

NEWSLINK

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

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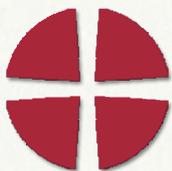
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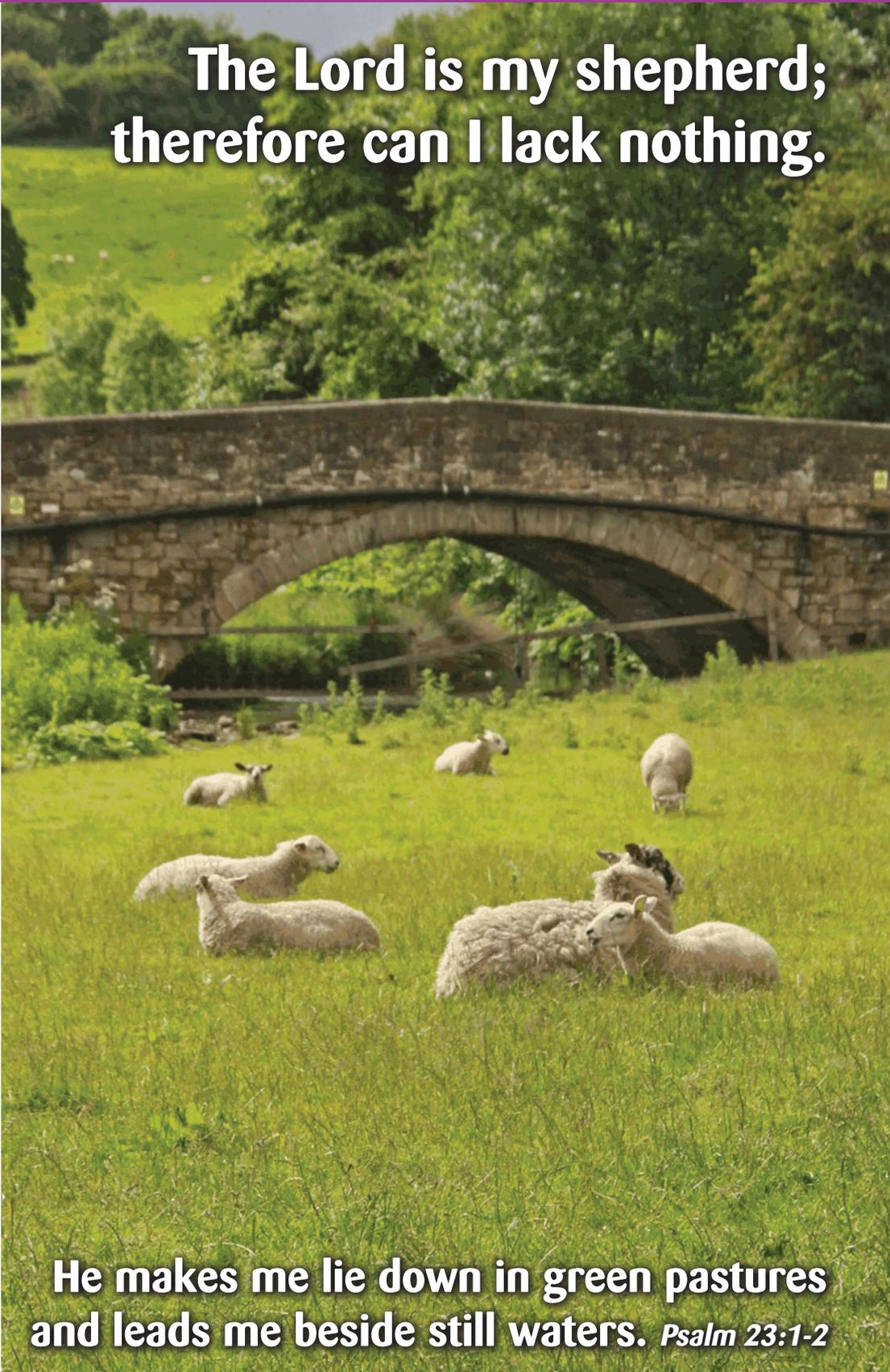
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The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. *Psalm 23:1-2*



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Bishop Kenneth writes

Annual meetings of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland are always good humoured occasions – for clergy there is a great sense of reunion as we meet people we were in theological college with or formerly in a neighbouring parish. Lay members at first can find it a bit intimidating but over successive meetings friendships develop, and so most members look forward to the annual meeting of General Synod.

This year it took place in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire, with the opening Eucharist in St Paul's Glenageary – a beautiful church building in a large thriving parish in South Dublin. The sunshine was lovely and the view from the hotel over the harbour and on to the sea was magnificent, but the Synod room which was a large ballroom in the hotel with floor to ceiling windows overlooking the bay, had the curtains drawn, and so we sat in artificial light and a gloomy environment for the three days of Synod. Not surprisingly, many members took every opportunity to escape to the sunshine and drink coffee or have lunch on the lawn in front of the hotel.

The major issue which dominated the Synod was something which wasn't even on the Agenda! At least it was on the Agenda, but was withdrawn at the last minute. I refer to the bill to alter diocesan boundaries, including our own. In my opinion this whole process of considering boundary changes has not been handled well, with significant changes being proposed up to the last couple of months. You will remember that we held a special meeting of Diocesan Council in April to consider the most recent plans, and our Council, with some reservations and unanswered questions, agreed to welcome the proposals.

Not so in Dublin and Glendalough, where the proposal to transfer six parishes from Glendalough to Meath and Kildare was considered at a special Synod. Feelings ran high and that aspect of the proposal was rejected outright. Because of this, the bill (or legislation) to bring all of the changes into effect was withdrawn at the last minute.



As part of our own consideration of the plan, a representative group from our diocese met with similar groups from Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and I do think some valuable progress was made on that occasion.

In my opinion we should continue to talk with the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry as we have so much in common, and see where that leads us, but it is Diocesan Council and our Synod who will guide us in any such conversations.

Interesting times, as they say!

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

Diocesan Calendar

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

Fri 3rd–Mon 6th June Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney. Co. Kerry (for 2015 & 2016 confirmation candidates)

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 11th June, 1pm Shinrone Parish Fete & Dog Show, Cloughmoyle School (dog registration from 12.30)

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

Sun 19th June, 1pm Birr Group Parish Fete, Oxmantown School, Birr, Co Offaly

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

Fri 1st–Tue 5th July Summer Madness, Glenarm Castle, Co Antrim (secondary up)

Sun 3rd July, 2pm Aghancon Parish Fete and Sale, Aghancon Hall, Co. Offaly

Tue 5th–Sun 10th July UDYC Senior Summer Camp, Murlough House, Dundrum, Co Down (secondary up)

Sun 10th July, 1pm Dunkerrin Fete & Dog Show, Dunkerrin Community Centre (dog registration from 12.30)

Sun 17th–Sat 23rd July UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Esker Youth Village, Athenry, Co Galway (10+yrs)

Fri 29th July – Monday 1st August Flower Festival at St Brendan's Church, Birr, Co Offaly

Diocesan Boundaries - the Latest News

Since the Commission on Episcopal Ministry & Structures (CEMS) withdrew the General Synod Bill proposing changes to diocesan boundaries, the proposal to merge our United Dioceses with Tuam & Killala cannot be forced upon our dioceses by General Synod.

CEMS proposed a motion at General Synod requesting bishops and diocesan councils to consider beginning processes that might, with diocesan consent, build on the CEMS proposals. It was passed unanimously, being seconded by Ed Hardy, with Joc Sanders and Peter Whyte from our dioceses speaking in support.

Bishop Kenneth asked diocesan council at its meeting on 19th May for approval to begin discussions along these lines with Tuam Killala & Achonry. *'Ministry in the Church today is under pressure'*, he said, *'and nowhere more so than in the South and West. The issues we face are faced by other dioceses in the West also, and there would be value in exploring together the issues raised by CEMS. Of course any proposals for change would come from ourselves'*

His proposal was agreed and the following members of diocesan council were nominated to join in the discussions, along with the Bishop and Diocesan Secretary: Dean Gary Paulsen, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev John Godfrey, Joc Sanders, Peter Whyte, Andrew Eadie.

As its work is complete diocesan council stood down the diocesan boundaries working group and thanked the members: Ed Hardy, Joc Sanders, Caleb Clarke, Frank Sheahan, Adrian Hilliard.

Editorial - Intentional Discipleship

We who follow Jesus are his disciples, and Christ is being formed in us, just as he was formed in the womb of Mary. As Christ grows in us we will discover a deepening relationship with him. We will notice changes for the better in ourselves. We will cultivate habits of worship, prayer and study through which we will discern the different gifts he gives each of us. And he will enable us to use these gifts in his service, whether in ministry within the church or in mission outside it.

It is in the nature of the Church to make disciples. A healthy church will nurture disciples in whom Christ is growing, and as they mature we should expect to see our church community change and develop – change for the better. Those outside the church – family, friends, neighbours and strangers – will see the changes in us, in the way we live our lives, in how we treat others. Some may be annoyed, because our way challenges the way they live their lives. But more will be attracted to take a closer look, to investigate further, because they see in us something that they hunger and thirst for. This is how a church community grows, first spiritually as its members grow as disciples, and then numerically as others are attracted to it, become disciples themselves and in turn grow as disciples as Christ grows in them.

We need to ask ourselves if this is what we see in our churches – and church census evidence suggests it is not. If that is so, we must ask ourselves why not, and work together to make it happen. We must take discipleship seriously.

There are hopeful signs in the Anglican Communion that this is starting to happen. The main topic discussed at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Lusaka in April was 'intentional discipleship'. The Council called on "every province, diocese and parish" in the Anglican Communion to "adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship" as part of a "season of intentional discipleship", and commended a document for study throughout the Communion, called 'Intentional Discipleship and Disciple making – An Anglican Guide to Christian Life and Formation'. You can download it free from the web – to find it google the title. It's well worth reading.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Welby On Discipleship

The best decision anyone can ever make, at any point in life, in any circumstances, wherever they are, wherever they are, is to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

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

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for July & August 2016, published for Sunday 3rd July.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 17th June 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)

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 - June 2016

Each Sunday in June

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

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.

5th June, 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green

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.

12th June, 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria and Most Revd Nicholas Okoh, Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja.

Diocese: Students in our diocese sitting examinations, that they may give of their best and be blessed in their results.

19th June, 4th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The United Church of North India and Most Revd Pradeep Samantaroy, Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Amritsar.

Diocese: The Diocesan Synod taking place in Killarney on Saturday 25th June.

26th June, 6th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The United Church of Pakistan and Most Revd Samuel Robert Azariah, Bishop of Raiwind & Moderator of the Church of Pakistan.

Diocese: Pupils and teachers in our diocesan schools as the school year draws to a close, giving thanks for all that has been learned.

3rd July, 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea and Most Revd Clyde Igara, Archbishop of Papua New Guinea & Bishop of Dogura.

Diocese: All those taking summer holidays away from home, that they may travel safely, enjoy the break from routine, and return refreshed.

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A Cantic for Brother Sun

As we move towards mid-summer the sun rises ever higher in the sky, and all creation burgeons about us. St Francis of Assisi captures the mood in this cantic of praise.

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

Centering Prayer

Joc Sanders writes:

During Lent 2015 I was invited to join a local Roman Catholic group in an introduction to Centering Prayer. Over 6 nights guided by an experienced practitioner we watched videos of Benedictine monk Fr Thomas Keating explaining this method of silent prayer which he has developed over many years, based on ancient monastic practices of contemplative prayer. We then practiced it as a group for 20 minutes or so at a time, before discussing how it felt, how it worked, and how to improve our practice of it.

I found the experience to be delightful. By calming my inner dialogue I felt myself open up to God, and afterwards more alert – in fact more 'centred', to use pop jargon. And it was lovely to share the experience with others.

Since then I have tried to use the method on my own, but find I do not have the discipline to do so consistently. If I could, I think it would help me grow as a Christian – but the busy world and deadlines just keep getting in the way! It is clearly not appropriate for everyone, and perhaps not for me – but I heartily suggest you give it a try if you have the opportunity.

