serve – and always knowing how much you are loved. Amen.

### Praying before Meals



What materials are needed for this practice? While there are no materials necessary for prayer, you might consider a book of prayers or a prayer cube to help get started.

Make it normal: As a start, an adult may speak the prayer, and then over time invite others to add a prayer. Later, other household members may

take turns leading. Like anything, this will take time, but with repeated practice, it will become more comfortable.

Give thanks: Expressing gratitude to God, day in and day out, is the surest way to remind ourselves that we are infinitely loved and unfathomably blessed.

Pray for others: Praying for God to heal or protect someone specific helps the family hold that person in mind and feel that they are helping them too.

Pray for strength and guidance: Praying that we use our gifts to help others, every day, reminds us that we are to do good in the world. Ways to pray: Praying out loud, especially from the heart, helps children and adults learn that prayer doesn't have to be perfect to be worthy of God. On the other hand, traditional prayers offer a chance for connection. Sometimes a song learnt in school does the job. More Family worship at home ideas can be found at [www.buildingfaith.org](http://www.buildingfaith.org)

## ON THE WEB

... well worth a look for all of us who seek to put a bit of muscle into how we support the recently baptised and their families. [www.churchsupporthub.org](http://www.churchsupporthub.org) material for a Godparent's Sunday. [www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org) ...have lots of useful information on welcoming those with autism and Asperger's syndrome in our churches, children and young people. All this and more very stimulating articles and video lectures on the latest edition of *Child in the Midst* from the Church of England.

## Diocesan Board of Mission

See page 36

# SCHOOL NEWS

### St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

School re-opened after the Easter Break on Monday 4th April. The Infant pupils spent some time in our school garden planting some onions. Thanks to Jayne, our school secretary, who looks after the garden. We will do some more planting when the weather heats up a little. This year we have organised our Spring Clean day for May 6th when pupils and teachers will have a big 'tidy up' of the school and church grounds.



*Spring planting in Adare*



*Onions! Ready to be planted in Adare*

The pupils are busy designing a new logo for Adare Tidy Towns. The committee has organised a competition for all the local schools to design a new logo. They also donated an oak tree to all the local schools and we were delighted to have it planted at the side of the

playground.

This was the first year that the school entered Eason's Spelling Bee, a competition for pupils in 5th and 6th classes in primary schools. We held our school competition on April 6th and 6th class pupil, Katie Purser was the winner. Katie represented the school in the county final on April 11th and she did an excellent job. Although she did not win the competition she gave an excellent performance and represented the school very well.

The senior pupils are just putting the final touches to their next issue of *St. Nick's Buzz*, the school magazine. The stories, reports and interviews are with our editor and parent in school, Ieteke Oggel.

Our Health Promoting Schools' Committee are preparing for our Fruit Day on April 19th and the school photographer will be with us on April 22nd.

The senior pupils will showcase their game 'Travel Ireland' in the Woodlands Hotel at the end of April when schools in the area who also participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Project will meet up and share their ideas.

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

On March 15th, St. Mary's No. 2 was decked out in green, white and gold. With the sun shining and all of the pupils singing *Amhrán na bhFiann*, Dawid and Oliwier from the Senior room raised the Irish flag as part of Proclamation Day to honour the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The formal commemoration commenced in the school hall with Aidan, Robert and Jack reading the Proclamation. Crían, Heather and Chelsea entertained everyone with some lovely Irish dancing and Lydia played a beautiful Irish tune on the tin whistle. The senior room pupils also wrote their own proclamation for today's modern Ireland and recited the famous poem 'Who Fears to Speak of Easter week'. The middle room pupils were busy putting together a time capsule which is to remain locked away for the next twenty five years! Items such as a current newspaper, a stamp and a postcard of Nenagh town were all placed in the capsule. We were delighted to be joined by parents and grandparents on this special day.

March 11th was another busy day at the school where we held our annual school fair. The hall was a hive of activity with all sorts of games and competitions, while Mrs Maher's room was full to the brim with delicious goodies of all sorts. The fair was a great success and we were delighted to raise €600. Half of the money raised was given to a past pupil, Ms Emma Gordan, for her trip to Uganda. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out on the day and to all the pupils and parents who worked hard that week baking all sorts of amazing treats. It was wonderful to see so many people there on the day having fun and enjoying themselves.

Congratulations to Emilija from 4th class who won 1st prize in a World Book Day competition being run by The Book Shop, Nenagh. Emilija wrote about her favourite book character.

A warm welcome back to Mrs Esther Quin and a big thank you to Ms Karen Hogan who was teaching the middle room pupils while Mrs Quin was on maternity leave. We are very fortunate not to be saying goodbye to Ms Hogan as she will now be teaching the senior room pupils while Mrs Maher is on maternity leave. On that note we wish Mrs Maher every good wish as begins her leave and look forward to hearing news of the new arrival.

## Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

Well done to everybody – pupils, parents and staff – who contributed to “Proclamation Day” at school on 15th March. Thank you especially to Joanna Parkes, our guest of honour, who spoke to us on the day and, with the assistance of Sofiya Percy, Joshua Kennedy, Ella Wakefield, Artsiom Deane, Katy Williamson, Dylan Wallace, Laoise Gaffney and Alastair Grant, raised our national flag. Well done to Olivia Swan who 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 while all pupils led singing of the anthem. It was very interesting to hear Max Swan, Alyssa Culbert, Tabitha Larke, Roisin Dunne, Ava Austin, David Persse, Andrew Hayes, Stephanie Manley, Hannah Austin & Ben Curran, First – Sixth Class pupils, unveil their vision of Ireland and their hopes and dreams for the future

Well done to Laura Armitage, Amy Clarke, Robyn Fitzgerald, Sadhbh Lummis, Lisa Mooney and Sophia Whelan – our Girls Soccer Team – who participated in the FAI Primary Soccer Schools 5-a-side Competition in Thurles in March. Well done also to Ross Austin, Alex Chadwick, Alastair Grant, Andrew Hayes, Tom Larke, Alex Mooney, Hugo Ó hAnluain, Ruairi O’Brochain who came second in their group in the FAI Primary Soccer Schools 5-a-side Competition in Thurles in April.

Thank you very much to everybody who contributed to the huge success of our Bring & Buy sale and Easter Egg Raffle in school before Easter, not least the pupils for their enthusiastic buying and selling and for their very creative ideas for making money on the day. €1200 was raised, which we were delighted to share equally between the Autistic Unit at St. Michael’s N.S. and the Billy Goulding Fund

Robyn Fitzgerald, Hannah Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald, Lisa Mooney, Ross Austin, Tom Larke, Stuart Fox Powell and Andrew Hayes returned to Kinsale in April, and represented the school at the Munster Schools Table Tennis qualifying competition for the All Ireland Schools Table Tennis competition. The girls had great success on the day and emerged as Munster Champions and go on to represent Munster at the All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals in Dublin at the end of April. This was a great achievement; we are all delighted for the girls and wish them every success in the All Ireland Competition. The boys came 4th in Kinsale – a great achievement also. Well done to one and all.



*Robyn (Captain), Hannah, Lisa & Lucy, Munster Table Tennis Champions, who will represent the school at the All Ireland Competition, with Tony Leahy, Munster Table Tennis*

The school is very grateful for donations it received:

- Thank you to Cloughjordan Pharmacy for the very generous donation of a large, fully equipped First Aid bag and a set of Sports bibs.

- Thank you to Super Valu in Roscrea for the generous donation of a giant Easter Egg to our school, and to the businesses in Cloughjordan who sold lines on behalf of the school and helped to raise €264 for the school. Special thanks to Mrs. Esmé Grant who arranged the donation from Super Valu for us.
- Thank you to Cloughjordan Tidy Towns Committee for the very welcome donations of currant bushes and perennials to our School Garden.

The school was delighted to host the annual Basketball Blitz, in April, and to welcome Aglish, Borrisokane and Carraig National Schools. We are grateful to Patsy Farrell who co-ordinated the event. All teams played well on the day. Congratulations to Borrisokane National School who won the blitz and to our own team who came second.



*Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Basketball team*

Welcome to Deirdre O’Leary who very kindly volunteered to teach Music in the school this term. All pupils are enjoying this experience. We are very grateful to Deirdre for sharing her expertise with us.

Welcome to Rev. Terry Mitchell, and to his wife Julia. We hope that they will be very happy here among us and assure them of a very warm welcome from all at the school.

## Oxmantown National School, Birr

### EXERCISE/NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Two students Rachel Meehan and Sarah McCarthy from Athlone Institute of Technology delivered a programme on health, nutrition and exercise to the senior students each Monday for six weeks. This was fun and educational for our pupils.

### LENTEN PROJECT

This year’s Lenten Project was in aid of Kids4peace, a charity that organise cross community camps and events for children in Jerusalem from Jewish, Christian and Muslim backgrounds. Our children worked hard for the six weeks of lent running stalls at break times, doing sponsored spells, an Easter Egg Raffle and finally a bake sale. We raised €2,200 a very good result, exceeding all previous records!

### PANTOMIME

Pupils from third to sixth class visited the Pantomime at Birr Theatre, we all enjoyed ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ with a modern spin, this show was free thanks to the sponsorship of Price Waterhouse Cooper.

### COMMEMORATION OF EASTER 1916

Commemorating the events of April 1916 permeated so much of the curriculum this term through history, drama, music, poetry and novels set in that era. On 15th March like all other national schools, we celebrated Proclamation Day. The weather was kind, Eva Noyce

read the Proclamation and Joshua McDowell read his own version of a modern day Proclamation, the tricolour was raised outside our school to the respectful singing of 'Amhran na bhFiann'. Julianna de Sousa Eades and John Phair had the honour of raising the flag.



*Pupils of Oxmantown National School celebrating Proclamation Day*



*Proclamations were read and the Tricolour raised*

#### COLLECTION IN TESCO'S

Thanks to the parents and friends who shopped at Tesco's in Birr and loyally supported us with the 'Blue Token Community Appeal' earning €282 for our Gardening Club, thanks to Rebecca Keaveny for volunteering to run the Gardening Club this year; we meet after school on Wednesdays from 3.00pm to 4.30pm

#### BOOK FAIR

The Celtic Book Fair runs after school from the 11th to the 15th April, profits earned come back to the school in the form of books.

#### GYMNASTICS

Our block of gymnastics lessons with trained gymnastics teacher Emer Feehan is coming to an end. This was enjoyed by all pupils, we are grateful to the Parents Association for funding half of the cost.

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

It was lovely to welcome back former pupils Emma, Marcin, Patricia and Natalia each spent a week on their work experience placement with us. We wish them well in whatever career they choose and their future studies.

## Rathkeale No 2 National School

We were delighted to welcome back Liza and Noel from the Postal Bible School for their annual prize giving. After singing some songs together Noel told some Bible stories to a captive audience. The pupils marked Proclamation Day by raising the Irish flag and reading out their own Proclamation for 2016, written by the senior pupils.

Our second term came to an end with our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the school grounds.

The summer term is always a busy one and currently we are preparing for and looking forward to many exciting events. April is Spring Clean month and as usual we will take part and spend an afternoon cleaning up around the school and Church Street. We have already planted our vegetable garden and look forward to watching the plants grow. Our Green Flag committee is keeping the pressure on everyone with everything "green". Our Green School Code or motto competition has just been launched. The winning entry will be our code as we work towards achieving our next flag. Pupils have made bug hotels which have been placed around the school grounds. This year we also intend on planting a wild flower garden to encourage more bees and butterflies to visit.