If you are interested you can find out more from the Contemplative Outreach website <http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/>, from which the following is taken.

CENTERING PRAYER is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer, but rather adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer – verbal, mental or affective prayer – into a receptive prayer of resting in God.

GUIDELINES

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

The sacred word is chosen during a brief period of prayer to the Holy Spirit. Use a word of one or two syllables.

A simple inward glance toward the Divine Presence, or noticing one's breath may be more suitable for some persons.

The sacred word is sacred not because of its inherent meaning, but because of the meaning we give it as the expression of our intention to consent.

2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word.

"Sitting comfortably" means relatively comfortably so as not to encourage sleep during the time of prayer.

Whatever sitting position we choose, we keep the back straight.

We close our eyes as a symbol of letting go of what is going on around and within us.

We introduce the sacred word inwardly as gently as laying a feather on a piece of absorbent cotton.

3. When engaged with your thoughts, return ever-so gently to the sacred word.

"Thoughts" is an umbrella term for every perception, including body sensations, sense perceptions, feelings, images, memories, plans, reflections, concepts, commentaries, and spiritual experiences.

Thoughts are an inevitable, integral and normal part of Centering Prayer.

By "returning ever-so-gently to the sacred word" a minimum of effort is indicated. This is the only activity we initiate during the time of Centering Prayer.

4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

This enables us to bring the atmosphere of silence into everyday life.

If done in a group, the leader may slowly recite a prayer such as the Lord's Prayer, while the others listen.

A View from the Pew - for Pentecost, 2016

by Salters Sterling



Last month I wrote "danger God at work", and in March I wrote "finding the way in the Church of Ireland to redefine episcopal ministry not by geographical boundaries but by pastoral and teaching function". And here was I in the pew on the seventh Sunday of Easter next after Ascension Day reading in our weekly newsletter that the proposal to the General Synod on Diocesan Boundaries had been withdrawn. "The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia." We in Limerick

and Killaloe had been prepared to make a distance from Killaloe to Kenmare via Killaloe work - but at what cost in the creation of a functioning faith community on an ongoing organisationally basis? Opposition to the proposal in Dublin and Glendalough has given the whole Church a chance to think again. My sense of the Pentecostal Spirit being at work in the Church is mightily renewed. So what needs to be done?

Let me begin by suggesting that what is needed is a comprehensive review of ministry in its entirety. By coincidence of the same Spirit who withdrew the resolution, the first lesson on the same Sunday was that passage from Ephesians, chapter 4, which delineates the gifts given to the Church for the building up of the Body of Christ. Here is the list - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, in case you have forgotten. In the context of that list we, the Church, need to be asking some very sharp questions about who does what within the context of the total ministry of the Church. And we need to begin by asking, 'What ministry does the Kingdom require of the Church which is its servant, in the world today?' The contemporary work of God in Christ defines the ministry of the Church.

How can we describe that ministry? For me the key ministry which both world and church require is the ministry of prophecy. The telling it as it is by what we say and how we live. The core message of that prophesy will be the message of justice, of peace, of reconciliation. It will concern itself with the condition of the marginalised, the stranger, those without a voice. In concrete terms with the homeless - and they will include the Travellers, the immigrants, the disabled of all conditions and many others who cannot advocate for themselves. To do this job will require the willingness to tackle the incongruities of the distribution of wealth, in their global and national manifestations. Doing the job will require courage of the kind that stands fast and is unflinching. In the past prophets have stood alone. Rarely is the lone voice heard above the clamour of our world. Prophecy today will be a community endeavour and it will issue forth when the other gifts, of apostleship, evangelism, pastoral care and teaching are offered as supporting ministries, each with its own integrity.

Ephesians is quite clear that these gifts are showered separately but it is together that they build up the body of Christ. Community is presupposed. The understanding of church operating as community has been diluted over a long period of time. It has to be rediscovered. The first step on the road to recovering community ministry is to

dismantle completely the notion and expectation of the Priest as sole trader, Jack-of-all-trades and master-of-none. Such a model is a relic of the days when the ordained person was almost the only educated person in the parish. These days are gone. Therefore there will have to be a sharing of a shared ministry.

This will mean in each parish, group of parishes, union of parishes the focussed asking and answering of the question "what is our peculiar ministry in the place which is our neighbourhood home?" Which of us is best equipped to undertake particular pieces of that ministry? What does church need to be being and be doing in order that each together may fulfil her or his or their ministries? And having asked and answered these questions to implement whatever the answers are.

There will then be a not dissimilar set of questions for our ordained members. What am I best equipped to do by calling and by training? How can my gifts and skills be used in association with the gifts and skills of others to further the work of God? Can I admit that I am not omniscient and need the gifts and skills of others to complement my ministry just as they need my gifts and skills?

When such conversations get under way the will of God and the mind of Christ will become clear and the functioning of bishops and diocese will fall into place in the overall scheme of contemporary ministry. Pentecost is about the processes of the Spirit and Trinity is about the processes of Community in what is the Church. If we let go and let God through the power of his Spirit we will be in for truly exciting and rewarding times. And in those times the new language of new meaning for the new age will once again be given to the Church as it was at Pentecost.

Observations on Christian life

Be ye fishers of men - you catch them and He'll clean them!

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things. - *A Gordon*

Evangelism never seemed to be an 'issue' in the New Testament. That is to say, one does not find the apostles urging, exhorting, scolding, planning and organising for evangelistic programmes.... evangelism happened! Issuing effortlessly from the community of believers as light from the sun, it was automatic, spontaneous, continuous, contagious. - *R Halverson*

Every age is an age for evangelism. God has no grandchildren. - *E Smith*

The fruit of the Spirit is not excitement or orthodoxy: it is character. - *G Duncan*

Have you ever noticed the difference in the Christian life between work and fruit? A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. - *Andrew Murray*

We can do more good by being good than in any other way. - *Rowland Hill*

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. - *Matthew Henry*

Letters to the Editor

DWINDLING NUMBERS

Dear Editor,

We know God can do all things, He is all powerful. God's only Son Jesus set up The Church, but then why are so many Churches struggling to stay open, facing dwindling numbers... There must be a disconnect somewhere, when The one True All Powerful God sets something up surely it should be prospering.

Some look at the world around us and say its 'them' – people don't believe anymore, but that's not quite right – there have long been those who deny the existence of God. It says in Psalm 53 v 1 'Only fools say in their hearts there is no God' – they had atheists back then too.

People are looking for Spiritual fulfilment in a wide range of places other than Church – but that is nothing new either – Israel in the Old Testament was constantly worshipping anything but the one true God when left to their own devices for any length of time.

Rather than waiting for God to intervene like He used to in the Old Testament, the responsibility is on us to realise who we are in Christ and then do something about this situation – acting in faith.

Jesus' parting words before He ascended were orders to His Church – communicate the Good News of salvation and healing, baptise anyone who receives this Good News with faith and make disciples of them.

The simple reason we are not prospering is we are not doing what God told us to do in the way He told us to do it.

If you will forgive me pointing out in love, the focus in The Church of Ireland appears to be – how do we keep our tradition alive – not how do we communicate The Gospel. We baptise people who have no idea what they are doing because they are babies – defeating the purpose of baptism. We do not disciple people because faith is considered a personal matter – the sheep are left to figure out what they are doing all by themselves and actually they prefer it that way because they think they are safe.

The Church of Ireland is known affectionately for a characteristic unwillingness to change – as the joke goes, how many Church of Ireland people does it take to change a light bulb? None, because no change is allowed.

The thing is – the death of a denomination is actually the lesser of two evils. What is far worse is our personal failure to do what Christ has commanded, because faith without works is dead.

Yours etc, Jonathan Pyle, Birr, Co Offaly

Editor: Thank you, Jonathan, for your letter, which is an important and timely reminder to us of the importance of discipleship. It has prompted me to reflect on discipleship in the Editorial on page 4.

Like you I believe our church must take discipleship more seriously than it has done perhaps in recent years. And I see signs that this is beginning to happen. For instance, discipleship was the major topic discussed at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting held in April in Lusaka, Zambia. We will be hearing much more about discipleship over the next few years. Do stick with us and help to make change happen.

I disagree with you, though, on the subject of infant baptism – churches which practice it have flourished historically, and continue to do so in places where the church is growing in Africa and Asia. We must look to other reasons for the lack of growth elsewhere.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Dear Sir,

As we get older many changes over the years come to mind and it was a breath of fresh air to read Bishop Kenneth's article in the May edition of Newlink and the many changes that have taken place regarding inter-church families, with some of the members recently confirmed at the Church of Ireland. It is hoped these people will worship on a regular basis and become active parishioners. 50 years ago when we started the Lifeboys (now Boys' Brigade) in Tralee the members were encouraged to attend Sunday services and gain suitable credits. With the help of parents this should be encouraged, and also Junior church. Attendance is most important as it is taken into consideration where there is a vacancy or keeping a church open is in question.

In the old days we were told Sunday games for Protestants were banned – however if you attended a morning service you were reluctantly allowed to play in the afternoon. Today we find games take place on Sunday mornings, which should be discontinued.

In time it appears our Diocese is to join with Tuam – this is very ambitious and will require much energy. Perhaps the new title should be Ardfert, Killaloe and Tuam, bearing in mind that St. Brendan was born in Ardfert, died in Clonfert and made his mark in the Galway area.

Yours etc., Trevor Giles, Tralee

.....

ZULU WAR MEMORIALS

Dear Sir

I have an interest in locating and recording memorials commemorating soldiers who died during the Zulu War which took place in South Africa in 1879, mainly men who died at the battle of Isandlwana (or 'Isandula' as it sometimes appears) on January 22nd of that year.

Over 1300 soldiers died there, and as a proportion of them came from the cities, towns and villages of Ireland, I am confident that there must be any number of 'undiscovered' family memorials within local parish churches and inscriptions on gravestones outside.

I would be delighted to hear from any readers of Newlink who can provide me with information.

Yours etc., Tim Needham, Email timneedham79@yahoo.co.uk

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Get a grip

It was said that Archbishop Trench of Dublin, in his later years, had a fear of sudden crippling paralysis. One night at a formal dinner he sat looking more and more forlorn. Finally he confided to the guests around him: 'Well, it's come at last – total lack of feeling in my right leg!' Whereupon the lady sitting next to him said soothingly: 'Not at all, your Grace. It will comfort you to know that during the whole of this meal it has been my leg that you have been pinching!'

Can't Come to Diocesan Synod?

Some questions answered by the Diocesan Secretary

I was elected to Diocesan Synod but can't make it this year. Does that matter?

It does. It was you that the Easter Vestry elected as one of the parish's representatives. If you can't come then the parish has less representation.

Can I send someone else?

No, no one else can take your place at Synod.

I thought we elected supplementalists. Can't one of them take my place this year?

No, supplementalists are not alternates! On the other hand, if you resign your place or in some way cease to be eligible, then the person who received most votes as a supplementalist moves up to take your place.

Alternatively, in the case of illness or other reasonable cause, the convener of the Synod (usually the bishop) may direct that a supplementalist be called to replace that synodsperson.

They're the only ways a supplementalist can become a member of Synod. In either case please contact the Diocesan Secretary to request a supplementalist no later than 7 days before Synod.

Can other parishioners come to Synod?

Yes, Diocesan Synod is an open meeting and visitors are always welcome to come and watch the proceedings. Visitors sit in a designated place at Synod, and of course they cannot speak or vote. Only members can do that.

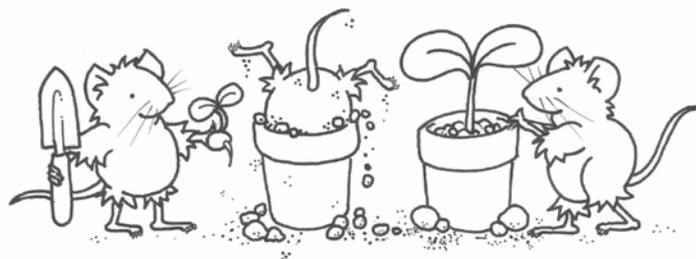
Complicated, isn't it?

Yep! It's called democracy! In the Dáil, if a TD can't attend a session he/she can't simply send another constituent to take his/her place. It's the same with Synod. In the Church of Ireland we have a supplemental list to avoid having by-elections when a member resigns or is ill or for a similar reason can't attend synod.

Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardferd 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



St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Birr

Birr Flower Festival

Designed by Richard Haslam (Birr)

&

Ethel Mitchell (Moate)

"Let's Celebrate"

Fri. 29th July – Mon. 1st August

Official Opening Friday 29th July 7.30 pm. Admission €15

Saturday: 10 - 8 Sunday: 1 - 8 Monday: 10 - 8

Admission €10

(incl. teas and coffees & flower demonstrations)

Charity Partner: DÓCHAS Offaly Cancer Support Group



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 8th June

Sarah Ellen Murphy (alto), Celia Donoghue (clarinet),
Daniel Sherlock

Music by Handel, Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Gluck

Wednesday 15th June

Celia Donoghue (clarinet), Ethna Tinney (piano)

Including music by Schumann, Reade and Poulenc

Monday 20th June

Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church Choir, USA

Wednesday 22nd June

Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Wednesday 29th June

Elisabeth Goell (soprano), Irina Dernova (piano)

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

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

Central Council Meeting was held on Saturday, 14th May in the Parish Hall Christ Church, Dunlaoghaire at which All Ireland Prizes were announced. Congratulations to everyone whose crafts represented this Diocese and came back Highly Commended. Killaloe Diocese won 3 prizes for Bible Study and one for Handcrafts.

Bible Study: Candidates: Julia Klisiewicz, Birr – 3rd prize
Members: Robyn Fitzgerald, Cloughjordan – joint 3rd prize
Senior Members: Michelle Armitage, Cloughjordan – 2nd prize
Highly Commended: Alison Grant, Leah Shaw, Rebecca Reid and Tara St.Leger.

Handcrafts: Candidates: 1st Grace Wharton, Birr
Highly Commended: Orlaith Houlihan, Aimee Fitzgerald, Lucy Fitzgerald, Laura Armitage, Grace Langley, Lorraine Armitage, Michelle Armitage and Diane Dagg (leader).

BIRR BRANCH

Birr Branch finished the 2015-2016 GFS year on Tuesday, 17th May with the presentation of badges to the girls. This year the girls worked very hard on their floral art and their environmental & nature study badges. They learned how to look after cut flowers and how to press flowers. They made napkin holders and cards using pressed flowers. In May the girls also had lots of fun making a flower arrangement in a tea-cup and posies.

The branch visited Birr Recycling Centre as part of their Environmental & Nature Study badge in April and had a great tour of the Centre with Daniel who showed them around and explained where all the recycled items go. They were surprised to learn that recycled household cooking oil can be made into perfume and that the recycled wood items get shredded into pet bedding! The girls also learned about native trees and animals and made bird feeders, seed heads and planted bulbs for this badge.



Birr GFS girls at the Birr Recycling Centre

Parents were invited to the presentation and the badges were presented by Mrs Carney, GFS Diocesan President. A few girls who have completed two years of Bible Study also received special Bible Study badges. We were delighted also to present Grace Wharton with her All-Ireland first place cup for her penguin button picture,

a second place plaque to Julia Klisiewicz for her bible study and a Highly Commended certificate to Leah Shaw for her bible study. Congratulations to all.

The older girls are looking forward to our diocesan camp in Durrow from 10th-12th June and preparations are well under way for what promises to be an exciting action-packed weekend!

Birr fortnightly meetings will resume again in September / October 2016 and we wish all our girls a very enjoyable summer.

ROSCREA BRANCH

Roscrea annual enrolment service took place on 8th May in St Cronin's Church. All the girls played a part in the service. It was a pleasure to have Norma-Jean Carney, GFS Diocesan President with us and she kindly presented the enrolment cards to the girls.

Orlaith Houlihan was enrolled as a Candidate (5-7 Yrs) Roisin Houlihan, Gemma St Leger and Lucy Wallace - Junior members (7-11Yrs) and Saoirse Barret as Member (11-15 Yrs). Tara St Leger received Young Helpers badge and Young Helper record book (14-16 yrs).

As part of their Exploration Badge the branch are going to visit Orange Hill, Golden Grove, Roscrea for a forest walk. The area is beautiful at the moment with wildflowers and especially bluebells in full bloom.

The branch was delighted to have had entries that reached All Ireland level and proud of all the girls in the branch for putting in a tremendous effort this year.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Branch was delighted to welcome Cloughjordan's new rector, Reverend Terry Mitchell and his wife Julia to the parish. We hope they will be very happy in Cloughjordan. Rev. Terry has already paid a visit to one GFS meeting.

Girls and leaders held their Parents' Night on Saturday, 21st May in St. Kieran's Hall. They had spent days rehearsing for this important event in the Branch.



Cloughjordan girls at the Parents' Evening

On the night girls provided great entertainment with wonderful singing, dancing, music, poetry and acting. Girls recreated the x-factor and a hilarious sketch of camp. Canon Jane Galbraith along with Rev. Terry Mitchell and Mrs Mitchell were special guests. Thanks to all the girls for their participation in the evening and to the Leaders for all their hard work preparing the girls. Thanks also to John Armitage and his daughter Michelle Kennedy for music and singing.

We look forward to our Diocesan Camp which takes place on 10th - 12th June in The Faith Mission Centre, Durrow, Co. Laois. A great weekend is promised for all.

NENAGH BRANCH

Girls enjoyed a great morning with Michelle Hennessy, MY Music in Nenagh. Girls learnt all about dance and how important it is to do stretching exercises before and after a dance routine. This was part of their Dance Badge. Girls also had a great opportunity to make items with duct tape – amazing creations from very creative girls. The final meeting of the year took place on Saturday, 28th May and we all look forward to a great summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Camp will take place in June (10-12) at the Faith Mission Centre, Durrow. Girls will enjoy dance, games, activities, crafts, a visit to the Kilkenny Activity Centre with shopping and lots more. Best of all, they will experience lots of fun, fellowship and friendship together. Camp is for girls aged 9 years and over. Please contact Branch leaders for Application Forms and full details. The cost for the weekend is €60 per girl €55 for a second girl in the family).

CONFIRMATION & EXAMS

Some of our Junior leaders and older girls are preparing for state exams and other girls are preparing for Confirmation. We wish everyone all the very best of luck and we will keep you all in our prayers.

Boys' Brigade



NENAGH 1ST COMPANY

Fun and games in Portarlinton! Hear about that from Leading Boy, Denis Sheehy.

Nenagh 1st Company hosted Roscrea boys and leaders for an evening of "potted sports" on Friday 13th May. Despite the date, it went really well!

There were 10 activities for the boys to rotate around in teams of 4/5; most of the teams were a mixture of Nenagh/Roscrea, to help along the relationships building. We already have a few inter-company friendships from previous activities, which is lovely. I manned the "Gone Fishing" which was hooking ducks with hidden, colour-coded score values and I was delighted with the commitment that every boy gave, they really threw themselves into it!

Jim devised the evening, cleverly selecting activities that would suit as many personalities as possible and he even made most of the equipment we used. It was all worthwhile as the boys really enjoyed it so much. Crisps and sweets provided by Roscrea and Ann Powell topped it off a treat!

We still have a few treats to look forward to – summer tour to Tayto Park of course and also a visit from some special friends for our last meeting of the year

Speaking of friends, we have been supported many times by parents who are willing to step in when we need extra hands, and even running activities as Ann Powell has with craft evenings. We appreciate that so much, it makes a big difference! Support has also come in financial terms, like the Ulster Bank donation (timed immaculately a few months ago following a smaller than planned for ETB grant) that Helen Powell worked hard to secure for us. Thank you all for helping us keep it going!

Remaining dates this year: Sat 28th May Tayto Park, Tuesdays 7th & 14th June.

This year's Boys' Brigade Activity day took place in Portarlinton, Laois. It saw 104 boys and girls from all over the Midlands Region. Activities included soccer, American football, basketball, arts and crafts and a talk about 1916. The best activities I thought were the basketball and the soccer. At the end of the day we all gathered in the hall and had a little Boys' Brigade service. Thank you to the 28 leaders who ran the day. A big well done also to the Nenagh Boys, who all represented the Nenagh Company brilliantly.

Mothers' Union

FESTIVAL SERVICE & COMMISSIONING

See page 19 for a full report of the Festival Service and Commissioning of Mrs Lucy Kavanagh as our new Diocesan President in St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on Sunday 15th May.

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

Limerick City Branch had a very tasty meeting in May when Gordon Shier demonstrated a variety of unusual salads which we all enjoyed sampling afterwards. We were delighted to welcome several non-members to this meeting and hope they enjoyed themselves. The branch is taking a rest over the summer but we hope to have an outing to celebrate Mary Sumner Day on 9th August.

ST. JOHN'S MU BRANCH, BALLINALSOE

On Saturday, May 7th members of St. John's MU Branch travelled to the garden and home of Angela Jupe at Bellefield House in Shinrone. We were welcomed by Angela who had made delicious scones and apple sponge along with freshly brewed coffee and tea. Having been refreshed the brave few, despite very unpleasant weather, enjoyed a lovely afternoon browsing around her magnificent gardens. Later in the evening we travelled back to Birr to Parker's Restaurant for a delightful meal in lovely surroundings. Good company with much laughter concluded a very nice end to the Mothers' Union year for our branch, and following a relaxing and hopefully sunny summer we will regroup in the autumn to continue the work of the Mothers' Union.



Ladies from Ballinasloe MU enjoying refreshments at Bellefield House, Shinrone

United Diocesan Youth Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Diocesan Youth Council A.G.M. was held at Richmond Terrace on Saturday 30th of April. There was small attendance of around 15 people and on arrival everyone enjoyed some lovely refreshments and treats provide by Bev Calendar. Prior to the meeting Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Archdeacon Wayne Carney. The meeting then started with the minutes of the previous year's meeting and apologies were recorded. Then after various reports and discussions the elections were held and the following were elected to the committee for forthcoming year:

- Chairperson - Kieran Sparling (Limerick City)
- Treasurer - Edward Hardy (Banagher)
- Secretary - Valerie Walker (Croom)
- Newslink Correspondent - Sophia Levie (Mountshannon)
- Public Relations Officer - Oscar Egbulam (Limerick City)
- Limerick Representatives - Emma Gardiner (Adare) and Laura Cooke (Kilpeacon)
- Killaloe Representatives - Andrew O'Brien (Castleconnell) and Sandra Wakefield (Shinrone)
- Ardfert Representatives - Maud Eadie (Killarney) and Ciara Fitzell (Tralee)
- Board of Mission Representative - Canon Jane Galbraith (Roscrea)
- Ordinary Committee Members : Beverly Calendar (Kilpeacon) Henry Cooke (Kilpeacon), Alec Perrott (Adare), Charlie Brickenden (Limerick City), Jordan Lewis (Roscrea)

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The May fellowship group meeting took place on Saturday 21st May and the evening was led by Oscar Egbulam. We look forward to the final fellowship Group meeting before the summer scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th June from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The group will meet at Dining Room, Basement Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, and Limerick City. The next evening will be led by Bishop Kenneth Kearon. The group welcomes participation from everyone attending secondary school.

SUMMER 2016

It's nearly summer time, long summer holidays and time to book for Summer Madness Senior & Junior Summer Camps.... All three events promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, and enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Summer Madness - Friday 1st July – Tuesday 5th July 2016

What? Summer Madness is an amazing event...The first Summer Madness camp began in July 1987 with less than 250 participants..... the event now attracts about 4000 people each year.... with participants from throughout Ireland and beyond.....5 days for fun, friendship and freedom ...a pure camping experience. The Summer Madness Festival offers an opportunity for faith building encounters, an action packed programme and a mind blowing mix of music, worship, workshops, seminars, outdoor activities, debates and worship. Why not visit www.summermadness.co.uk for more information.