The senior pupils are all looking forward to this year's sports day in Villiers as well as our own sports day later in the term. We're also excited about working with Yvonne McMahon, Community Co-Ordinator with Limerick City and County Council. Yvonne will work with the pupils on two different programmes over the coming weeks. The senior pupils will work on an Active Citizenship Programme and the junior pupils will work on the "I Matter" programme.

The pupils will take part in a fundraising sponsored cycle on Saturday 11th June. We will cycle from Ardagh to Rathkeale along the Great Southern Trail. All proceeds raised will go towards school funds. Pupils will have sponsorship cards for two weeks prior to the event, your support is very much appreciated.

## The Glebe National School, Aughrim

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK NEWTON



*Mark receives his award*

Our 4th class student Mark Newton has been awarded runner up in GOAL's 'Write the Future' competition, a development education initiative that invited students nationwide to write to a person of their choice about the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. The aim of the competition is to help students learn about an important, current, humanitarian situation, while also instilling the belief that their voice matters and can inspire change in both the local and global community. More than 1000 students aged between the ages of 8 and 18 penned letters to sports stars, musicians, politicians and other influencers.

Mark wrote to President Michael D. Higgins to implore him to do his bit to solve the Syrian refugee crisis. He asked the President to "speak to the people of the world and encourage them to find a solution to the crisis". While the competition asked for the letters to be sent to GOAL, Mark had the initiative to take it a step further and he actually

sent the letter to President Higgins himself. He received a reply from the President's office thanking him for his thoughtfulness. Mark was presented with a special award on Tuesday February 2nd 2016 by Louise Merrigan, GOAL Development Education Coordinator and Alia Alsoud, a Syrian journalist who works with the charity. Mark was on local radio station Galway Bay FM speaking about his award and also featured in the Connacht Tribune Paper. Well done, Mark!



Glebe students with Alia Alsoud and Louise Merrigan from GOAL

## Villiers School

### JUNK KOUTURE 2016

Congratulations to our TY girls, Lauren Ryan, Rebecca O'Flynn and Taine Amodeo and their teacher Ms.Thornton on reaching the All Ireland Junk Kouture final in the 3Arena Dublin. They received the Southern region wild card to the finals.

Junk Kouture is a national competition sponsored by Bank of Ireland which has now been running for five years and gaining in stature. The main judges are Louis Walsh and Vogue Williams who will be appearing on The Late Late Show with the national winners. The competition allows students the opportunity to show their creative talents through design and the use of unusual and alternative materials. The Villiers girls saw one person's trash as their treasure and designed their iconic dress mainly from recycled bottles, envelopes and buttons.



### PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY 2016

We again look forward to hosting our annual Primary Schools Sports day on Tuesday 24th May. Visiting pupils will get the opportunity to participate in tag rugby, soccer, orienteering, basketball and fun games.

### SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS

Villiers entrance scholarship exams will take place on Saturday May 7th.

### TY DRAMA

Our TY drama rehearsals are gaining momentum and the students are working hard. This year's production of 'The Beggars Opera' will take place in the Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May. We look forward to your continued support. Tickets are on sale and available from the school office.



TY Drama - 'The Beggars Opera'

### BOYS' HOCKEY

It has been a very successful year for boys' hockey in Villiers. We have been busy competing in finals. Our senior As were narrowly defeated 0-2 by Bandon Grammar in Villiers. It was their fourth successive year in the Munster Cup final and well done to them and their coach George Blackwell for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Our senior Bs were defeated in their final 1-3 by Bandon Grammar in Bandon. They hit the post twice and the crossbar once and 'lady luck' was not with us on the day.

Our junior As have had an excellent season and defeated Newtown School in their Munster Cup final. It is seventeen years since we last lifted the cup - a great achievement to bring it back to Limerick. We went 2-0 up by half time with scores from both Gerard Hodkinson and Gareth Sparling. The second half was much closer and we ended up 3-2 winners, with Yannis Von Maydell scoring the winner with a fine short corner. Well done to all concerned.

### VILLIERS UGANDA PROJECT 2016

See page 19



Villiers Junior Cup Winners 2016

# 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

We managed to have a Eucharist service in three of our churches on Easter day, thanks to +Kenneth taking the service at Killaloe Cathedral, allowing the Dean to go to Castleconnell and Mountshannon, and by adjusting the times of Mountshannon church service.

### BARBARA HARTIGAN

Barbara Hartigan has been running the Sunday School at Castleconnell for forty years. She reached her 70th birthday in April and decided to retire from the Sunday School. She however had one last project for this year entitled "Husbands and Wives from the Bible". On Sunday the 10th of April the children of All Saints Church in Castleconnell presented it at the Family Service, their project for the year.

It is a great way of teaching the children by having them research the work and learn about it and then prepare a presentation. They had eleven couples in the bible to learn about. Their stories were presented with original Art Work displayed on the ends of each pew (thanks to Barbara our local artist). Thirteen children and young adults read the story of each couple. They placed them as they appear in the Bible dividing the Old Testament from the New Testament.

This is what Barbara had to say about it:

'We decorated Jacob's coat with Fig Rolls, Lot's with "lot's" of spots. We touched and tasted a salt candle holder to imagine the colour

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

A Sunday School Presentation entitled  
**"Husbands and wives from the Bible"**  
 April 10<sup>th</sup> 2016, 9.30 am.

Jubilate, ev'rybody, serve the Lord, Hymn 701

Introduction read by Leo.



1.

1. Adam and Eve read by Lily.

2. Noah and Naamah read by Eddie.



6.

3. Abraham and Sarah read by Adam.

Give me oil in my lamp, Hymn 570

4. Isaac and Rebekah read by Kate.



2.

5. Lot and Edith read by Rowan.

6. Jacob, Leah, and Rachel read by Hannah.



7.

7. David, Abigail, Michal, and Bathsheba read by Aaron.

8. King Solomon and his 700 wives read by Hazel.



3.

Bind us together, Lord, Offertory Hymn 518

### NEW TESTAMENT

9. Mary and Joseph read by Breanne and Aimee.



8.

10. Elizabeth and Zechariah read by Fiona.

11. Herod and Herodias read by Dáibhí.

Conclusion by Adam.

Father, we adore you, Hymn 568



4.

Organised by Barbara Hartigan  
 Sunday School Teacher 1976-2016.



9.



5.



11.



10.

and texture of Edith, Lot's wife when she looked back! We discovered Namaah was the Mother of Ham, Shem and Japhath and the wife of Noah. We doubted the absolute wisdom of Solomon when we discovered he had 700 wives and 300 mistresses. We admired Abraham's wife Sarah producing Isaac when in her eighties. We wondered about the Gold Nose ring that Isaac presented Rebecca with, and we admired Jacob's tenacity in working 14 years free of charge for Rachel's hand in marriage, having first married Leah in a case of mistaken identity. We wallowed in the down fall of John the Baptist and visited the palace of Herod and Herodias!

This all culminated in a family service which was led by John Jarvis. There was cake and a gift was presented to Barbara as well. We wish Barbara well as she takes a seat in the pew on a Sunday after 40 years of dedicated service to the children and families.



Barbara Hartigan receiving a presentation to mark her retirement from Sunday School

Easter vestry meetings are over and good wishes to all those who will serve on the select vestries for the year ahead.

Cecil Hyland and his wife will be with us for the weekend of 6 to 8 May and we look forward to their visit as part of having some different eyes look at our diocese.

## Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: [mapleire@gmail.com](mailto:mapleire@gmail.com)

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

### CONFIRMATION

We were delighted to have Bishop Kenneth Kearon with us in Birr for our Confirmation service on Sunday, 17th April. Canon Jane Galbraith, Roscrea Diocesan Reader Adrian Hewson, and the Archdeacon assisted the Bishop in the service. The Confirmation candidates also helped with the liturgy, as they read the lessons, took part in the Gospel Procession, shared the peace, asked the questions that are a part of the Eucharistic Prayer, and gave the dismissal, as well as presenting the elements for the Eucharist, and helping with preparing the Altar at the Offertory and with the Ablutions after Communion. Our candidates were Maya Carni, Seán Johnson, and Vanessa Wakefield from Birr, David Briscoe and John Phair from Banagher, Alex Chadwick from Cloughjordan, and Eva Wallace, Saoirse Barrett, and Adam Wallace from the Roscrea Group of Parishes. Many thanks to all who helped with making the service so special.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Many thanks to all who helped make our services in Holy Week and Easter meaningful again this year. Those who take part will always find that spending some time with Jesus during the last days before his crucifixion mean that we can better realise his presence with us in our times of sorrow, and better celebrate his joyous resurrection.

### BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our Ecumenical Prayer evenings continue to meet, now on a monthly basis. The date in May will be announced. We are also working on connections between Birr Churches Together and the St Vincent de Paul. Other 'BCT' events will be announced.

### BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

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

**Ecumenical Celebration of the Old Grave Yard** – originally planned for 23rd April, a new date still to 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 – **St Brendan's Patronal Festival**

Wednesday, 14th September – **Concert by Michael J. Rampling**

Saturday, 10th 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](mailto:galbraithjane@gmail.com)

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

A full week of services were held throughout the group leading up to Easter Saturday when a beautiful moon lit a warm evening outside St Molua's Church Kyle and introduced Paschal candles for all the Group's churches on Easter Day. After enjoying a Good Friday service in Christ Church Corbally the children went into Easter Day with an action driven reading of the Easter Story.

The Ecumenical Witness of the Carrying of the Cross from St Cronan's Roman Catholic Church through to the Methodist Church and on to our St Cronan's was very well supported. Over 150 people heard various parts of the Passion Narrative. The Side Chapel in St Cronan's was put to good use through the week culminating in a Tennebrae service on Good Friday. Very many thanks to Marjorie Mc Corduck for her availability to play the organ every evening.

We were delighted to welcome Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke to St Cronan's for Easter Day, thus enabling Holy Communion services take place at the designated times in our other churches.

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

It was with great sadness that we record the death of our oldest parishioner, Alice Isobella Harvey, neé Pratt, born May 1920. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughter Myra and her husband George and their daughter Wendy. Alice died on April 1st 2016, her funeral service was held in St Cronan's Church and her final resting place was in Killermogh Churchyard, Abbeyleix, the Revd. Chancellor Patrick Harvey assisting.

Alice Harvey was a small slight person with boundless energy. It is true to say everyone enjoyed seeing her coming. Born in Camross, Alice moved to England where she pursued a career in nursing. She met her husband Arthur there, who was from Ballacolla and they moved back to Ireland, eventually settling in Bloomville House, Cloneygowan.

Alice was a dedicated member of the Healer Prayer group and Mothers' Union. Up to a year ago she loved to walk in Golden Grove beside the bluebells. When not involved in all things church, Alice loved handcrafts and her garden which to this day bears the fruits of her labours.

#### GARDEN CHAT MAY 7TH

Lawlor's Florist and Garden Centre Durrow, are coming to talk things horticultural with a Q&A session on general garden topics. All are welcome to support this fund raising event on Thursday May 7th, in Abbey Hall, Roscrea at 8pm. Small entry fee entitles light refreshments and the chance of a prize. Armchair Garden Quiz and Colouring Competition prizes will be awarded on the night.

#### MUSICAL EVENT

We greatly look forward to welcoming to St Cronan's Church, The Ballyclare Male Voice Choir, May 3rd at 8.00pm. Proceeds to benefit The Methodist Church Funds and Pieta House, Roscrea. Tickets €15 and €10.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES have taken place. Thanks were recorded to all out-going members for their careful work carried out during the year, especially during the vacancy. While many experienced members continue in harness a welcome is extended to new members to serve as select vestry members. Details of lists to follow.



## 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](mailto:lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk)

Diocesan Readers:

Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, [joc\\_sanders@iol.ie](mailto:joc_sanders@iol.ie)

Audrey Clarke Gordon

087 742 8901, [audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com](mailto: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

#### HOLY WEEK & EASTER

We commemorated the Last Supper with Holy Communion in St Mary's on Maundy Thursday – it would have been nice if there were more of us there, but perhaps folk were saving themselves for the Good Friday walks of witness. Good Friday began with the children making Easter decorations, followed by reflections and prayer on the Crucifixion, led by Rev Lucy. In the afternoon parishioners joined Rev Lucy and neighbouring clergy in two ecumenical walks of witness, one through the streets of Nenagh, and the other from Templederry Church of Ireland to Templederry RC Church. What a blessing it is to walk together with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other traditions! The Easter Eucharist was joyfully celebrated in all three of our churches. As always they were beautifully decorated for Easter. Our thanks are due to all who helped organise and decorate, and especially to Rev Lucy – she must have been worn to a frazzle by the end of Easter Day!

*Continued on page 25*



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MAY  
18



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### FESTIVAL DETAILS

**Exhibition** Displaying a collection of authentic recovered artefacts from St. Mary's Cathedral and area dating back to the 12th century, this unique exhibition will run throughout the weekend.

**Cathedral Tours** Daily historical tours (10am – 5pm)

**Concerts** **Saturday May 28th: 5pm** Concert by the COI Cathedral Choirs of Kilkenny, Waterford and Limerick. Including Schubert's Mass in G and Parry's 'I was glad'

**Sunday May 29th: 3pm**, Limerick Wind Ensemble play Mozart's Gran Partita K 361  
**7pm**, Sunday Festival Evensong

**Services** **May 29th: 11.15am Sunday Festival Eucharist.**  
Preacher: Fr Martin Browne OSB (Glenstal Abbey)- ALL ARE WELCOME

**Flower Displays** Presented by the local community

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# You could save Morsheda's home

'My children were so scared. My sister was holding them very tightly and we were panicking because our neighbour's child was washed away.'

The floods have destroyed Morsheda's home again and again, forcing her family to flee.

**This is the week we love every neighbour. Please give generously and help save Morsheda's home and protect her children.**

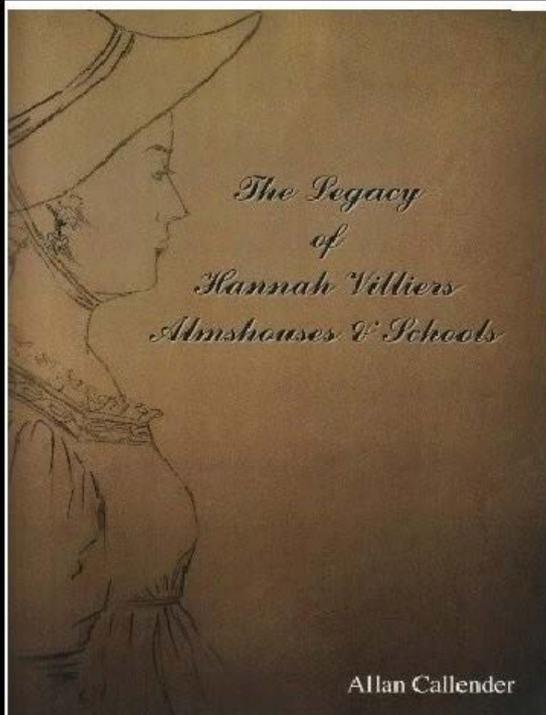
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# Christian Aid Week: the week we love every neighbour

Editor: During floods here in Ireland last winter neighbours reached out in so many ways to help those afflicted. Let us do the same to help families at the mercy of floods in Bangladesh this Christian Aid Week, 15th – 21st May.

Meet our neighbour Morsheda. She is a young, single mother of four. Her husband has left. She has no land. No assets. No savings. And the only work she can get is backbreaking manual labour for as little as €1 a day. Morsheda lives on an island called the Bazetilcupi Char in Bangladesh with her three daughters, Shohida (12), Sokhina (eight), Shumi (seven) and son Murshid (18 months). The single-room, corrugated-iron shack she shares with her family has been flooded four times.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world, and the people living on the low-lying islands on the Brahmaputra river are among the poorest of the poor. Each year, when snow melts on the Himalayas, the river swells - which can cause catastrophic flooding. Homes can be destroyed, children swept away in rapid water and the land on which poor communities' lives are built on washed away. The people living beside this precarious river live in constant fear, and never feel safe or a place to call home. They cannot afford to move elsewhere, and with no defences against the flood, all they can do is hope.

We believe Jesus calls us to love others as our neighbours – and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. We're all made in God's image, which means the whole world is our neighbourhood, and every person in it is precious.

Morsheda's life is a constant battle, but her faith and her love for her children keep her going. This Christian Aid Week we are raising money to help families in Bangladesh like Morsheda's build flood-

proof homes on a raised-earth plinth. A Home Safety Package from Christian Aid could raise Morsheda's home on an earth plinth, safe from the flood plain, and give her resources to invest in things like farm animals, seeds and a composting kit – giving her the tools she needs to build a better future. A new chance at life for Morsheda costs as little as €300.

Local Christian Aid partner GUK is supporting families suffering with the consequences of annual floods and is providing families with earth plinths to raise their homes 6-8ft above water, creating a safe place for them to rebuild their home and safely keep livestock. They are also being introduced to new seeds for the new environment so they can grow essential crops.

Help transform the lives of our global neighbours this Christian Aid Week by donating online at [www.caweek.ie](http://www.caweek.ie) or by calling 023 88 41468.



*Morsheda and her children outside their flooded home*

## Villiers Uganda Project 2016 by Villiers TY Community Group



On the 14th March twenty TY students and five members of staff from Villiers School travelled to Uganda with four members from the charity Zest4Kidz. We flew from Dublin to Entebbe via Amsterdam. We landed in Entebbe at 10 pm and stayed the night in a hotel an hour away in Kampala.

The next day we travelled for 4 hours to Jinja, which is on the Nile. We stopped for lunch and took in the scenic views of the river. After lunch we drove for another three hours before arriving at the first school. We split into different groups and played games and sports

with the children for an hour and a half. After we had finished playing with the children, we presented them with a sports pack and the Irish flag. The children sang a few songs for us before we departed to our hotel in Kumi where we would be staying for the rest of the week.



We visited two schools every day, and gave each school a sports pack that contained soccer balls, volleyball balls and nets, netballs, cones and bibs. We also gave each school a microscope and the Irish flag. On Sunday we got up at six o'clock to go to a special

Palm Sunday mass in Father Deo's church. Father Deo is in charge of twenty-seven churches in his parish. After mass we went to the hospital that Zest4Kidz has built for the opening of the Jean Carley children's ward, which is named after one of the executive director's late wives.

After five days of visiting eight different schools, and reaching over 6,500 children we were exhausted! On Monday we left our hotel in Kumi to go to The Haven in Jinja. The Haven is a holiday resort on the river Nile. We spent the afternoon by the pool and taking in the magnificent views. We visited a local marketplace where we got a taste of the Ugandan culture. We went back to the Haven and spent the night sleeping in tents.

On our last day, we left the Haven and drove for six hours to Entebbe. After stopping for lunch, we continued on for another ten minutes to the Entebbe Wildlife Centre, where we got a behind the scenes tour of the animals. We got to see the different animals up close and feed them. After our tour, we went to the children's play area in the centre and met up with the children from a deaf school and

orphanage. We played with them for two hours before they had to leave. After they had left we had dinner and got back into the vans for the last time. We drove for fifteen minutes before reaching Entebbe airport. We arrived back in Dublin on the 23rd March at eleven o'clock, tired but happy.



## Proposed changes to Diocesan Boundaries

The Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures will propose to General Synod 2016 that in due course the dioceses of Tuam and Achonry be joined with the dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe to form a new diocese in the West, as illustrated in the attached map.

The Diocesan Council of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe passed the following motion at a special meeting on 7th April 2016, at which this proposal was discussed at length.

***"The Diocesan Council affirms its openness to change in our Diocesan boundaries and welcomes dioceses that may join with us. It urges General Synod members to establish financial support for the increased costs of a new expanded Western Diocese".***

The motion was presented by Mr Andrew Eadie, proposed by Revd Canon Jane Galbraith, seconded by Mr Alan Armstrong and was unanimously approved. While this motion does not mandate General Synod representatives, no doubt they will take it into account when voting at General Synod 2016.

Yvonne Blennerhassett,  
Diocesan Secretary of Limerick & Killaloe



## A silent sermon

A member of a certain church, who had previously attended services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. He found the man at home all alone, sitting by a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him awkwardly, and led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The minister made himself at home, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of

the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. But now the minister chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead bit of coal and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more, with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. With that, the minister smiled at his host, and quietly let himself out.

# Luyengo Farm update

## NATIONAL DISASTER IN SWAZILAND

Climate change is affecting the lives of people in Swaziland - people who have done nothing to contribute to it. Last summer (ie December/January) Luyengo Farm, like the whole country, suffered from the effects of thunder, downpours and enormous hailstones. This year the whole of sub-Saharan Africa has been dry. There has been very little rain in Swaziland; in February there was 50mm at Luyengo compared to an average of 150mm.

The United Society has been working with the Diocese of Swaziland to help provide emergency water supplies and tanks, particularly to primary schools, where many children get their only meal of the day. As well as the immediate problem of water shortages, the country is facing into a period of food shortages. The drought meant that Swaziland's subsistence farming families - about 75% of the population - could not plant maize in November/December.

Tiekie de Beer, Managing Director of Luyengo Farm, estimates that the harvest in April/May will be only 10% of what is required. Writing at the end of February, Mandla Mdluli, Development Officer, said, "I will tell you my experience that on January 20th I went to the shop to quote for 50kg Mealie Meal it was E292 and I went back on February 10th to buy it and the new price was E427; it is craziness. Thousands of tons of maize will have to be imported." We will, of course, continue to work alongside the Diocese of Swaziland as it responds to this devastating situation.



*Harvesting beetroot at Luyengo*

Thanks to the reservoir, Luyengo Farm has just managed to keep going. Germination has been a problem in the dry conditions. The ongoing repair works on the Malkerns Canal have not helped the situation. The canal board have introduced water rationing, leaving the farms in the valley without water for up to 2 weeks at a time. Despite these challenges, the farm has managed to maintain production levels, and to continue supplying its core customers.

## GIFTS FROM LIMERICK & KILLALOE

Washing the carrots (and beetroot) used to be a cold and messy job for the women employees at Luyengo. They stood for hours with their hands in a large basin of cold water. The introduction of Tiekie's magic cement mixer helped enormously, but it was still a long process. But now, thanks to the generosity of Limerick & Killaloe Diocese and John and Brenda from IT Tralee, carrots are being washed at 10 times the speed! There was great excitement

when the container was opened and the carrot washer unloaded for the journey to the farm. The carrot washer has made a big difference to the farm, particularly in allowing the speedy preparation of vegetables for early transport to the supermarkets.