Where? The event will again take place this year at Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm, Co. Antrim (www.glenarmcastle.com).

Who for? In order to join the U.D.Y.C. group you have to be in secondary school or older. The festival is primarily designed for a teen to twenty something's who want to wrestle a little with their faith and develop a lifestyle that reflects God's all-embracing love.

Senior Summer Camp - Tuesday 5th July – Sunday 10th July 2016

Where? Our Senior Summer Camp will take place at Murlough House,

Keel Point, Dundrum, Co. Down immediately after Summer Madness. Thus providing an opportunity for 10 days of fun, faith & fellowship by joining both events and alternatively the option to join just Senior Summer Camp Who for? Secondary School or Older.

More details on Summer Madness & Senior Summer Camp...

How Much? The cost will be €150 for Summer Madness only, €190 for Senior Summer Camp or €290 for both Summer Madness and Senior Summer Camp. This includes return transport, food during events, programme costs and entrance ticket to Summer Madness (if appropriate). How to get there and back to either or both events? Return Transport from/ to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea, Portlaoise and Dublin for both events. By when? Last date for receipt of bookings for both events is Friday 24th June.

Junior Summer Camp-Sunday 17th July – Saturday 23rd July 2016

Where? Our Junior Summer Camp will take place at splendid Esker Youth Village, Esker Athenry, Co. Galway. Who? 10 plus year olds. Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 8th July

How Much? €220 for 7 days. This includes return transport, food during events, programme costs and transport during the event. How to get there and back? Return Transport from/ to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Birr. By when? Last date for receipt of bookings for both events is Friday 8th July.

SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking over summer months if booking for more than one event from same family.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Oscar on (086) 2476327, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,
Sophia
Mobile: 087 1339996

Church of Ireland

LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE

AT 8.00 P.M.

• *A report by Ms Linda Chambers (Us Ireland) on the latest developments at Luyengo Farm.*

• *Linda will also tell us about living in Gaza and especially about the work at Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City (our Mission Project)*

- This will our last Mission Evening for this season, so if you are free why not come along!
- Everyone, irrespective of Christian denomination, with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas, is very welcome to attend.
- Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

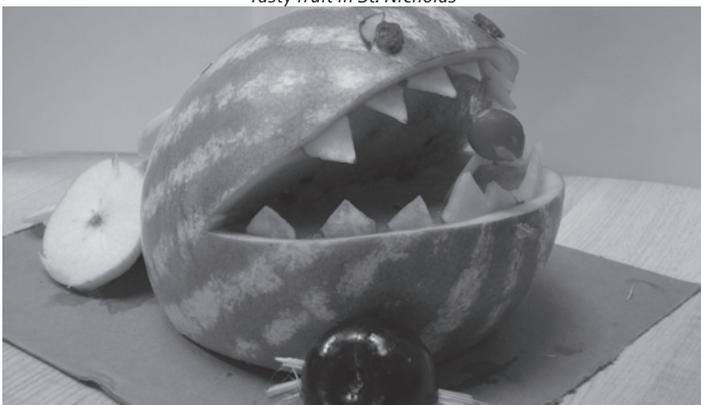
Our Health Promoting Schools' Committee has had a busy month or so. Fruit Day was held towards the end of April and proved to be a very successful day. Thanks to the teachers who prepared all the delicious fruit and vegetables on platters and to two of our parents, Yvonne and Janice, who spent the afternoon organising 'Fruit Art'. Who would have thought that fruit and veg could be used in such an interesting artistic way and then eaten afterwards! Following the tasting sessions it was revealed that strawberries are the favourite fruit in St. Nick's. The senior pupils also had some fun with blind tasting and the pupils made graphs of the results of our fruit tasting. We carried out a second 'lunch box survey' and were delighted with the results. Since starting our fruit breaks in school almost all pupils now bring at least two pieces of fruit to school every day. The committee has filled out the application for recognition as a Health Promoting School so we await the result! Many thanks to all involved in this worthwhile project.



Fruit Art



Tasty fruit in St. Nicholas'



Made completely out of fruit in Adare

Mrs. Keane, Mrs. Brickenden and the senior pupils headed off to the Woodlands Hotel at the end of April for the Junior Entrepreneur Showcase Day when schools who participated in this project displayed their ideas. Ten schools were present on that day and there was a great variety of ideas on display. The pupils had an opportunity to explain their product to two entrepreneurs and to pupils and teachers from other schools. They were also treated to some games time and a lovely lunch, thanks to the Woodlands Hotel. We were awarded a plaque and flag for the school and pupils were each given a certificate in recognition of our efforts. Thanks to Mrs. Caroline Keane who organised the project in school.

Adare Tidy Towns has been very active as usual and Adare is looking beautiful. This year the children of Adare were invited to design a new logo and so pupils in all four Adare schools have been busy designing and drawing their ideas. The prizegiving was held in the Dunraven Arms Hotel when prizes were presented to the winners from all four schools. Well done to the eight prizewinners from St. Nicholas'.

Friday 6th May was Clean-Up Day in St. Nicholas' when teachers and pupils put on their wellington boots and gardening gloves, armed themselves with gardening tools and proceeded to clean up the school and church grounds. There was lots of sweeping, weeding, planting and washing and now the grounds look extra neat and tidy. Even Barnaby, the school scarecrow, got a bit of a facelift!



Clean up in Adare

Two officers from Rathkeale Fire Station visited the senior pupils to discuss fire safety in their own homes and the importance of having a fire drill at home.

Instead of 'Active Week' this year we are enjoying an 'Active Month' with the introduction of golf to the curriculum for a number of weeks. We are also enjoying some soccer and hurling coaching weekly.

The senior pupils attended the Villiers Sports Day on May 24th and the junior pupils will be heading off to Bunratty on their school tour on June 2nd.

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

The summer term is going to be a busy one here in St. Mary's No.2 with lots of fun and exciting events to look forward to. Pupils from first to sixth class travelled to The Dome Sport's Centre in Limerick for their school tour on the 27th May while Junior and Senior infants will venture to Glendeer Pet farm on the 8th June. The senior class room had an extra treat attending the Villiers Primary Schools'

Sports Day on the 24th May. Swimming classes for all pupils have begun and will continue until the middle of June. Our school sports day will take place on 21st June and the pupils have been perfecting their running technique with some athletics training with coach, Mr. Dave O'Shea.

We had some special visitors from Jack, Harry and William Powell's farm. The boys brought in two adorable pet lambs and a Lavender Pekin hen with eleven fluffy little chicks. The boys were very kind and they allowed the Infants to babysit the hen and chicks for the day. The infants were very diligent chick minders and feed and watered them on the hour, every hour! It was a lovely experience for the children and a big thank you to Jack, Harry and William.

Our Green Flag committee have been busy explaining the importance of 'bio-diversity' to all the pupils of the school during our assembly time. They have come up with great ideas such as a building bug hotels and creating a wild flower garden for our school. Infants have been busy exploring the local habitat and have discovered that our school yard is home to many mini-beasts and wild flowers. Junior and Senior Infants were busy planting sunflowers, lettuce and spinach seeds during the month of May. I wonder how long it will take them to grow? Many of our pupils also participated in National WOW Day (Walk on Wednesday), when we all made an effort to walk to school.

Congratulations to Mrs Shirley Maher and her husband John on the birth of baby Aaron on 21st April. We are also delighted to hear that Mrs Maher is recovering well after her recent illness and that she has finally returned home from hospital to enjoy some cuddles with her new little boy.

St. Michael's National School, Limerick

In keeping with our tradition of avoiding the busier months for school tours, we enjoyed two school tour days in late April – the Infant Classes visited Stonehall Farm near Curraghchase and 1st and 2nd Classes enjoyed a stimulating visit to Craggaunowen, calling to Cratloe Woods on the way back to school. We are privileged to be so near these suitable venues for outdoor educational activities.

May is always an extra-busy month in St Michael's with annual sporting events. Much to our delight and surprise, the boys' team came first in their category in the Limerick City Schools' Sports at UL, and proudly brought back the trophy! Not to be outdone, the girls' team narrowly missed out on winning their category by just two points. Those pupils remaining in school enjoyed our in-house Sports Day, where the older senior children plan and run a fun sports day for the younger classes. 4th, 5th and 6th Classes are eagerly looked forward to another entertaining Sports Day in Villiers, ably organized by Transition Year students.



St Michael's NS Sports Day



St Michael's NS Athletics Team

Once again, we have been offered expertise from the FAI in the form of coaching soccer to all our pupils. We, as teachers, greatly appreciate this opportunity for pupils to avail of gaining more skills in what is, the most popular of games in the yard!

Our sincere sympathy is with Dean Sandra Pragnell, who is currently in Scotland due to the death of her mother, and also with Brian Gaffney, on our Board of Management, on the death of his mother in May. We are also keeping in our thoughts Reverend Edna Wakeley, who is recuperating after an operation.

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

The pupils will perform "Matilda" in the Abbey Hall on Wednesday 8th June @ 8pm. Matinee @ 10am .All Welcome. Tickets available from the school office 0505 21636. Family Ticket €10

Congratulations to the pupils in Sixth Class who raised €600 for St Ann's Playground Fund during their Lenten Project

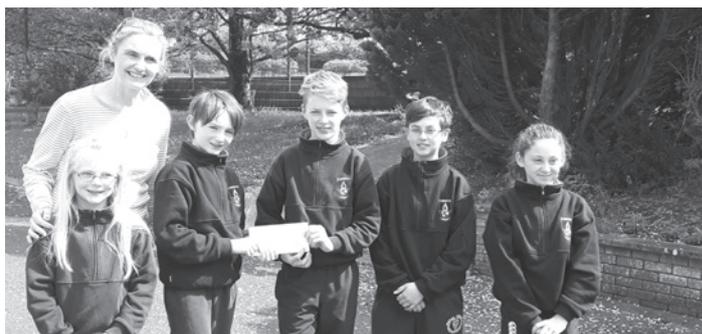
Thanks to George Blackwell for four weeks of hockey for all and for coaching our after schools hockey club on Fridays during the year.

Pupils enjoyed 4 weeks coaching in tennis and are currently taking part in Aquatics for 8 weeks.

The pupils sang at the Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Methodist Hall.

The GAA President Aogan O Feargail paid a surprise visit to our school on Wednesday 18th May

Places are still available for September in all classes. We have lots to offer your child/ children. Please consider visiting our school to meet the staff and see our excellent facilities. Visit our website for lots of information about daily activities in our school.



Adam, Zaffy, and Alara, the Pupils of Sixth Class and The Stanley Family preparing to present the Cheque to St Ann's Parents' Association. Money raised to go towards their multi Sensory Playground (Sam missing from photo!)



Caption: Aogan O'Fearghail GAA President with the Staff and Pupils of St Cronan's National School

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

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

Many thanks to Mr. Dooley, Mr. Hassett and Mr. Casey for the kind invitation to 3rd – 6th Class pupils to join with St. Michaels' N.S. for hurling training and to participate in the hurling blitz in Toomevara in April. The Cloughjordan panel, which included Ross Austin, Tom Austin, Cathal England, Andrew Hayes and Tom Larke, played against Birdhill, Dunkerrin and Lorrha National Schools and won the blitz on the day. Congratulations to all involved. They went on to play in the North Tipperary final but lost out to Burgess N.S.

3rd – 6th Class pupils enjoyed participating in Borrisokane Athletic Club's Primary Schools Competition 2016 at Borrisokane Community Sports Grounds. Congratulations to our winning girls' team who retained the Gregg Starr Shield and to our winning boys' team who won the O'Farrell Shield. This was a great achievement by all children who participated and contributed to the success of each team. Thank you very much to John O'Farrell, and his helpers, for organizing this event.



Our winning teams at Borrisokane Athletic Club's Primary Schools Competition 2016

Congratulations to Robyn Fitzgerald, Hannah Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald & Lisa Mooney who came 3rd in All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals held in the National Basketball Arena in April. This is the first time we had a team participating in an All Ireland Table Tennis Championship – well done to the girls for making history, on your success and for the All Ireland bronze medals attained. A special thank you to Mandy Fitzgerald who helped to make all of this possible by giving so generously of her time and driving to and from the competitions in Kinsale and Tallaght, and to Jimmy Hayes, table tennis coach, for his dedication and encouragement throughout the year.