*Clean beetroot coming out of the carrot washer*

The other boxes in the container were opened too - and the contents greatly appreciated. The warm and waterproof jackets were much admired and tried on. Tiekie has decided to keep them on the farm for wearing at work. A great success were the boxes of wellington boots - really necessary when the rain comes.

The many boxes of books are being dealt with by Nola Nixon, a volunteer from Tandragee, who works with schools to encourage reading to children. She was rather dismayed to find some "heavy" theological tomes - but they have found a good home with a parishioner from All Saints Cathedral who is studying the TEEC High Diploma in Theology. She was delighted to receive them, and has promised to share them with other students.



*Trailer front row, left to right: Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Tiekie de Beer, Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya*

## HIGHLIGHT

In December the Most Reverend Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town, visited the Diocese of Swaziland. He spent a morning on the farm with Tiekie and the staff. He was encouraged and encouraging, advising patience for all concerned, and commenting that newly established enterprises take time to become profitable.

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# A Pentecost Cantata in Birr - Holy Spirit, Breath of God

## by Michael Hanna

In this year of 2016, we have been celebrating the centenary of the birth of the modern Irish state. In Birr, we have another centenary – or rather a bicentenary – to celebrate, because in August 1814, the Vestry minutes record that “the new church having been consecrated and completed, it is expedient to sell the materials of the old church to defray some of the parish expenses.” How little things really change! This is quoted from a bi-centenary lecture given by Salters Sterling in September of last year that set the scene for a year of celebration at St Brendan's Church of Ireland church in Birr.



*St Brendan's Church, Birr, consecrated in August 1816, celebrates its bicentenary this year*

Just as we are celebrating our Irish State's revolutionary decade, our bi-centenary celebrations in Birr will include in the coming years, the bicentenary of the building of St Brendan's Catholic Church begun in 1818 and the Wesleyan Chapel in 1820. In these few short years, much of the modern face and character of the town of Birr was shaped. Later in the century, the Mercy Convent would be built by the famous Victorian architect Augustus Pugin beside the Catholic Church, and the Presbyterian Church – now closed – would arise in John's Mall.

And not to forget the old medieval church that was vacated when the “new” St Brendan's was consecrated and completed, we are launching a book in the coming months on the ancient graveyard surrounding this ruin, a graveyard that for centuries was used to bury the dead of Birr of all denominations. So our bicentenary celebrations have strong ecumenical connotations and deep historical roots.

The Birr Choral Society (BCS) is one of the town's modern cultural institutions that will be playing its part in these rememberings. Indeed, though the BCS at 40 years + is a mere youngster on these

timescales, it has contributed hugely to ecumenical worship in all three churches and draws on a tradition of cross-community singing and music making that goes back to Victorian times.

Weaving all these elements together, the BCS will be making its contribution to the bicentenary celebrations of St Brendan's Birr on Sunday 15th May, when it will be mounting a significant concert for choir, soloists, and instrumental ensemble. Some years back we performed *The Fingerprint of God* – a Celtic Cantata by my Australian cousins Ruth Beasley and Audrey Francis. This was a great success, being talked about for weeks afterwards. So this year, we have decided to perform another Beasley/Francis cantata, called *Holy Spirit, Breath of God*, a fitting subject for Pentecost Sunday. The concert will last about an hour and a half and has been specially arranged for small orchestra by Gary Doherty of the music department of Roscrea College. Like the *Fingerprint*, it has some dramatic showstopper numbers as well as some lovely lyrical pieces, all on the theme of the Holy Spirit. It will begin at 7.30 pm on Sunday 15th May in St Brendan's Church, Birr.



*The Irish premiere of the Fingerprint of God, performed in St Brendan's Church, Birr on 6th April 2014*

This performance will be special in another sense, in that we will be dedicating it to the memory of Father Tony Cahir, who was the parish priest of Birr and who sadly died in 2015. Fr. Tony was a great friend of BCS and was always most warm in his thanks when we sang in his church as we frequently did on ecumenical occasions such as the annual carol service and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service. He was also very musical himself and had a rich baritone voice. This will be our tribute to Fr Tony and through him, to the ecumenical life of the town. We will not be charging any admission fee. The concert will be free to all – Don't miss it!



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# Looking Anew at Church Success: Building Relationships

by the Rev. Canon Liz Beasley

I read with interest David Frizzle's Letter to the Editor in the April Newslink, on the importance of pastoral visiting. This is the same topic that I had decided to address this month. My parishioners might find this somewhat surprising, as both they and I can list people that I really need to go visit! So allow me to describe ministry as I knew it before and to say that I could entitle this article, "What I am learning in the Church of Ireland about ministry."



When I was first in ministry in the States, pastoral visiting was a regular part of life. In fact, a mentor during my seminary years instructed me of its importance and even said that if I was feeling "down," or having a hard time getting something done, to go out and visit someone. I took his advice to heart and found that it was sound. Visiting people in the parish was rewarding. It got me "back on track" with my work — I would say now it reminded me of what is important.

Then I moved to Hawaii and took up ministry there. Ethnically, Hawaii is an Asian and Polynesian culture. For cultural reasons, a vast number of people do not want visitors to their homes. They feel that they would have to clean the house if the clergy were going to come visit. I can think of people with whom I was fairly close there, but whose home I was never inside. Even when I was invited to their home for a meal, we stayed outside or in the garage. (Yes, the weather is a bit different there.)

My moving to Hawaii in the mid-1990s coincided with life in general becoming faster and more complex. The advent of the Internet and email has meant that vast amounts of people's time, including a priest's, are now absorbed with online tasks. (This morning, before writing this, I gathered and sent off items for our weekly parish e-news mailing, answered emails, and updated the Group website.) In addition, parish ministry in the States is structured quite differently. Typically, the priest "goes to work": in other words, leaves the house (which might be, but usually isn't, a church-owned rectory) and goes to one's church, where one has an "office." It is considered a good idea to publish "office hours," during which time people in the parish might drop in to see the rector. I knew priests in Hawaii who did not keep office hours, but instead would be out abroad in the community, dropping in on people, perhaps even in their workplaces. Often their vestries would begin to complain, "The rector is never around. We don't know if he is working."



When two people meet, God is there also.

Ministry in the Church of Ireland is very different. Here, home and office are the same place. My husband and I like people stopping by — partly because it tells me that I am free to do the same. Pastoral visiting is expected here. Yes, life even in rural Ireland has become faster and more complex than it used to be. People are busier and may not always want someone to stop by. But ministry, like life in general, is based on relationships. This is as it should be, I believe.

Our Christian faith is about relationship: the love God has for us and shows to us in Jesus Christ. Christ was God become human and living among us. Jesus himself went to people's homes: throughout the Gospels are stories of Jesus visiting people and even eating in their homes. One visit to the house of two of his disciples, the brothers Simon Peter and Andrew, becomes the occasion of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law (e.g., Mark 1.29-34). Our Christian faith is also about our relationship with God, a relationship expressed in prayer and shown in how we live our lives.

So what better way to express and live our Christian faith than in building relationships with one another and with God? In parish life, there are many ways this might happen: Bible study, times of fellowship, even serving on the Select Vestry together. But as a priest, I find nothing works quite so well as being with people individually, usually in their homes — in other words, pastoral visiting. And ultimately, this is still about relationship with God, which is the end of all ministry. For when I visit with another person, I am seeking yet a third presence in the room: the presence of God with us.

Pastoral visiting is important because it builds relationships with one another and with God. I am re-learning the importance of visiting people. As David Frizzle points out in his Letter to the Editor, laity can also be trained to visit people who are elderly or ill. And within a parish as a whole, people are more likely to remain part of parish life if they have relationships with others in the parish.



Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law

This series of articles has been on different possible ingredients of church "success": elements of church life that are integral to making a church what it is meant to be. I started by quoting Joshua 1:7-9, when God is about to lead the people into the Promised Land after their 40-year sojourn in the desert. At the end of this passage, God assures a continuing relationship with the people: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

### EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry was held on 4th April. There are no changes in personnel, except that we remember with sadness the tragic death of Select Vestry member William Wallace, which means there are now 2 vacancies on Select Vestry. Happily, thanks to Jack Bayly's care and attention as Treasurer our finances remain sound. Our thanks are due to all who serve as Wardens and on Select Vestry to look after our finances, fabric and furnishings.

### RECTORY VIEWING

Before the Easter Vestry everyone had an opportunity to look inside the now completed Rectory. It is light and spacious, and will make a lovely home for a new Rector. Congratulations to the Rectory team who have overseen the work led by Glebe Wardens Deborah Powell and Leslie Dagg.



The Rectory team (l-r): Caleb Clarke, Deborah Powell, Dennis Croft and Leslie Dagg

### STOP PRESS

Advertisements have now been published inviting applications to be our new Rector.

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- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com - www.  
jjryanundertakers.com

### FAMILY SERVICE

At the Family Service in St Mary's on 17th April we welcomed the Boys' Brigade, who paraded with their banner and enrolled 10 new members. The boys made the service their own, with readings in contemporary language taken from "The Word" and prayers, most of which were written by them, which is extra-special. They brought lots of family and friends with them and it was lovely to see the church so full. Afterwards there were refreshments and a cake sale to raise funds for BB. Well done all concerned!



Boys' Brigade 1st Nenagh Co on parade, with Rev Lucy Green

## Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 42183

Our Lord's resurrection from the dead at Easter is special in that coincides with the start of spring. It seems so appropriate that while we rejoice that death has been overcome, it heralds the blossoming of new life around us after the long winter sleep. The churches were busy during Holy Week and it was wonderful to share in the Holy Communion service in Borrisokane Methodist Church on Maundy Thursday and then to walk the Way of Cross with all denominations on Good Friday in Cloughjordan. Our Easter services were divided between Saturday and Easter Day making it possible for Holy Communion to be available in all churches over the weekend. Many thanks to the congregations in Ballingarry and Borrisnafarney. Again, it was good to see so many who attended services at this very important date in the Christian calendar.

Following the service in Cloughjordan on Easter Day, there was a ceremony at Grawn Churchyard where a plaque was unveiled in memory of the parents of Thomas McDonagh, one of the signatories to the 1916 Proclamation, who are buried there.

### EASTER VESTRIES

It was felt that for this year those who have held office would be re-elected especially as the parishes grapple with changing how accounts are presented and getting everything in order for registering as charities.

### PASTORAL

There have been people bereaved in the recent past. Sincere sympathy is extended to Maire Harding and to Andrew and the family on the death of Maire's father, Peter Cleary in Shinrone. Also to Anne Clarke on the death of her brother Norman Long in Limerick.

We continue to remember in prayer those who are ill, particularly Bob Kelly, Bobby Powell and Robert Harding. We also wish Eileen Armitage a speedy recovery after a nasty fall has left her with a very sore back.

#### BUSHY PARK NURSING HOME

A service of Holy Communion for Easter was held on the 31st March where we again received a warm welcome from Liz. Mr. Peter Read was looking forward to celebrating his 80th birthday the next day!

#### TABLE TENNIS

The teams are doing really well and congratulations to all involved.