All Ireland Bronze medalists at the All Ireland Primary schools Team Table Tennis Finals

3rd & 4th Class pupils enjoyed the History Live show in the Thomas MacDonagh Centre as part of the 2016 Thomas MacDonagh weekend. Thank you very much to the Thomas MacDonagh 2016 Commemoration Committee for the kind invitation to, and for organizing, this event.

Well done to all our pupils who participated in Tipp FM's broadcast of the morning radio show "Tipp Today", with Fran Curry, live from the MacDonagh Centre. It was a packed programme which focused on the MacDonagh Weekend. It was wonderful to hear our musicians and children speaking on the programme.

Many from the school participated in the Cloughjordan Parade on Monday 2nd May organized by Tipperary County Council and the Thomas MacDonagh 2016 Commemoration Parade Committee. This was a historic occasion and it was our privilege to be part of it.

Congratulations to Ella Dann, Second Class, who won first prize in the Junior Section of the Ballycommon Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann inter-primary schools art competition held to promote the Co. Tipperary Fleadh Cheoil held in Cloughjordan.

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 and to our PTA for paying for this tuition. We are also delighted to welcome back Ms. Fanny Healy to teach French to pupils from 3rd – 6th Class and Mr. Gilbert Williams to teach hurling skills throughout the school.

The school is very grateful to Cloughjordan Tidy Towns Committee for the very welcome donations of currant bushes and perennials to our School Garden.

Our Junior School Tour to Turoe Pet Farm took place on Friday 13th May. This was a thoroughly enjoyable, action packed day with glorious sunshine all day. Thank you very much to the staff of Turoe Pet Farm for the warm welcome received on the day.

Our Senior Classes looked forward to participating in the annual Primary Schools' Sports Day, kindly organized and hosted by Villiers School. We are very grateful to Ms. Storey, Mr Atkinson and to all at Villiers School for the very kind invitation, for the huge generosity and for this wonderful opportunity for our pupils.

We send our very best wishes to all of our past pupils who will sit Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations this month. We hope that success will be theirs and that they will all have an enjoyable summer afterwards.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

The 6th class pupils of our school were delighted to receive their very first Junior Entrepreneur Flag on Thursday May 12th in The Malton Hotel, Killarney. Their JEP Journey began back in November 2015 and culminated with a wonderful showcase day on March 4th, where they sold their products – Kiltallagh Cards and Cookie Kits – making a profit of €420.35. Sincere thanks to the entire school community for supporting the pupils in this wonderful entrepreneurial initiative.

Special Guest, Michael Flatley, gave an inspirational speech to all the young entrepreneurs – encouraging them to use their God given talents as they make the transition to secondary school.



Kiltallagh Junior Entrepreneurs



Students with the Kiltallagh Cards & Cookie Kits



Michael Flately at the Junior Entrepreneur Awards.

Congratulations to our sixth class pupil Charlotte Orme who has been awarded an Open Scholarship by the Board of Directors of Bandon Grammar School. This scholarship is tenable for six years. Well done Charlotte, we are very proud of your wonderful achievement!



Charlotte Orme

Congratulations to our sixth class girls - Natasha, Avril, Clara, Sarah, Charlotte and Kate - who received the Rite of Confirmation from Bishop Kenneth Kearon, in St. Michael's Church, on April 24th 2016. Congratulations also to our past pupil Katie Boyle who was confirmed with them on the day.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

GREEN FLAG

Eva Joyce (6th Class) and Patrick Barnwell Mulholland travelled to the Radisson Hotel in Athlone to collect our second Green Flag, they were accompanied by Stuart Smith past Chairperson of the Green School's committee and Rebekah Keaveny current Chairperson of the Green School's committee. Congratulations and thank you to all members of the committee Ms. Carter, Mrs. Colton, Sam Powell and Andrew Armstrong for their work and thanks to all pupils for their support. We will now go on to work towards the conservation of water theme.

ACTIVE FLAG BIRR

All of the schools in Birr are signed up to the campaign to walk or cycle to school if possible. The County Council has installed cycle lanes throughout the town. Many families are 'car-pooling' or are involved in the 'Park and Stride' initiative. Offaly County Council have made stickers available to Parents to place on their cars to qualify for free parking as they walk their children to school. The primary aim of the programme is to combat childhood obesity and the lowering of car emissions being another advantage. Lukasz, Abel, Jan, Vlad and Isabel Alexander accompanied Mrs. Colton to the official launch of the initiative in the Civic Offices Birr.



Launch of the Park and Stride initiative

GARDENING CLUB

Our Gardening Club is back in action again on Wednesday 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Mrs. Evelyn Armstrong and Ms. Rebekah Keaveny are running the club, they have great plans for development of the area; they will grow flowers and herbs and hope to replace the mature trees that were felled last August. We are very grateful to Evelyn and Rebekah for their hard work and enthusiasm. On June 10th we are holding a sale at the school selling herbs, plants, cakes and tray bakes in aid of the Gardening Club and Green Schools. We intend to raise our flag at this event.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are proud to announce that Orey Higgins was awarded a scholarship to Kilkenny College recently. We wish him well in his future education.

HOMEWORK CLUB

As this academic year draws to a close we must thank Emma Delahunt and Sandra Williams for running the Homework Club so effectively, we know that parents who are working outside the home find this to be a great facility.

St John's Parochial School, Tralee

We are delighted to report a wonderful result after the WSE (Whole School Evaluation) last month. Department Inspector Gerard Quirke did a thorough evaluation of school practices, policies and procedures and gave the school a very positive review. We would like to acknowledge the great efforts made by all staff members, Board of Management and the Parents Association in contributing to the success of this report.

Our Proclamation Day was a great success. The senior room sang "Baidín Fheilimí" and "Trasna na dTonnta" and danced the "Siege of Ennis". The junior room recited a wonderful poem and sang "Cúigear Fear ag Tógáil Tí". Charlotte Forte, Samuel and Kate read our proclamation for a new generation before Joshua Dunne raised the flag with Dominic Dunne. We ended our ceremony with the national anthem "Amhrán na bhFiann".

We ordered new books in both classrooms with money raised from the book fair. Thank you to all who contributed.

The senior class visited a 1916 exhibition in the library this month. They completed a quiz based on the facts mentioned in the exhibition. We have learned a lot about the Easter Rising 1916 in the past few months and enjoyed finding more facts on the events before and after the rising.

We are working with the Parents Association in creating a Healthy Eating Policy for our school. We would like to encourage children to eat fruit, yoghurts and sandwiches as well as drink water. We encourage children to cut down on sugary foods and drinks as well as foods high in saturated fat. The policy will place a ban on particular foods and drinks, e.g. sweets and fizzy drinks being consumed in the school.

The Parents Association are organising a Family Fun Day which will take place in Tralee Rugby Club on Sunday 26th June 2p.m.

Congratulations to Siofra O'Carroll on making her Confirmation on Friday 22nd April in St. Johns Church, Castle Street and we wish Charlotte Forte well for her Confirmation in St. John's Church, Tralee on 8th May.

On our final term, we look forward to participating in a number of events and activities such as Basketball, Sports Day in Villiers School, Museum visit, Mountain Climb and School Tours.

Rathkeale No 2 National School

The Art Centre in Rathkeale was the temporary home of some important works by the great Limerick artist, Jack Donovan, as part of an exhibition of portraits of some of the key figures in the 1916 Rising and subsequent War of Independence. Jack Donovan was a Rathkeale native. The works have recently been restored, having been displayed in the Mess in Sarsfield Barracks for over 20 years. They came to be there after being commissioned by Capt Michael Madden in 1969, with a series of portraits completing the collection over the next thirteen years. The collection focuses on individuals with a Limerick connection, such as Sean Wall from Bruff, Sean Finn from Rathkeale, Con Colbert from Monagea, Edward Daly from O'Curry Street in Limerick City, Captain Timothy Madigan, Shanagolden and Liam Lynch. Other figures such as Patrick Sarsfield and Michael Collins are included, as well as a self portrait. The pupils from 1st - 6th class recently attend the exhibition and we thank the artist's brother Tim for meeting with us and telling us about the works.

As I write we are eagerly awaiting our now annual visit to Villiers School for the inter schools' sports day. Pupils are busy preparing for each of the activities. Our own school sports day will take place on Friday 17th June.

The pupils will take part in a sponsored cycle on Saturday 11th June in aid of school funds. The route will follow the Great Southern Trail from

Ardagh to Rathkeale. All support would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Ella in 5th class on having her poem published in the May issue of The Primary Planet. The Primary Planet is a monthly newspaper for children, which we enjoy reading each month. Pupils have the opportunity to forward their poems on a given theme.

Ella's family

Family. What does that mean?

*Aunts, Uncles, Nannies, Grandads, cousins,
brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers?*

I can't think of any others...

Wait! They could be ...

Dogs, frogs, hogs, bats, rats, cats,

No maybe they are,

Poles, holes, windows?

I'll ask mom,

Yup it was the first one!

Congratulations also to Aaron in Senior Infants for having his Green School Motto chosen as our Green Code for the next green flag. "Be green, be clean, get with the scene. Be part of the biodiversity team!"

We have recently begun an SPHE programme in both classrooms in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council. A co-ordinator with the Council, Yvonne McMahon, will lead a number of workshops over the coming weeks. The junior classroom pupils are working on the "I Matter" programme which looks at self esteem and how everyone's point of view is important. The senior pupils have begun a programme on "Active Citizenship" where they are learning all about being active citizens and the responsibilities we all have in exercising our democratic right to vote etc. They have also learned about how policies are implemented at both local and national level. To round off the programme we will have a visit from a local councillor and past pupil, Adam Teskey.

School will close on the 24th June for the summer holidays.



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Villiers School

MUNSTER BOYS HOCKEY WINS 'SCHOOL OF THE YEAR' AWARD

We have just returned from the annual Munster Branch Award Ceremony in Cork, where Villiers Boys' Hockey were presented with the 'Best Boys Hockey School' in Munster Award for the 2015-6 season. What an achievement. We are all delighted and very proud of receiving this award for the very first time.

Firstly congratulations must go to our coaching team who give of so much of their time to our students – George Blackwell, Declan O'Brien, Brian Gray and Alan Whisker. Secondly to the players themselves for putting in the hard work on the training pitch. We currently have a talented bunch at both senior and junior levels. We reached both the Senior and Junior A & B Cup Finals this season, winning both the Junior A & B Cups.

It was our Senior A's third consecutive Cup Final and it was 17 years since we last lifted the Junior A Cup. Our talent at the upper end of the school can be seen with our above average Munster provincial representation. Munster U16 – Quentin Eacrett, Conor Beck, Steven Tutty, Craig Morrow, Marcus Ryan and Jannis Von Maydell. Munster U18 – Andrew Tutty, John Costelloe and Calum Morrow. Both Quentin Eacrett and Andrew Tutty received Irish trials with Conor Beck being selected for Ireland U16 as goalkeeper. Well done to all concerned.

FORM 3 PARENTS

We welcomed all form 3 parents to an open evening to preview our TY programme in detail for next year. Congratulation to our current TY students who presented on the night. Topics covered included



– academics, outdoor pursuits, ski trip, modules, subject sampling, physical education, model United Nations, drama and Achill.

TY DRAMA

Well done to our TYs who performed 'The Beggars Opera' in the Bell Table Arts Theatre in Limerick recently. This was the culmination of much hard work and effort. An enjoyable two nights were had by all in attendance.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

We have been busy preparing ourselves for our annual primary schools sports day which was on Tuesday 24th May. We welcomed ten primary schools to Villiers to take part in fun games, basketball, soccer tag – rugby and orienteering. This is primarily run by our TY students – more next month.

FORM 6 - GRADUATION

Our sixth form graduation took place on Friday 27th May. We welcomed parents to the event which was followed by dinner and speeches in our dining hall. We wish all form 6 well in their upcoming leaving certificate examinations in preparation for third level and beyond.

EA SPORTS ALL IRELAND WINNERS

Well done to our form 5 Technology class, under the tuition of Mr. Browne, who won the All Ireland Sumo robot competition. A drone video of same can be viewed on the alumni and friends face book page.

MR. SUTTON – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Well done to Mr. Sutton who recently received a lifetime achievement award from the Munster Branch for his contribution to girls hockey. Mike has been at the helm here in Villiers for many years and given so much of his time to promoting the game. He only recently stepped down as chairman of the Branch Schools' Committee.

Villiers Sanctuary continues on page 24

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Mothers' Union Festival Service & Commissioning

On the glorious sunny afternoon of Sunday 15th May the beautiful church of St. Kieran in Cloughjordan was filled with ladies and gentlemen representing Mothers' Union branches throughout the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe for the Festival Service and the Commissioning of Mrs Lucy Kavanagh as our new Diocesan President.

Leading the service the Revd. Canon Ruth Gill (Diocesan Chaplain) welcomed the clergy, Revd. Canon Liz Beasley, Revd. Terry Mitchell, Rector of Cloughjordan and Revd. Canon Jane Galbraith.

Giving a very warm welcome to Lucy, husband Joe, daughter Amy and her sister Janet, she also welcomed Mrs Phyllis Grothier, All Ireland President and the entire congregation for coming in such great numbers to be with Lucy and for the Festival Service.

During the first hymn the branch banners were received and Birr branch brought their new banner to be dedicated.

The readings were read by Janet Bray and Rev. Liz Beasley and the Gospel was read by Mrs Ina Blackwell (Former DP).

The sermon was given by Rev. Liz Beasley and she referred to the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles and to the faith of Lydia, how the Lord had opened her heart to listen to the words of St. Paul. Following on this theme she commended Lucy to her new

role in Mothers' Union ensuring her of all our support and knowing that her faith, like Lydia would be rewarded. Rev. Liz also spoke about the 140 year celebrations of Mothers' Union this year and how much we are looking forward to celebrating 130 years of MU in Ireland in 2017.

Following the sermon, Rev. Ruth commissioned Lucy to her new role and Mrs Ina Blackwell presented Lucy with her badge of office.

The intercessions were led by Rosemary Davies, Anne Gill and Jean Talbot. The offertory hymn, 'I, the Lord of sea and Sky', was especially chosen by Lucy as one of her favourite hymns, and the collection from the service will go to the Mothers' Union Centenary Fund.

During the recessional hymn the branch banners were brought to the rear of the church and following the blessing the congregation were invited to join Lucy and her family in the church hall for light refreshments. Thanks were expressed by Mrs Phyllis Grothier who said how much she had enjoyed the service and was delighted by Lucy's invitation to attend. Ina Blackwell congratulated Lucy on her new role and wished her every success. Lucy thanked all who had come and said she would be relying on all of us to guide and support her in her new role.

Thus ended a beautiful ceremony and a beautiful day.



L-R Mrs Ina Blackwell, Rev. Ruth Gill and Mrs Lucy Kavanagh Diocesan President



L-R Amy Kavanagh, Lucy Kavanagh, Joe Kavanagh and Janet Bray



-R Mrs Phyllis Grothier All Ireland President, Mrs Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President and Mrs Ina Blackwell Former Diocesan President



Enjoying the sunshine after the Festival Service in Cloughjordan

General Synod 2016

A layman's view, from Peter Schutz, Limerick City Parish

General Synod was held this year in Dun Laoghaire from 12 to 14 May. Some 450 members, invited guests and visitors attended the opening session.

Following opening worship, led each day by Bishop Kenneth, Synod went into session. The Presidential Address of Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, was, for me, the highlight of the Synod. He spoke about the 'decade of centenaries' running from the Ulster Covenant of 1912 through to the end of the Civil War in 1923. This year, 2016, was central to the commemorations as the centenaries of the both the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme fell within weeks of one another. Dr Clarke together with Archbishop Eamonn Martin will lead a group of young people from both Churches and jurisdictions on a journey starting at the Easter Rising Memorial in Glasnevin Cemetery. They will then travel to visit the battlefields of the Somme where so many men from both traditions fought and died side by side - a shared journey reflecting on the past but looking to how we can shape our future.

The Primate spoke amongst other things of our responsibilities to refugees fleeing violence and destruction in their own countries - it can never be permissible for Christians to imagine that refugees are "not our problem". He also spoke of the Long-Term Church Project saying that with God's help and guidance we need to play our part working to shape the Church for the future.

Dr Clarke also paid a warm tribute to the work done for the Church by Trevor Morrow, a member of General Synod for more than forty years.

This year six Bills were considered by the Synod and passed, resulting in minor changes to the Constitution. The most important of these amends the way bishops are elected.

Shortly before Synod another Bill was withdrawn by the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures (CEMS). The Commission had proposed that the Dioceses of Tuam and Killala be joined with our Diocese; the Diocese of Achonry be joined with the Diocese of Kilmore and that six parishes in the Diocese of Glendalough be transferred to the Diocese of Kildare. Following a very adverse reaction to the proposal from Glendalough Diocese this Bill was withdrawn as CEMS wished to avoid a divisive and acrimonious debate at Synod.

Subsequently a Motion was approved by Synod that the Bishops and Diocesan Councils in the relevant Dioceses might begin discussions to build on the work of CEMS. Bishop Kenneth had already suggested such a way forward.

The Representative Church Body (RCB) reports to General Synod each year on the performance of its responsibility as Trustee. It is a very comprehensive report running into many pages on a variety of topics, hence I will only comment on a couple. It was good to hear that the investments performed well in 2015, both the General Funds and the Unit Trusts. Many parishes have funds invested in the

Unit Trusts which increased by 8% and currently pay a dividend of 3%pa. During the discussion several members called for the disposal of any shares in companies selling fossil fuels.

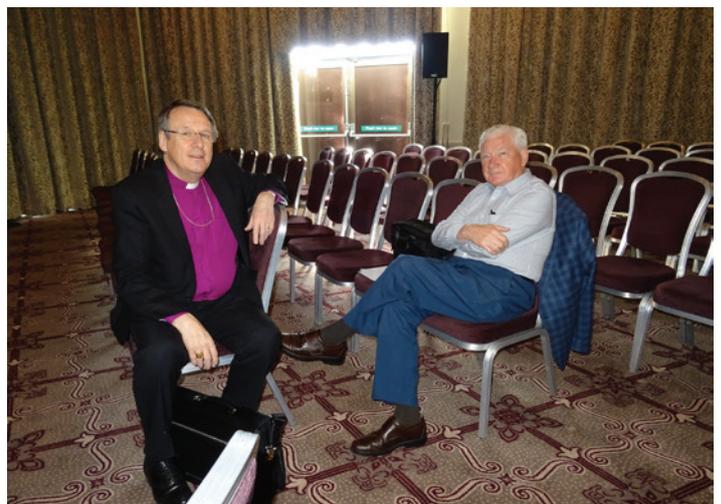
An update on the Clergy Pension Fund indicated that the deficit on the fund has been reduced considerably and now stands at €13m, based on the long term valuation. However, this does not allow any increase in pensions for the time being.

Then followed a series of other reports, including the Church of Ireland Youth Department, Board of Education, Council for Mission, Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief, etc.. All the presentations made during the three days on the Motions, the Bills and the Reports were of a very high standard as were the contributions from the floor which included our own Ed Hardy, Joc Sanders, Peter Whyte and Rev Simon Lumby.

The total speaking and debating time during the Synod amounted to 15 hours, so this short report can only give you a snapshot of the event. I recommend you have a look at the website www.synod.ireland.anglican.org where you will find all the major speeches verbatim - well worth reading.



Archbishop Michael Jackson presiding at the Synod Eucharist in St Paul's Glengearry



Bishop Kenneth relaxing with Peter Schutz at General Synod 2016

A Clergy Woman's View, from Rev Lucy Green, Priest-in-Charge Nenagh Union

This was my first time ever at General Synod and so I was somewhat apprehensive about what to expect. I had a lot of unanswered questions (mostly stupid ones!) along the lines of 'Do I have to wear a dog collar the whole time, to identify my clerical-ness? Am I allowed to go to the loo in the middle of business or do I have to wait for the coffee break? Are there coffee breaks or is it one long interminable round of church stuff?' - those sort of questions!

The first day was not very exciting, lots of motions and preambles with people proposing and seconding things. Of course, the proposal on diocesan boundary change was the one everyone was looking forward to (and not necessarily in a positive way!) And due to the furore that it had already caused, the proposal had been withdrawn. So there was not even the promise of lively debate culminating in a Lay vs Clerical punch up!



General Synod 2016 voting on an amendment to Bill No 1, Election of Bishops.

I couldn't help but notice that people kept disappearing from the room and didn't return until at least an hour later. I discovered that these absences were deemed to be "Coffee breaks" and I was directed to the end of the street where I found a Costa and a Starbucks with lots of delegates inside enjoying their coffee.

Joking aside, several points were made that gave me thought:

1. Sustainable energy and Investment. The Church obviously has to be careful where it invests its money but it also has a responsibility to the planet and not seek to make a profit from something that is harmful to the environment.
2. Church finances. We are, to quote one of the speakers, living on past donations. The money that parishes have invested with the RCB is, for the most part, made from gifts that were given years ago and people are not contributing realistically today. People come to church and put a Euro or two on the collection plate and think this will pay the bills but it isn't enough. The average person, myself included, probably spends more in Costa each week than they give in church collection and think nothing of it. We need to change our mind-sets if parishes are to survive.
3. But the aspect that bothered me most this Synod was the fact that when it came to the reports from the Board of Education and the Board of Mission, the room emptied. Why? What message does that send about our attitudes towards young people and to those in need? To me it said that we don't care about either. I hope I'm wrong. Our young people are not the 'church of tomorrow', they are the 'church of here and now'. If we don't care and protect their faith there will be no church of tomorrow when this generation is gone. Mission is how we show to other people the love and Grace that Christ gave to us. We aren't Christian if we don't love and care for those in need.

I'm looking forward to General Synod 2017!

KILLARNEY & ADARE SUCCESS IN COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

Every year at General Synod the Central Communications Board announce the results of a professionally judged competition for the best communication in the Church of Ireland through print and electronic media. It was most pleasing this year to see that St Mary's Church, Killarney was the Runner-up in the competition for Parish Websites, and Adare & Kilmallock was Highly Commended in the same class.

Congratulations & well done to all involved!

Notices in a parish newsletter

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday - with prayer and medication to follow.
- The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

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Welcoming Church - Would Jesus Want US?

Marty Sanders, Nenagh Union of Parishes

Would we recognise Jesus sitting with us on Sunday morning? How would we make Jesus feel welcome—a part of us? Why churches no longer seem relevant to many people is a hot topic.

According to Bishop Kenneth, about 10% of the people who claimed Church of Ireland affiliation on the last Irish census actually go to church. If they do, it may be just to get their child baptised and in to one of our schools. We have the brand, but why aren't they in church? Good question.

On April 23, about 40 of us met in Limerick at an excellent Welcoming Church conference, sponsored by the Diocesan Long Term Church Working Group, to hear three speakers approach the topic from much different perspectives. Rev Michael Cavanagh from Kenmare talked about the ecumenical outreach of the church in this tourist town. Canon Roland Heaney told us how the three small churches in his parish of Redcross have divided their forms of worship to meet the needs of a wider community. Rev Simon Lumby of Killarney got back to basics with thoughts on what a welcoming church 'feels like'.



Rev Michael Cavanagh

Canon Roland Heaney

Rev Simon Lumby

All speakers discussed some reasons why people stay away: stereotypical image (Is only the management class wanted?), lack of trust (I don't know anyone - do they really want me?), irrelevance (what does this have to do with my life?), fear of the unknown with no knowledge of the protocol (what does all this mean?), and our good friend - inertia.

Being a welcoming church has two sides: a) tackling the reasons people don't think about or want to come to church, and b) when they do come helping them feel they want to stay and belong. Any change addressing these takes effort and commitment, but some actually change the shape of the parish church.