#### GFS

The Enrolling Service was held on the 10th April when members were enrolled at different levels of the Society. Mrs. Norma Jean Carney, Diocesan President, welcomed Caroline Stanley as a new leader. The service was followed by a welcome cup of tea in the hall. The girls provided some of the goodies and they were good!

#### UDYC

Members of the United Diocesan Youth Council held a training weekend for leaders in Cloughjordan on the 2nd/3rd April in the Hostel in the Eco Village. Mrs. Kim Hutchinson and Canon Ruth did a training session with them for Safeguarding Trust. The amount of work Ed Hardy does for UDYC has to be acknowledged and it was good to meet with them all. They were out in force in church the next morning when they were welcomed by Valerie Stephens, Parish Reader.

#### MOTHERS' UNION

There's no official closing service this year as there will be a Diocesan service on the 15th May at 3.30 p.m. in Cloughjordan.

#### TERRYGLASS

Mrs. Pauline Hickie's funeral service was held in the Roman Catholic Church in Terryglass on the 9th March conducted by Archdeacon Carney – certainly the end of an era. Sincere sympathy is offered to her many friends from around the locality.

Canon Ruth received an invitation to attend the launch of "Ottawa 2015 – Finnoe, Kilbarron, Terryglass 1815" at Coolbawn Quay on the 6th April. A well-presented history of emigration from the area was delivered first by Helen Fox and Bill Ryan with Helen singing a beautiful rendition of the "The Spinning Wheel." The book was then launched by the Canadian Ambassador, Kevin Michael Vickers, a man you literally have to look up to!



Canadian Ambassador Kevin Michael Vickers with Bill Ryan and Helen Fox of Kilbarron/Terryglass Historical Society, at the launch of "Ottawa 2015 – Finnoe, Kilbarron, Terryglass 1815"

#### WELCOME

The Mitchells are on their way as these notes are being prepared. Well done to everyone for getting the rectory ready to welcome them. We pray that God will richly bless all in his kingdom here on earth.

Editor: The Newslink team takes this opportunity to welcome Rev Terry Mitchell and his wife Julia to the United Dioceses – we look forward to his contributions to our pages in future.

## 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](mailto:shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org)

Parish Website: [shinrone.blogspot.ie](http://shinrone.blogspot.ie)

General Easter Vestries are underway at present. Thank you to everyone who attends and who accepts an office, without you our parishes could not function. Details of new appointments will be in next month's issue.

It was lovely to see so many people attending Easter Sunday services in beautifully decorated churches. Thank you to everyone who helps with this labour of love.

Saturday June 11th is approaching fast! It is the date of Shinrone's annual Sale and Dog Show. As usual there is a raffle with wonderful prizes, all kindly donated. Raffle tickets are available from all parishioners. Please do your best to sell them to your friends and neighbours! We have permission to sell tickets in Supervalu, Roscrea on Friday 20th May. Extra helpers always needed. The next pre-sale meeting takes place in Cloughmoyle School on 4th May

Aghancon are also fundraising for their parish. Ina Blackwell has devised a quiz, based on Irish towns and villages. €2 a sheet. Please get all your friends puzzling over them! The winners will be made known at a Table Quiz in Aghancon Hall on the 27th May. Put that date in your diary!!!

Mothers' Union – see notes and photo on page 9.

## Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

*Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon*

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

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

Parish website: [www.churchofirelandclare.com](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

Among the present-day parents and grandparents who thank God for such things as Skype are Jackie and Douglas Reid from Ballycar, Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare. It has enabled them to share immediately in the birth of their Californian-born granddaughter Allison Harper, first born of their son Alexander and his wife Huilin, once a schoolteacher in her native China before moving to California to study maths and business studies. Based in San Francisco, she is now a working mum as a Software Engineer, while Alex, a brilliant physicist, is currently working at the renowned Stanford University

Linear Accelerator (atom smasher!) which once paved the way for the equally famous CERN Accelerator in Switzerland.



*Alexander Reid and his wife Huilin with baby Alison Harper*

Douglas (with Tralee roots and wife Jackie from Cork) is a retired physicist, who worked at the De Beers diamond processing plant in Shannon (now Element Six). While not quite in the accelerator or even industrial diamond making realms, Douglas is rightly proud of his latest breakthrough, seen in our photo of Kilnasoolagh Church sanctuary. These are a set of elegant brass railings to assist on entry to the chancel and communion rails, designed, ordered to specification and finished off by him, thus providing the parish with a superb facility at minimal cost. The gratitude of the Kilnasoolagh parishioners was expressed at the post-Easter AGM.



*The elegant brass railings designed and finished by Douglas Reid*

#### EASTER VESTRIES

Kilnasoolagh: Pascal Sage and Eckhart Wurm were re-elected as Rector's and Peoples' Churchwarden; Diocesan Synod Representative - Pascal Sage. Supplementary- Edwin Bailey. Glebewarden - Herbie Knowles.

Drumcliffe: Rector's Churchwarden - Oki Utuke; Peoples' Churchwarden - Lawson Kirkpatrick; Glebewarden - Adrian Bridge; Diocesan Synod Representatives - John Donovan, Lawson Kirkpatrick. Kilnasoolagh Select Vestry (remains unchanged): Churchwardens plus Hon Secretary Edwin Bailey; Hon Treasurer - Evelyn Mayston, Max Halliday, Herbert Knowles, Sarah Lynch, Douglas Reid, Jackie Reid.

Drumcliffe Select Vestry (Radically changed): Churchwardens plus Hon Secretary - John Donovan; Hon Treasurer - Maria Kerins, Dot Bolster (Spanish Point), Nigel Bridge, Anharad Harding, Kim Hutchinson, Judith Ironside (Spanish Point), Jennie Shaw. New faces - David Courtney, Miriam Gibbons, Tim Gibbons, Ruth Goodall, Clare Kennedy, Adrian O'Connell, Frances Okeyenbolor, Oki Utuke.

# 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](mailto:reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com)

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

Holy Week and Easter services offer us the opportunity to be regenerated as a community of faith, as we travel together on the road to the cross and stand together in wonder at the empty tomb. Our shared journey through Holy Week makes sense of all that we do together, and gives life and purpose to the worship and witness of our parish. With that in mind, it was a source of great joy to see the people of our parish come together in such numbers for shared services as we marked the stations of the Easter story. Branches were waved in the air and Hosannas were sung on Palm Sunday. Feet were washed, bread was broken and altars were stripped on Maundy Thursday, in Holy Trinity Church. Crosses were carried through the streets, laments were sung, and the stations of the cross were marked, as the Passion of our Lord was proclaimed on Good Friday in ecumenical outdoor services, both in Ardrahan and Ballinasloe. The Resurrection was heralded with singing and dancing on Easter Day, at our united service in St John's Ballinasloe. Afterwards, the children of the parish showed impressive diligence in hunting down the three hundred Easter eggs hidden in the church in five minutes flat!



*Ecumenical Good Friday service in Ardrahan*



*Easter egg hunt in St John's, Ballinasloe*

The celebrations continued on April 10th when the Bishop led a Confirmation service in St John's Ballinasloe. It was a joy to see such warm support for the seven young people being confirmed: Charlie

Black, Keith Burke, Cole and Sadbh Gorham, Lucy O'Dea, Katie and Sarah Phelan. We wish them every blessing and encouragement as they embark on the next stage of their journey of faith. On Sunday 1st May there will be a special presentation to the candidates during the Holy Communion service in Ardrahan Church. April was a time of celebration too for the Sinclair family, as Norman and Anne celebrated their 50th birthdays.

Easter Vestries were held for the Creagh Union on April 8th and for the Aughrim Union on April 12th. Sincere thanks go to all who serve the parish community so faithfully through their hard work on the vestries. Many thanks also to those who continue to engage in fundraising efforts for our churches. St Catherine's Ahascragh raised good money through a stall at the Caltragh Craft Fair on April 10th, and Ardrahan Church are currently planning a 'Young Strings for Late Spring' concert.



*Eastertime in Holy Trinity, Aughrim*

Saturday 23rd April offers us the chance to learn 'How to have a welcoming church,' at the diocesan conference in Limerick – just in time to put that into practice for the visit to Holy Trinity from the Redemptorist congregation on May 8th. We also look forward to welcoming Canon Cecil Hyland, as part of the wider review of the common life of our diocese, when he joins us for a united service in Aughrim at 11am on May 29th.

## 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

### CONFIRMATION



*Newly Confirmed: John Phair and David Briscoe, with Bishop Kenneth and Archdeacon Wayne Carney*

John Phair and David Briscoe were among those confirmed by Bishop Kenneth in St Brendan's Church, Birr, on Sunday April 17th. We offer John and David our congratulations and are delighted that

they chose to offer themselves for confirmation. We look forward to their continuing contributions to the life of the parish and we are grateful that their commitment has been greatly strengthened by the laying on of hands.

John prior to the Confirmation sustained an ankle injury whilst engaged in an outdoor activity. We hope he quickly recovers mobility following the surgery that the ankle bone required.

### CHARLOTTE BRONTE

St Paul's Banagher held a commemorative evening to celebrate the bi-centenary of the birth of Charlotte Bronte on April 21st. Charlotte's husband, Arthur Bell Nicholas, lies buried in the churchyard. The Bronte Society joined with the parish in organising the evening. Bishop Kenneth welcomed everyone to the Church and unveiled an appropriate plaque in the churchyard.

### HOLIDAY COVER

We are most grateful to Jerome Phair and Freda Kenny along with Steven Ellis of Galway for their ministry in leading the Sunday worship during the holiday absence of the Priest-in-charge, Patrick. We are also thankful for the kind offer of Canon Ruth and Archdeacon Wayne to be on call for any emergencies – thankfully none arose.

### NEW RECTOR FOR CLOUGHJORDAN AND BORRISOKANE

We warmly welcome Rev'd Terry Mitchell and his wife Julia to our neighbouring parish of Cloughjordan and pray for their ministry and indeed for their happiness in that lovely part of Tipperary. We shall keep Terry and his family in our prayers for The Institution on April 29th in St Kieran's Church. Members of our parish will no doubt have an opportunity to meet Terry at the Mothers Union Commissioning Service in Terry's 'new' parish on Sunday afternoon on May 15th.

### PERSONALLY

I would like to thank the Editor for extending the deadline for the parish notes as I was still in Texas when the deadline came. The fact that I made it back in time to meet the new deadline is due to the skill of the crew and the cheerful reassurance of the cabin crew of Delta Flight 1855 out of Austin. May all of you who fly to various destinations around the globe have safe flights and meet, throughout your travels, welcoming and kindly people.

# 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

30 March – Ruth McGann (Kill, Co. Kildare) – our deepest sympathy to her cousin Avril Gill, extended family and friends.

31 March – Norman Long – our deepest sympathy to his wife Maureen, their daughters Elaine and Hilary, their sons Robert & Niall, Norman's brothers Ronnie and John, his sister Ann (Clarke), their families and wider family circle.

## HOLY BAPTISM

Zara Alexandria Benn, daughter of Laurence and Sarah-Jane Benn was baptised on 16th April in St Mary's Cathedral.

1916 RISING - On Easter Day Dean Sandra was invited to the 1916 Meelick/Parteen commemoration. The event began with prayers from Dean Sandra representing the Church of Ireland, and followed by prayers from a representative of the humanist society, and from Fr. Tom Carroll PP. Despite the weather there was a good crowd. The Dean was grateful to receive a donation from the committee to go towards the upkeep of St Mary's Cathedral.