Following the idea that they needed more than a traditional service on Sunday to engage with the community, Redcross changed one of the three churches to appeal to a wider audience with new music and new ways to worship. For example, they have a children's talk, but also people come up front and share good news stories. There is less liturgy, but it is well constructed and provides variety, which people have come to expect. More lay involvement, various courses, the church open Thursday

nights for prayer, investment in young people—including a web site and social media which are important to them—and most important, a focus on God. All this means a change from maintenance to mission – and the church is growing fast.

Here are some welcoming things they are doing in Kenmare: Men's Shed, Praise and Play for mums and babies, Parish lunches, evening of local talent, feature films with discussion – just like a book club but talking about themes and how they relate to scripture, a teddy bear service followed by teddy bear lunch, multi-cultural non-military service of remembrance and reconciliation, blessing of boats, a Plough Service at the beginning of the farming season to bless the ploughs to balance the autumn Harvest Festival, offering a blessing after a non-religious wedding at local hotels – and poignantly, a special service for those who have lost a child.

Simon focussed on the presence or absence of any number of things that will engage people in worship with a congregation. To retain people, they need to leave with a sense of goodwill towards us, leave with a good memory of us, and have respect for us, our church, God. If there is a faction or a clique, God is absent. We discussed how that applied to each of our churches and what could we do about it—cleanliness, leaflets, worship, cliques, formality, interest, openness, history or story, knowledge, warmth, love. In another workshop we talked about how the church buildings can play a part in this. We have to appeal to the heart, as well as the mind.

After the conference I read a blog post by Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. He believes that some fundamental things people need are to be part of a community that enjoys singing, and in which a sense of humour isn't an optional extra. These things and others can be a part of being truly welcoming—giving people a place they want to be and to be seen.

All speakers encouraged us to experiment. Their themes could probably be compressed into this thought:

Change our unspoken prayer from 'Please God, change the church and start with her' to 'Please God, change the church and start with me. I will be the catalyst.'

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Institution of the Rev Terry Mitchell

What a great sight to see so many who came to Cloughjordan on the 29th April to welcome the Revd. Terry and Julia to the Group of Parishes! Both Diocesan clergy and readers were well represented from parishes around the Dioceses as were local Roman Catholic parishes and the Methodist congregations. The Revd. Terry was introduced to the Bishop by the churchwardens from all the churches and each parish was also represented as he was led to the different points of ministry, celebration and sacrament in the church. In his sermon, Archdeacon Carney mentioned that we were not simply celebrating the beginning of a new ministry in the parishes but also reminding ourselves that God chooses each and every one of us to serve him.

Many thanks to all those involved in the preparations and for providing the lovely refreshments after the service. A special word of thanks to Mr. John Armitage who played the organ, he is a truly gifted man and a great friend to all the churches.

Mrs. Eileen Armitage gave a short and sincere speech of welcome to the Mitchells. Bishop Kenneth also spoke, wishing Terry and Julia and the parishioners every blessing for the future. A presentation was made to the Revd. Canon Ruth Gill for her time as Priest-in-Charge of the Group.

Ruth Gill writes:

To say that I was taken by surprise is an understatement! Thank you so much for your generous gift. But as I have said, the memories are precious and will be treasured for years to come. Please remember that we're not far off the N52 on the way to Tullamore – you will always be welcome.



Rev Terry Mitchell at his Institution as Rector of Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Union, with Archdeacon Wayne Carney & Bishop Kenneth Kearon



Rev Terry & Julia Mitchell

Continued from page 17

News from the Villiers Sanctuary

There are always mixed emotions at this time of the year here in Villiers. Everyone is looking forward to the summer break but there is the small matter of exams to contend with first. Good luck to one and all!! Congratulations to all the confirmation candidates that spent their Wednesday evenings at classes here in the sanctuary and eventually reached their big day on Sunday 22 May. It was a wonderful occasion and I am certainly looking forward to next year's candidates.

The community group for next year has already been put in place and all are really excited about taking part in this wonderful spiritual group. The group will travel to Spain next year to take part in the Camino pilgrimage. They will also be raising funds for children in the Kumi orthopaedic hospital in Uganda, this keeps our link with zest4kidz and with the hospital. I am really excited about this and also to working with such an enthusiastic bunch of students.

On many occasions I have heard it said that the 'younger generation' are not church goers or indeed not interested in spiritual matters. However, this is not my experience. I have been blessed to have worked with a wonderful group that went to Uganda this year and I only had to ask for volunteers to take part in the Camino and was inundated with young people wanting to experience this spiritual

pilgrimage. The Community group is well established here in Villiers and offers a journey for those who take part. The motto of the group is 'love God and love neighbour', everyone knows this before joining but instead of putting students off it attracts those who wish to explore this Christian journey alongside others.

In this world of materialism where the emphasis is on having more, owning more and earning more, perhaps there is a lot to be learned from something that the great Oscar Romero once said, "Christians should not aspire to have more, but to be more".

Those who come to the Sanctuary and join the Community group with all its Christian outreach know that we cannot achieve everything but that we can do something for others who are less fortunate than ourselves. It may not be perfect but it is a first step at offering hope and it certainly allows the opportunity for the Spirit of God to enter into people's hearts and by doing that perhaps the grace of God will do the rest.

Blessings and Peace,

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

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The Easter season has come to the end with the fifty days of Easter at Pentecost and then into Trinity Sunday which brings us into ordinary time. So much of what we do can seem so ordinary and yet it is in ordinary time that we get on with what we need to as the body of Christ. These feast days in the church gives us those high points in our calendar where we can make it special and not just ordinary. Often times I think we don't do enough to do things extra-ordinary on the major feast days in our liturgical calendar. Sunday by Sunday we celebrate the resurrection, the first day of the week. What a special day a Sunday is to all of us and the highlight of Sunday is the Eucharist. The great thanksgiving for our gift of new life in Jesus.

As part of the review of our Diocese Cecil and Dorothy Hyland spent a weekend in our parish union meeting with different people, seeing the churches and various towns along the Shannon. Cecil preached in the churches at Mountshannon and Killaloe Cathedral. It was an opportunity for them to experience this part of the world as well as meet the people and as those coming from Dublin to experience rural ministry and a rural cathedral. We certainly enjoyed having them with us and we trust the experience was enriching to them as well. It is always good for people to meet the worshippers who faithfully meet and to pray in the smaller sometimes forgotten places in Ireland. It is with people that the sense of community becomes real and not just a statistic on a page.



Dean Gary with Canon and Mrs Cecil Hyland at the top of St Flannan's Cathedral Tower

It is the hope of the dean that a diocesan choir can be developed in the Killaloe diocese so that when we do have diocesan events in Diocese of Killaloe there would be a choir to call on to lead the singing. It is also hoped that this can bring the service of sung evensong on a quarterly or monthly basis to St Flannan's Cathedral. There is rich Anglican heritage of sung evensong and plainchant that if not preserved will not be heard in these parts of the Anglican world. Cathedrals are spaces for it, as Cathedrals should be more than just another parish church but places of good liturgy. It is hoped that the rectors of the parishes will encourage their choirs or individuals to be part of this attempt to develop this choir. Do contact the Dean of Killaloe if you are interested in being part of this venture.

The Killaloe Chamber Music Festival is from Friday 10 June to 12 June and please do look on their webpage for details The Killaloe Chamber Music Festival is one of the best in Ireland.

This year they will exhibit the paintings of Killaloe based artist Dr. Andy McCarthy and Limerick based artist Kate Hennessy in the Cathedral. The art exhibition always adds a wonderful dimension to the event in this historic venue.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorraha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Birr Churches Together has a new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BirrChurchesTogether. Be sure to check out our Parish Facebook page which can be found at: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

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

Sunday, 19th June – Summer Fete

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

Sunday, 7th August, – St Brendan's Patronal Festival

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

Saturday, 1st October – 'MAD' Day (Multi-Activity Day for children) in Oxmantown School, followed by 'BirrPraise' Contemporary Worship Service for all ages in Birr Church

Friday, 7th October – Birr Harvest Service

Sunday, 13th November – Special Remembrance Sunday Service

Saturday, 10th December – Performance of Handel's Messiah

MOTHERS' UNION BANNER

Many thanks to Joan Fairbrother for designing and making the new Mothers' Union Banner for Birr branch. It was unfurled for the first time at the Mothers' Union Diocesan Service on Pentecost, 15th May in Cloughjordan Church.



Mothers' Union Banner 2016

CANTATA

Congratulations and thanks to all who took part in our Cantata, 'Holy Spirit, Breath of God', on Pentecost evening in Birr Church. It was composed by Ruth Beasley, with words compiled and written by her sister, Audrey Francis. The soloists were Yvonne O'Toole, Breffni Fitzpatrick, Derek Fanning, and Jonathan Carter, and Rosalind Fanning was the narrator. The Birr Choral Society, directed for the occasion by Thomas Charles Marshall, from St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin, did themselves proud, as did the instrumentalists. It was a spiritually uplifting experience which will remain in the minds and hearts of all who attended.

BAPTISM

On Trinity Sunday, 22nd May, Harry George Alan O'Connell, son of Tuesday Bergamen and Justin O'Connell, was made a member of the Body of Christ when he was baptized in St Brendan's Church, Birr. We keep Harry and his parents and family in our prayers as he grows in faith.

FETE

The Parish Summer Fete will be held on Sunday, 19th June at Oxmantown School, starting at 1:00 pm. A full line-up of activities for all ages is planned. The ever-popular quiz sheets are now available and can be purchased in the churches or from parishioners.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS April 30th.2016: We record the death of Bert Wallace and offer our sincere sympathy to Olive married to Bert for some sixty three years. And extend our sympathy to their sons David,

J J Ryan Funeral Directors

Nenagh, County Tipperary

Ryans provide a comfortable
purpose built funeral home.

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

Telephone: 076 31541

- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com -
www.jjryanundertakers.com

Richard, Tom, and Trevor, and to Bert's sister Mabel and brothers, George and Alec, and to Bert's grandchildren and great grandchildren. To have known Bert even for a short while was to be aware of a confident faith in the Lord, an astute diocesan man who served on diocesan synods and councils over many years; a deeply family man, and a sound churchman. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Deepest condolences are also offered to Eva Harvey on the very recent death of her sister Mary Horsman.

CONGRATULATIONS to Adam Wallace, Saoirse Barrett and Eva Wallace on receiving the Laying on of Hands committing themselves to follow the way of discipleship of Christ. Bishop Kenneth confirmed our young people in St.Brendan's Church Birr on Sunday April 17th 2016.

Also to Rebecca Duke student in Kilkenny College and of Roscrea for coming first in the 2016 Senior Bishop's Medal. This is an annual competition open to any student of any denomination in fifth or sixth year in any secondary school in the United Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

ST. CRONAN'S DAY 2016 saw the 7th Annual Pilgrim Friendship Walk. This year the walk began in the grounds of St.Anne's and included two routes to Monaincha Abbey. The 'road less travelled' was specially prepared for the more seasoned walkers which took them through the woods. A beautiful place of trees and flowers, a boggy place of watery canals, deep pools and curious cattle. There was singing, poetry readings, prayers and scripture readings all carefully selected. Our own Jessica Wallace started us off with her rendering of 'Daffodils'. Another highlight was the Mt St. Joseph monks chanting Psalm 121 at Monaincha. Afterwards we all had a hot cup of tea there where St. Cronan once walked, prayed and counselled pilgrims. These annual gentle reminders of our joint Christian heritage are a wonderful practical witness of being church.

CHRISTIAN AID We were delighted to join our Methodist friends who held a coffee morning and cake sale. St.Cronan's National School was there too adding a wonderful assortment of music to entertain us while we munched on...

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE commemorating 1916 took place on April 13th. It was enhanced by the carefully and tastefully chosen musical pieces sung gloriously by the Roscrea Community Choir under their director Lucy McCarthy. Our Junior classes teacher Jennifer Hogan read Pádraig Pearse's poem 'Brón ar an mBas. Ms. Hogan's St. Cronan's School Choir had the large congregation teary eyed with their very sweet rendering of the ballad 'Grace'. Adrian Hewson preached drawing inspiration from Easter peace as well as poppies and Easter Lilies. An uplifting service included prayers for our country and for peace. Many said afterwards 'we must do more of this sort of thing' ...