DECORATING OUR CHURCHES FOR EASTER Sincere thanks to all those who helped and/or donated materials to decorate our churches for Easter. The flower arrangements were beautiful and very much admired. Thank you again to all involved.

LIMERICK PROTESTANT AID SOCIETY AGM will be held in Richmond Terrace on Tuesday 17th of May at 3.30pm.

CONFIRMATION 2016 is taking place in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 22nd May at 10.30am. We pray for those preparing for Confirmation - Aine Browne, Cathal Browne, Carmel Browne, Jonah Colgan, Sibán Dalton, Giovanni James, Anderson James, Aidan Larkin, Sarah Manley, Jessica McNamara, Adam McMahon, Rachel Rusk and Eliza Zawadka.

## TWO SPECIAL CONCERTS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

After the success of last year's inaugural Three Choirs concert in Kilkenny, we are delighted to be hosting this year's concert here in Limerick on Saturday 28th May at 5pm. As with last year's programme, the centrepiece of the concert will be Schubert's tuneful and charming Mass in G. The three choirs involved are those of the Church of Ireland cathedrals in Waterford, Kilkenny and Limerick. As well as singing together, each choir will also perform a short set of pieces on its own. Those who attended last year's concert enjoyed the occasion, so do make a note of this in your diaries. See advertisement on page 17.

The next day, we are privileged to be welcoming the Limerick Wind Ensemble, who will be performing Mozart's celebrated Gran Partita in a special concert at 3pm on Sunday 29th May. Both of these concerts are free.

## HISTORY & HERITAGE AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

The two concerts mentioned above form part of a weekend celebrating the history and heritage of St Mary's Cathedral. We plan to have tours and exhibitions. In addition, there will be two services in the cathedral that Sunday. At the Festival Eucharist at 11.15am we are delighted that the guest preacher will be Fr Martin Browne from Glenstal Abbey, whilst in the evening there will be Choral Evensong at 7pm.

## CATHEDRAL TOWER NEWS

Congratulations to our Cathedral Bellringers on their success in the recent RR Cherry Cup Competition which was held in Mt. St. Alphonsus on 3rd April with 5 teams participating. Eventual winners were St. Peter's Bandon with 49 faults; St. Mary's Cathedral were 2nd with 64.5 faults, 3rd to 5th places were filled by St. Mary's Doneraile, St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. Both St. Peter's and St. Mary's will now represent the Southern District in the Murphy (All Ireland) final on 21st May, to be held in Taney Church, Dundrum, Dublin.

The St Mary's team - Treble: Clodagh Lynch, 2: Adrienne Baron, 3: Gerry O'Shea, 4: Mark Thompson, 5: Mike Pomeroy, 6: Stephen Jordan, 7: Christy Pratt, Tenor: Kieron Brislane. Very best wishes to them for continued success.

## 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

## EASTER

We had the honour this year of welcoming the Rev. Harold Good to our Group for the Maundy Thursday service at the Adare Church, where he was the preacher and assisted in leading the service. The Rev. Good is a former president of the Methodist Church in Ireland and was instrumental in the peace process in Northern Ireland. He was at the Adare Methodist Church for Holy Week.



*Memorising John 3:16 at the Kilpeacon Good Friday service*

On Good Friday, we had three services: a Good Friday liturgy in Kilmallock and in Adare, plus a family service in Kilpeacon, in which the story of Good Friday and Easter was told for children. At the conclusion of the service, we together memorised a Bible verse:

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*Limerick*

John 3:16. Following the service were a variety of activities for the children, and tea and hot cross buns for the adults. Thank you to all who helped!

**For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.**

*John 3:16 (Good News Translation)*

#### CONDOLENCES

We express condolences to the family of Norman Long, who died on 31 March after a long battle with cancer. His funeral was held in the Kilpeacon Church on 3 April, with burial afterwards in the Old Mungret Graveyard. The Rev. Liz Beasley officiated at the funeral, but with the assistance of no fewer than three Roman Catholic priests who were friends of Normy's.

#### EASTER VESTRY

We have two Select Vestries in our Group, so we had two Easter Vestry meetings, one for Adare, Croom, and Kilpeacon on Tuesday, 5 April, and one for Kilmallock on Wednesday, 6 April. The following people were elected to the Select Vestries:

#### ADARE/CROOM/KILPEACON:

Adare: Kieron Brislane, Rector's Churchwarden; John Bradley, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Victor Alfred, Janet Bray, James Clarke, Toni Dwyer, Olivia Gardiner, Alan Mitchell.

Croom: Nuala Gardiner, Rector's Churchwarden; Helen Davis, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Robert Davis, Robert Walker.

Kilpeacon: Bobby Bingham, Rector's Churchwarden; Richard Blennerhassett, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Dorothy Brislane, Sylvia Cooke, Tom Peirce, Burton Smith.

Rector's Glebewarden: Kevin deBurca Murphy.

People's Glebewarden: Norman Wheeler.

Kilmallock: Phoebe Barrett, Rector's Churchwarden; Jessie Griffin, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Chris Adams, Margaret Cahill, Marie Cahill, Emily Hales, Henry Hales, Simon Johnson, Tabitha Lillingston, Stanley Wallace.

Rector's Glebewarden: Luke Lillingston

People's Glebewarden: John Steepe

#### WHAT'S AHEAD

We have started a practice of holding an evening service when we have a fifth Sunday in the month. May has five Sundays, but our "fifth Sunday service" will occur early in the month, on 8th May. It will be a "Blessing of the Animals" service, in celebration (a week late) of Rogation Sunday, a day for giving thanks to God for, and asking God to bless, the land, our animals, our crops, and our work. The service will be held at the Rectory at 7.00pm. Animals should be on a lead or somehow under the control of a human being. We pray for good weather!

## 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

You might think that the post-Easter period would be preoccupied with Easter General Vestries. There is, however, life apart from business meetings.

Our Mother's Union have produced a small booklet of Household Hints, on sale for €2 and available from the Rectory or any of our Mother's Union members. The funds raised will go to the MU Overseas Fund.

We offer our prayerful sympathy to John Long, a member of the Askeaton congregation on the death of his brother Norman (Normy) and remember all the family in our prayers.

On a more joyful note Jonathan Michael Langford was baptised in St. Mary's Askeaton on Sunday April 10th. We welcome the latest addition to our congregation and pray for proud parents, Andrew and Carol.



*At the baptism of Jonathan Michael Langford*

There are five Sundays in May and there will be a fifth Sunday service in Holy Trinity Rathkeale on Sunday May 29th at 11:00 a.m. The Mother's Union will meet the following day, Monday 30th May at 8:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

# 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.

Our Easter Vestries are now complete—a special thank you to those who prepared the accounts – Belinda in Camp and Phyllis assisted by Sara in Tralee. Our secretaries Cecil and Olive have had quite a busy year and are happy to continue in their roles. Thank you to our many Church Wardens and Glebe Wardens for all they continue to do and for those with no formal role but who quietly work away behind the scenes and make such a difference to our worship and common life.

Archdeacon Sue's last Sunday is 26th June. Peter Barley, the organist and choir master from St Mary's Cathedral Limerick, has suggested that he brings the Choir to St John's Tralee for Choral Evensong that evening. It is two years now since Peter, Dean Sandra and the Choir came to St John's and we look forward to welcoming them again.

Our Confirmation this year is on May 8th, please pray for our candidates as they prepare for their big day: Holly, Adam, Lily, Jack, Zac, Darragh, Michael, Orla, Charlotte, Jen and our two adults Piers and Jill.

The major decoration of the East Chancel is now complete in St John the Evangelist, Tralee. A specialist is to complete work on the tiles in the church during the next week or so, and the new carpet is fitted. Thank you to all who have contributed financially to the cost of the work and those who have helped in the cleaning of the church and the moving of pews and heavy furniture. A special thank you to Mrs Mona Butler for all her hard work.

Ballymac' has had an inspection but awaits a further report on the interior of the tower before a way forward can be found. Kilgobbin are looking forward to the laying of their new carpet and St James to Feile na Bealtaine, the first weekend of May, when we welcome back Canon George Salter.

On May 29th we look forward to welcoming Rev Mark Holland from Illinois who will be ministering with us for two months, until the end of July. Please make yourself known to Mark if you see him around the parishes – he will be quite easy to spot in his Stetson and boots!

## 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](mailto:killarney@ardfert.anglican.org)

### EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry meeting took place on Monday April 4th with a very good attendance. A number of personnel changes took place and this is a very healthy situation as committees of all kinds tend to get stale without re-inventing themselves every so often. Gavin Miller and Marcus Harrig have stepped down as Church Wardens and both deserve a year or two off having served us so diligently over the last number of years – thanks lads! Yvonne Eadie was elected as the new People's Warden and Tom Blennerhassett was elected Rector's Warden – we are extremely lucky to have found such outstanding replacements for Gavin and Marcus. Among the four new Select Vestry members we are delighted to welcome back Lynda O'Connor. With both Lynda and Yvonne in place we now have a much healthier gender balance.

### MAINTENANCE

Having completed a number of external tasks already we are now focussing on some indoor maintenance. The boiler – a constant source of amazement to me, considering its age – is currently in dry dock for critical maintenance and a number of other internal projects are in the pipeline.

### DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Diocesan Synod is coming to Killarney on June 25th and will be held in the Malton Hotel. As a congregation we must not only work to do what we can to assist in preparation for the big day, we must also make sure that St Mary's is in tip top shape to welcome our visitors. By then, of course, we will be running our Saturday Window Tours where we conduct several free guided tours of the

stained glass windows for locals and visitors each Saturday during the Summer season. We give a background to the biblical story depicted on each panel as well as an abridged history of the church itself and most people are delighted with the service. Perhaps one or two of these tours can be factored into the Synod agenda?

### GENERAL SYNOD

Next year's General Synod is also coming our way – not to Killarney, I might add, but Limerick this time. As far as I'm aware this is the first time the General Synod has been held in the Diocese, so this is to be welcomed by all.

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is one of the most important landmarks in committing to be a Christian and Andrew Eadie recently visited Kiltallagh National School, where he has been on the Board of Management for many, many years, to talk to the 6 young adults there who are in preparation for their big day. Andrew put on his most solemn face when addressing the gathering and duly opened up with the question 'What does Confirmation mean to you'? Isn't it great the way kids can bring you back down to earth, because he was met with a chorus of 'money!', 'new iPhone!', 'party time!' and so on. They had Andrew sized up perfectly and when they saw his immediate reaction they just fell about the place laughing! I just love it! Seriously though, we wish each of them well in their preparation.

### THE ELECTION

Talk about laughter – one has to wonder what on earth the voters of this parish were thinking of when it comes to forming the next much-needed government. We put in 2 Independents (the Healy-Raes), 1 Sinn Fein, 1 Fianna Fail and 1 Fine Gael. We may be good at running a church, but we haven't a clue how to elect a government... maybe we should do what we do when we get referendums wrong and go again!

### PASSIONTIDE & EASTER MEMORIES



*The old rugged cross of Good Friday*



*The glorified cross of Easter*

## Kilcolman Union of Parishes

*Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh*

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

### SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

### BAPTISM

Congratulations to Hazel and Michael Prendergast on the recent baptism of their Son Dara in Kiltallagh Church, Castlemaine. The baptism was held during the morning service on the 17th April.

### WEDDING BLESSING

Congratulations to Peter Evans and Pauline Dobbins. We had a very enjoyable service of blessing after a civil marriage in Killorglin Church and it was lovely to see family members gather from near and far including Pauline's Great Grandchild from Germany. As a priest I have officiated at many weddings but only three Blessings after a civil marriage and all three couples were in the Church that morning.



*Pauline Dobbins and Peter Evans pictured after their wedding blessing in St Michaels Church Killorglin, with Rev Jim Stephens*

### ECUMENICAL EARTH WALK

To coincide with earth week in the Diocese of Kerry an Ecumenical earth walk was organised for Friday evening 22nd April beginning at St James RC Church. The reflections were led by Michael Briggs from Christian Aid. He was in Killorglin that day to lead a youth event with the children in the local secondary schools together with a speaker from Trocaire.

### CONFIRMATION

As I write these notes preparations are well under way for our service of confirmation. The children have attended all the preparation sessions and will have participated in a number of the Family Communion services. More news in next month's notes.

### EASTER VESTRY

This annual general meeting was held in Killorglin on Tuesday the 12th April at 8pm. Many thanks to all who served on the outgoing vestry and welcome to those who have been elected to the new vestry.

Glebe Wardens, John Flynn and Kenneth O Neill

Church Wardens Kiltallagh, Shirley Day and Mervyn Boyle

Church Wardens Killorglin, Matt Murphy and Ivan Stephens.

## 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](mailto:michael.cavanagh@eircom.net)

May already! – it seems that the years get shorter and shorter – but the winter gets longer and longer. We'll be in Summer next, having missed Spring altogether.

Having said which, the pattern of the seasons continues despite the weather, and there are lambs and calves in the fields, learning about the world and leading lives uncluttered by the politics and pressures of today's world. A couple of lambs came to visit Praise and Play, much to the delight of the children – innocence meeting innocence. Interesting that Jesus should have described His followers as sheep; we certainly don't often behave as if we are. We'd much prefer to be considered as self-sufficient, lone wolves perhaps, not dependent on a Shepherd for safety. But just as those children and lambs are looked after, protected, fed and taught by their mum, so we in turn can learn lessons from them in acknowledging our own teacher, protector and healer as we seek to grow and follow where he leads.



*Two little lambs at Praise & Pray with lots of mums and tots*

We are starting to see the annual visitors arriving in this part of the world, and once again we are preparing our welcome. In this year of Centenary commemoration, we seek to demonstrate our contribution to the story of the Nation by living out the spirit of the proclamation – one of equality, mutual respect, and peace irrespective of language, colour, tradition or nationality. We are part of the same flock, and we welcome our Shepherd's family from wherever they come.

# Methodist News

## Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Vacant

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

Rev. Shannon DeLaureal has been Acting Superintendent for Adare and Ballingrane while we were without a resident minister. She is going on Sabbatical in May and we wish her well during her time away from circuit work. We will then be under the care of Rev. Denis Maguire, who is stationed in Bandon, Co. Cork, until we welcome our new minister in July. His address is: Westbourne, Dunmanway Road, Bandon, Co. Cork. Telephone: 023 8841263, E-mail: denis.maguire@irishmethodist.org

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

### SERVICES FOR MAY

1 May, Rev Shannon DeLaureal, Confirmation Service in Adare 11am. This is a united circuit service with Holy Communion.

8 May, Herbert Armitage, Adare 10.15am, Ballingrane 11.45 am.

15 May, Rev Heather Morris, United Circuit Service in Ballingrane 11.00 a.m.

22 May, Siobhan Wheeler, Adare 10.15 am, Ballingrane 11.45 am.

29 May, Rev Tom Kingston, Adare 10.15 am, Ballingrane 11.45 am.

Our annual Field Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 June at 11.30 a.m. on the Adare Manor Golf Course. We meet near the stone marking the site where John Wesley preached to the people of the Adare area in the 1750s. The speaker this year will be Gillian Kingston and we hope for a fine, dry day. The Irish Palatine Association museum will be open that afternoon from 2–5 pm.

Annual Methodist Conference will be held in Portadown, commencing on Wednesday, 15 June 2016 at 7.30 pm with the service of installation for the incoming President, Rev Bill Mullally from Cork.

## 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

We were delighted that Rev John Faris of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cork agreed to lead a Handling the Word course for the Munster area. This course, overseen by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, provides an introduction to communicating God's Word in Bible talks and sermons. It helps people to be equipped to communicate God's Word; whether that is through bible study group talks or with youth groups or leading on to further study to be equipped to preach at the Sunday Service. There is no requirement for previous experience

to attend the course but it's felt that those who do have experience will also benefit and of course shared journeys, knowledge and skills can only add to the value of the sessions. The courses organised and run locally by Presbyteries and Ministers are delivered through lectures and workshops and by the end of the course participants should be able to prepare effective Bible talks.

Several members of Christ Church attended along with friends from St Cloumba's Church of Ireland in Ennis. This of course gave quite an ecumenical feel to the Saturdays with Presbyterians, Methodists and Anglicans all adding to the mix!

Reading John's blog he makes a comment, 'Like the best teachers, God leads his pupil to think things out for himself' and I believe from our participants that John did indeed leave plenty of space for discussion and reflection and encouraged openness in sharing views and opinions, while at the same time sharing interesting anecdotes and helpful insights from his many years of ministerial and teaching experience. We are most grateful to John and hope that the local group will continue to meet, learn and explore together.

In Christ Church and Central Buildings we continue to share in new ways with the artistic community in Limerick. Some of you might have had the chance to attend an unusual exhibition in the church. Called (interestingly!) Seeking Sanctuary, Limerick School of Art and Design's Third Year Photography and Lens Based Media presented their debut exhibition. This exhibition was a collection of works by sixteen artists, 'exploring the human condition in this age of anxiety; each artist submitting their unique approach ranging from digital photography, film, sculpture and mixed media.' Like the ceramics exhibition a few weeks before the church proved to be an amazing place to show the work. At the launch the church was full of people enjoying the art but also the gentle and welcoming atmosphere of a church that has welcomed all comers through the doors for many, many years.



Maureen Considine, who curated the Seeking Sanctuary exhibition



St Munchin's Photography Club exhibition with Garrett Ryan, exhibitor and Patrick Lynch, who works in our community project

We're also delighted to welcome back 'regulars.' In their third year with us we had a really splendid exhibition by St Munchin's Photography Club. Mike Fitzpatrick, Director of Limerick European Capital of Culture Bid, enthusiastically opened the exhibition adding a suggestion that the club might make some European links themselves and take their show on the road – great idea!

Using church buildings as a community resource was one of the suggestions voted on at the recent Roman Catholic Diocesan Synod. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the first morning session which opened with a wonderfully creative liturgy lead by the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (University of Limerick). I was part of a group from other Christian churches and other faiths. The diocese has been so warmly inclusive during the whole Synod journey and throughout the representative sessions we were as a group entitled to make our vote. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing how the whole process moves forward in our changing society.

## 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 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

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

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

Spaces to reflect and pray popped up in Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet during Holy Week.

Killarney had a 24 hour prayer space on Good Friday which was appreciated by all who called in.

Kenmare had 12 hours of prayer on the Wednesday of Holy Week this was attended by many people from different churches in the town and was a real blessing.

Perhaps the most ambitious was held in the Lighthouse in Millstreet! Having never had a prayer space before it turned out to be an

amazing week. I had asked the question 'how about a prayer space?', thinking 24 hours would suffice but incredibly the reply meant that the Lighthouse was open 8am – 8pm Monday to Saturday during Holy Week! Many people called in to see the Lighthouse and its latest attraction (the mural in the toilet), to pray, to find a quiet space or to chat!



*The Cross in the window of the Millstreet Lighthouse*

A crown of thorns which had been made for me by a friend several years ago brought home the pain and agony endured by Jesus on the cross for us and became central to one of the prayer stations. I would have thought that after 9 years this crown of thorns might have become less sharp and painful to touch but this was not the case!



*The Crown of Thorns*

These prayer spaces blessed many people as we approached Easter. If you want to see the mural in the Lighthouse here's a link to a video on you-tube <http://youtu.be/eDhQfvQHnmA>.

*Editor: Do visit it – the mural is truly lovely.*

# North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal  
 The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary  
 Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808  
 Email: Shannon.delawareal@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

I have the true pleasure each month of visiting two local primary schools and sharing with them in assembly. At the end of my talks, I usually say, "The Good News for us today is . . ." One youngster was listening carefully and he put his hand up as soon as I shared what the good news was. He asked a very poignant question. He asked, "What is the bad news?!" I am sure he has heard folks say, "I have some good news and some bad news . . . which do you want to hear first?" I answered his question the best I could but I couldn't end the assembly on what I thought was a "bad news" note. I told all the kids that we must end with the Good News; we all have Good News when we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Jesus will help us with everything and won't leave us alone. We all need to hear this news and to share it as well. Let us take seriously the call to make disciples. I encourage you to share with someone today how Jesus's presence in your life has been Good News.

Faithfully,  
 ~ Rev. Shannon

## ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB

Two outdoor fun events are planned for May and June. On Saturday 14th May, the youth will meet at the Birr Outdoor Centre at 9:30am. Youth must be booked through Rosie Gee in advance. On Saturday 4th June, the youth will meet up at Knockshogowna for bikes and BBQ 6-8pm. Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

## MAY IS CHRISTIAN AID MONTH!

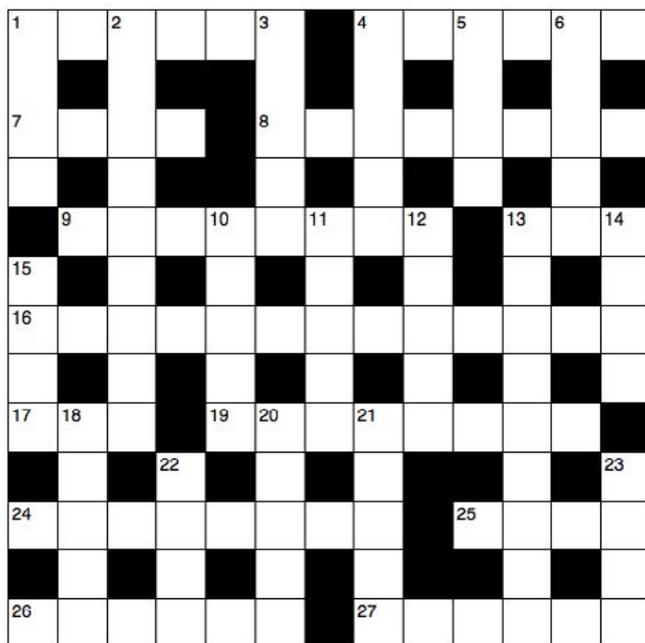
Two fundraising events:

1. Coffee Morning at Roscrea Methodist on Friday 6 May at 10:00am.
2. Slieve Bloom hike that will take place on SATURDAY 14th May 2016, beginning at 11:00am at the Clonaslee Community Centre, Clonaslee Village, Co. Laois. This is a national Christian Aid event! There are 2 walks (6km and 13km); children are welcome. Refreshments will be provided from 2:30pm - 5pm. For more info please see [www.christianaid.ie/trekking](http://www.christianaid.ie/trekking).

## ST. CRONAN'S BB

We will meet on Friday 6 May 7-8:15pm for crafts in Roscrea Church Hall. On Saturday 21 May, there is a district event: fishing at Ballaghmore Lake. Please come to meeting on 6 May for more details on outing.

# Crossword for May



## ACROSS

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, – together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have – the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your – is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone – ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a – of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will – you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in – with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put – – to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The – of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

## DOWN

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the – hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)

## Solution to the April Crossword

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

# Irish Churches' Affirmations on Migration, Diversity & Interculturalism

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) was held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on Thursday 7th April 2016. During the meeting the following resolution was adopted by all present, and the Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, was elected and installed as President of the ICC.

We affirm our commitment as Christian Churches:

1. To recognise and appreciate cultural and ethnic diversity as gifts of God, and to ensure that these gifts are reflected in the life of the Church.
2. To foster faith communities where the rights of each person are respected and where scope is provided for each person's potential to be realised.
3. To work towards inclusive communities, paying particular attention to addressing racism and xenophobia in attitudes, actions, practices and policies.
4. To explore and adopt ways of worship, systems of administration and other structures so that they fully respond to and reflect the Church membership.
5. To defend the rights of migrants in accordance with international and national laws and standards on migration.
6. To advocate for the rights of all migrants, and in particular their right to family life.
7. To support and assist migrants in appropriate, practical ways in their efforts to integrate in Church and society.
8. To establish networks with migrant-led Churches and chaplaincies by fostering co-operation and collaboration with them in providing pastoral care and support to migrants.
9. To seek the development of appropriate services for migrants and to draw attention to the need for public services generally to be responsive to the circumstances of migrants.

10. To work together as Churches and to network with people of other faiths and none to promote a greater understanding between denominations and other faiths and none, ensuring the growth of a society based on respect, dignity and equal rights for all its members.

The Church of Ireland is a founding member of the Irish Council of Churches, which was founded in 1923. It is the formal national body through which its member churches formally engage, dialogue and act on a wide variety of issues. Its membership comprises 14 denominations: the Antiochian Orthodox Church, the Church of Ireland, the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Moravian Church, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Religious Society of Friends, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Salvation Army.

More information is available on its website: [www.irishchurches.org](http://www.irishchurches.org)



*At the AGM of the Irish Council of Churches in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin*

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## Diocesan Board of Mission Mission Evening, Cloughjordan, 6th April 2016. Report by John Jarvis

The main event was a presentation by Dr Salters Sterling entitled "Mission in the Modern World." Salters began by referring to the Church of Ireland Mission Statement, and the words "In the power of the Spirit, our mission requires us to order our contemporary worship and life in a manner that nurtures growth, promotes unity and liberates us for service that is God's."

He recalled his early upbringing as a Presbyterian where the whole church was mission-orientated. Everyone had a mission box at home, the church magazine was the "Mission Herald", and mission was at the head of primary school education. So mission was about the whole nature of church, not 'what can we do for them.' Jesus' Great Commission "requires us to order our contemporary worship and life ... that liberates us for service that is God's." The Church's *raison d'être* must be to serve the mission of God in Christ.

However sadly today the Church of Ireland is largely focussed on self-preservation, church buildings, and parish accounts rather than the Great Commission. So why has this happened? Our ancestors were certainly well-intentioned and saw themselves as overseas missionaries. However as global needs changed, the focus shifted to self-preservation. This Mission Evening was organised by our Diocesan Mission Board, which is a sub-committee of Diocesan Synod,

but focus of the Synod needs to be much more on mission.

Salters then turned to the issue of church unity: if Christianity is to survive it needs to become one. This was recognised some time ago when the overseas Presbyterian missionaries returned to Edinburgh and agreed the church 'can't go on like this.' Over the last 2000 years the gospel was first translated into Greek by Paul and sustained by Greek philosophy, then had its impact on the world changed dramatically by the Reformation. We are again at a turning point where we need to find a 'new language' for the church to address the new world we live in.

There followed a most interesting discussion on how to be the change we crave, in the course of which Salters skilfully made sure all present, including folk from other traditions, could express their thoughts.

### NEXT MISSION EVENING

Please diary Wednesday 8th June 2016, at Woodlands House Hotel, Adare.

Linda Chambers will give us an update on Luyengo Farm, Swaziland and other projects United Society is engaged with.

# Dr Hugh Weir Collection Presented to the RCB Library



Many will recall the short illustrated columns on Church of Ireland churches which Hugh Weir contributed to the Church of Ireland Gazette from the 1980s until the early years of the new millennium. The format was simple but most effective – a drawing of the church with some accompanying

text which pointed up aspects of the building's history and local significance.

Hugh's interest in church buildings had been inspired by Robert Wyse Jackson, Dean of Cashel and later Bishop of Limerick, 'with whom I would travel, on the back of his motor bike to share his interest in historical places and archaeological sites' and who for many years published sketches of churches. On suggesting to the editor of the Gazette, Canon Cecil Cooper, that the Gazette ought to publish vignettes of churches, Cecil, like any good editor, suggested that Hugh should undertake the task.

The results of his labours are available in the files of the Gazette, a complete set of which is in the RCB Library, and this resource has now been handsomely complemented by the most generous presentation to the RCB Library by Dr Weir of the raw materials which made his columns possible – original drawings, photographs and press cuttings.

When catalogued this collection promises to be a valuable resource for those interested in local and parish history, church architecture, and many of the idiosyncrasies which make the Church of Ireland eternally fascinating to locals and strangers alike.

*Reproduced by permission of the RCB Library.*



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## Fund Raising Ideas for Church Fetes

There are lots of ideas 'out there' which can be adapted or used as you wish. Some are more suitable for small events, others for larger ones, but hopefully any you use will help raise money for your church.

### WATER INTO WINE

Ask for donations of bottles of wine and also collect empty wine bottles with screw tops (you will need four empty bottles for every full one). Fill the empty bottles with water. Wrap all the bottles up in fancy paper. Fill your stall with bottles and charge £1 to try to find a bottle of wine. Please note, you do have to ensure you don't give wine to those under the legal age to consume alcohol so this may be good for an 'adults only' stall. You could perhaps have a similar stall for children.

### FILL A JAR

During the year ask people to save their smaller sized jars (with lids) and to fill these jars with a variety of things, e.g. cotton wool balls, paper clips, sweets, elastic bands (this year Loom Bands were very popular with the children), crayons. Then decorate the lids of the full jars with bows to make them look attractive. You can then use them as a jam jar tombola stall.

### POT LUCK

Plastic or paper cups are needed for this one, plus a sieve and an empty receptacle to catch the sand. Into some of the cups put a coin as a prize – the amount can be whatever you decide – then cover the coin with sand up to around a third of the way up the cup to make sure the cup is stable. People buy a cup and then tip the contents out into the sieve to see if they have won a prize. (The sand drops through the sieve into the receptacle below and you need to make sure the holes in the sieve aren't too large!)

### FIND THE TREASURE

There are lots of variations you can do but the basic idea remains the same.

You need a large piece of card with a pirate map drawn on it. This should be as attractive as possible with various named features i.e.

Dead Mans Gully, Mermaid Lagoon etc. A grid of small (3cm x 3cm) squares is then drawn lightly on it. All the squares are numbered off and it is decided (in secret) which square will be the lucky one holding the prize. Contestants then pay a fixed amount to write their name in a square. The actual position of the winning square is not announced until all the squares have been purchased (or the end of the fete, whichever is first). Should the actual winning square not have been purchased by the end of the event the nearest square with a name in it is the winner.

Some variations could be to use a map of your church/churchyard; a map of the local area (people love to buy a square where their home is); a county map; a map of the world or perhaps a country where you have church links with. As long as you can easily superimpose a grid on it, the choice is yours. Extra Tip - If you have the time, try using little pin flags as there seems to be an added attraction in pinning a little flag with your name on it on to a map!

### POP THE BALLOON

This one needs some organisation beforehand, and some space for the balloons, or extras on standby somewhere close at hand. Pop a piece of paper with a prize on it (some small, and a few large, plus some 'better luck next time' ones) inside a balloon before blowing it up. Blow up the balloons and get people to pop them. Kids love this one, but you'll need someone who doesn't mind balloons going 'pop' to run this stall, or provide them with ear-plugs.

### LUCKY LOLLIPOPS

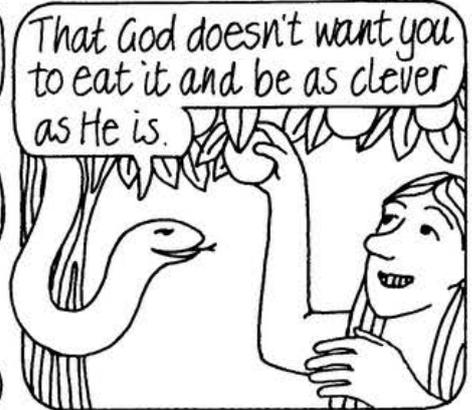
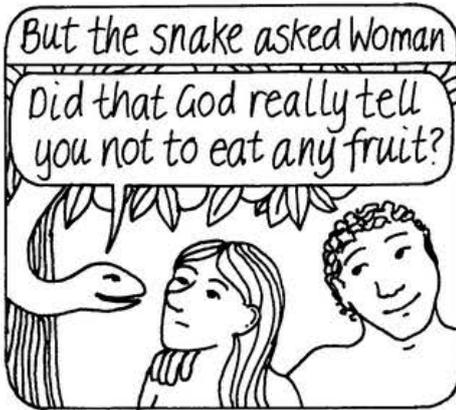
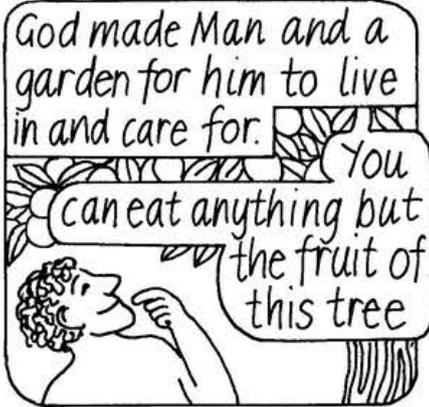
This is a simple way to turn your fundraising lollipops into a great little fete idea. All you do is paint the bottom third of some of the lolly sticks a different colour. You then display them with the sticks hidden. You could do this in a strip of Styrofoam, a piece of wood with small holes drilled in it or perhaps in a tray of sand. People then buy a lolly but if they find a 'lucky' lolly stick they win a prize. You could have a few golden sticks with larger prizes or a range of prizes for different coloured sticks – it's up to you – but everyone will go away with at least a lolly.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 2:4-9, 15-25 and ch. 3

This story is about the wonderful start to the world, and the first mistake...



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## Bursaries & Discounts

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

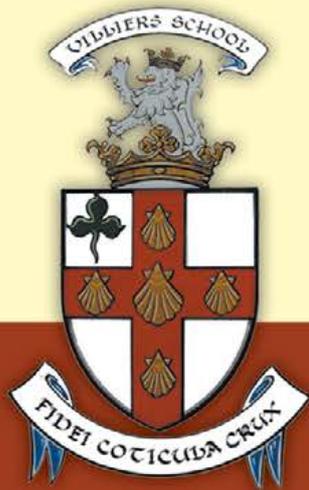
### Scholarships

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

### Prompt Payment Draw

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

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# VILLIERS SCHOOL

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CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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