G.F.S. ENROLMENT SERVICE took place in St. Cronan's Church on May 8th. The branch was joined by Diocesan President Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney. The girls led the hymns using songs with actions, dramatized 'Daniel in the Lion's Den' and read specially prepared prayers. Orlaith Houlihan was enrolled as Candidate, Gemma St.Leger, Roisin Houlihan and Lucy Wallace as Junior Candidates; and Saoirse Barrett as Member. A Young Helpers Badge and Booklet was presented to Tara St. Leger.

'NO CRUSADER' by Willie Walsh...It was a privilege to be invited to the book launch, a book of reflections written by Bishop Willie Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe from 1994-2010 and now Bishop Emeritus. The book is described as 'no rose tinted view of Ireland, the Catholic Church or the world'. Bishop Willie Walsh is a native of Roscrea and in his remarks warmly mentioned some of 'our folk' as his near neighbours.

ST. CRONAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL assembled in Church for their monthly service entitled 'Love Joy and Peace'. This energetic time of worship included The Crazy Poem read by Luke, 'A Few Moments Peace' read by Olivia and read by Ruby, Lucy and Brennan. Many took part

in Jesus Calms the Storm. The service concluded with the wonderfully sung Song of Blessing: may God bless our teachers, and all our helpers. We wish the school very well in their upcoming play later in the month.

Humble apologies for last month's oversight!

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green

Tel: 062 79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Diocesan Readers:

Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc_sanders@iol.ie

Audrey Clarke Gordon

087 742 8901, audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

SERVICES

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

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

Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Kim & Reggie Joachim on the safe arrival of their daughter, Alex Elizabeth – a little sister for Henry.

We also send congratulations to our school principal, Shirley Maher, and her husband John on the birth of their son Aaron and we are delighted to hear that she is now back at home with her family.

CONDOLENCES to Richard Wallace and his family on the death of his father Bert Wallace. Adrian Hewson spoke most movingly about Bert and his lifelong involvement in the Parishes of Roscrea Group – his deep interest in the farming world, rugby and his sons and grandchildren.

EMMA GORDON gave a most interesting talk on her trip to Uganda with the group led by Jackie McNair, as part of the Villiers School Zest4Kidz project during the Pentecost Sunday family worship service in St Mary's. Most appropriately, Emma spoke about the light each group brought to the other. The young people from Ireland formed a bond with those from Zest4kidz in Uganda—one strengthened by playing sports together, sharing their social experiences, and learning about each other together. Many thanks to those who put this trip together and those who supported it and to Emma for her superb "sermon"!



Villiers Zest4Kidz project team with all their luggage

We look forward to welcoming Emily Fogerty, daughter of Sheila Cahill and her partner, to baptism in St Mary's during the Family Service on Sunday 19th June.

RECTORY AND CHURCH GROUNDS

Now that the Rectory has been completed, and the landscaping commenced by the builder we are planning to have a couple of work parties to get the rest of the grounds around St Mary's and the Rectory smartened up. Two evenings have been selected – Tuesday, 7th June and Monday, 13th June from 7pm until 9 pm. All help gratefully needed – hopefully if you have a strimmer or hedge cutter, trailer, gardening gloves and secateurs you will be able to come along to help make our Grounds the smartest on Church Road – if you cannot come along with any of the above – please do come along and help with some refreshments!

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 42183

Mob: 087 203 9333

Email: terrym438@gmail.com

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS

Arriving in the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes has been a cultural adjustment, in moving from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to the Church of Ireland.

Fortunately the language has remained the same, with a few slight differences in mannerisms, but not enough to prevent conversation. The big adjustment however, has been finding one's bearings.

This is why I kept asking where is north, south, east and west-to have a sense of where one is in relation to both place and people. Everything is new, so one's senses are on heightened alert, like a new-born child, that is taking everything in for the first time. I can now however identify the Devil's Bit, know which way is Lough Derg and find my way around the lanes of Tipperary.

This adjustment has been made easier by the wonderful welcome and offers of assistance from the Group of Parishes as well as the wider Diocese. Even when the 'new South African' genuflects at the wrong time and forgets to stand when he should sit, has been treated with good humour, as he learns all things Irish. Fortunately this year has been declared the year of mercy!

In spite of these adjustments, what has remained constant is our common identity in the faith we profess and give expression to as Anglicans. The Book of Common Prayer is a wonderful gift to the Church and, An Anglican Prayer Book, as used in South Africa, is remarkably similar, also having its origins in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. It has been a joy to explore the Prayer Book as used by the Church of Ireland, as a rich resource to aid in worship.

And so it is the people, having a sense of place and the Prayer Book that have all helped in the necessary cultural adjustments one makes in moving continents, and I look forward to a long and fruitful ministry in the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes.

DEMONSTRATION

The cookery demonstration given by Edward Hayden on the 28th April was a great success. There was a great turnout and the menus were easy to follow and have probably been tried out in homes since! It was also an ideal opportunity for local entrepreneurs to showcase their wares – do remember them when trying to think

of something really nice to give as a gift to someone. There was a great selection of raffle prizes and the meals demonstrated were also distributed by way of the door tickets. Many thanks are due to Avril Clarke and her mother Anne and their willing band of helpers in Borrisokane! Many thanks also to Aussie Dennison for running another successful poker classic.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston

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

Tel: 0505 47164 Mob: 086 608 6567

Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Plans for Shinrone's Fete and Dog show on Saturday 11th June, are well underway and we have a Facebook Event page for this "Shinrone Parish Fete & Dog Show" will get you there! Please do go and look at it, and share it on your own page. Spread the word!! and come on the day, for a great day out! Thanks to Evelyn and Fiacra Johnston for setting it up.

Dunkerrin are planning a similar even for Sunday 10th July. Put the date in your diary!

And Aghancon's Fete will be on Sunday 3rd of July. A busy time of fun-draising! ahead. Thank you to all who help. Everyone is needed especially those wonderful people who belong to that group of 'Friends of the Parish'

A big Welcome to our new neighbouring rector in Cloughjordan, Rev'd Terry Mitchell and his wife Julia. We wish them all God's blessings in their new parish and home.

Sadly we lost Lily Blythe. Latterly she had been a resident in Clover Lodge Nursing Home and a regular communicant at our Thursday morning services. Lily's father had been the Sexton in Shinrone and Lily had been born and reared in that house. She had not had an easy life, but I never saw her in bad humour or speaking ill of anyone, or complaining. She loved her dog; when one 'Jessie' died, another 'Jessie' replaced it! After the last one died she moved to the nursing home, because she 'didn't want to be a nuisance' to anyone. A true 'lady'. Our sympathy especially to the Kennedys who made her part of their family.

The Mothers' Union held a most enjoyable afternoon event in Aghancon Hall. Over 30 people, men and women, enjoyed hearing members of the Cloughjordan Choir, led by John Armitage, singing and encouraging everyone to join in other pieces. To give people time to get their breath back! Sandra Reid gave a talk on the art of Crochet. The cup of tea and chat was much appreciated and enjoyed. Thank you to the Choir and all who organised the event.

On a personal note: I've just returned from a holiday with friends in Spain who took us to the confirmation service for young Arabella Wallace, whose grandmother Betty Wallace, from Bourney, Roscrea, was also there. There were 6 candidates and Arabella was the only child, all the other candidates were adults. Something I had never seen before. There was water in the font, and each of the candidates in turn, dipped their hand in the font and signed themselves, on their forehead, with the sign of the cross. A powerful symbol, I thought. The service was held in a Roman Catholic church. The Anglican Church has no buildings of its own and conducts worship regularly in various Roman Catholic churches!

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

CONFIRMATION

We embrace in our prayers five young people from within the greater Drumcliffe Group parish area who underwent preparation and were confirmed by Bishop Kenneth in St Michael's Church, Pery Square on Trinity Sunday. They were Cathal, Cormac and Enya Brown, children of Derek and Maria Brown from Quinn and Sarah Manley, daughter of Edward and Michelle from Clooney, Quinn and Rachel Rusk, daughter of Ivan and Joanne Quinn.

Thanks are due to Mr Jackie McNair, Chaplain to Villiers School, Diocesan Reader and Limerick City parishioner who undertook the training of 13 candidates.

RECOVERY

We wish a speedy recovery to Kilnasoolagh parishioner Beryl Gallagher who is recuperating at home near Newmarket –Quin following a major operation on her foot. A Dubliner long settled around Dromoland, Beryl is supported by husband Patrick. Fellow parishioner Mrs Jackie Reid has been bravely enduring huge discomfort and pain emanating from a longstanding spinal complaint and needs all our prayers, as does Mrs Anna McCrum who struggles in her 100th year at Cahercalla Hospital.

CHILD SAFETY

An intensive programme of vetting adults as part of the Safeguard Trust child safety policy for the whole parish is underway with the renewal of all names. We encourage as many adults as possible to sign up for training and clearance so as to ensure a broad network of support for any activity throughout our churches. Mrs Jenny Shaw, a retired social worker is co-ordinating our parish programme while Mrs Kim Hutchinson is already undertaking classes throughout the diocese as an official trainer.

CHAPLAINCY

Summer has arrived and the church caravan will be in operation for chaplains who serve our Liturgical worship in Spanish Point, Kilkee and Ennis. Up take this year is very slow and sparse and hopefully this will not prevent coverage of Kilkee. We are glad of the support of Steve Fletcher from London when he holidays in Kilrush and also Dr Steven Ellis from Galway and our new mobile parish reader Mr Timmae O'Connell from Newmarket-on-Fergus.

KILFENORA

In response to enthusiastic conversations from within and without the congregation, the Rector will be holding occasional evening services in St Fachnan's Cathedral with a Celtic theme over the Summer. The Cathedral will be used on a daily basis by the Kilfenora village TIMELINE historical Project, organised by students under the supervision of Mr James Kelly.

FLEADH CHEOIL

During this major all-Ireland event (400,000 expected in Ennis over the period of 8 days) special arrangements for worship will be necessary. On a positive note extra early morning worship is being contemplated. Meanwhile the Willy Clancy music festival will take place as usual at Miltown Malbay and our church caravan will be used by visiting patrons.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

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

We offer our deepest sympathies to Douglas Rafter on the death of his niece Jane Whiskey; and to Vincent Burke and family on the death of his sister Noreen Hanlon. Our condolences are with the family of Ian Lambert, who died in Kinvarra in March: the rector attended a memorial service in his honour in Knocknacarra Church on May 12th. The people of Galway who died during the 1916 Rising were honoured during a special ceremony in Ballinasloe's Shearwater Hotel on May 21st, as part of which the rector helped to lead an inter-faith act of remembrance. We were most grateful to Mrs Maureen Clarke (nee Connell) who travelled from England on April 21st to visit the family grave and to honour the story of her family in this place.

Congratulations to William and Catherine who renewed their marriage vows in Glan Church on April 29th – we wish them every blessing for the years ahead. Congratulations also to the seven recently-confirmed young people of our parish, who celebrated the beginning of their adult journey of faith by leading a family service in Ardrahan Church on May 1st. Confirmation certificates were presented to them during the service, before a party was thrown there in their honour.



Presentation of confirmation certificates in Ardrahan Church.

On May 8th Holy Trinity Aughrim welcomed Fr Tommy Byrne from Esker and members of his congregation – many thanks to all involved for their warm hospitality. The rector has been invited to preach at a special Novena in Esker on June 10th celebrating the years since the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been entrusted to the Redemptorists.

On May 10th the rector joined Fr Bernie Costello and RTE broadcaster Michael Lyster in launching the Hospice Friendly Hospital Programme in Portiuncular Hospital and in dedicating the Sli An Chroi room there, which offers important respite for the families of patients

at the end of life. The rector was also present at the launch of Ballinasloe Library on May 16th by Counsellor Pete Roche.



Some Sunday school children from St John's Church Ballinasloe enjoying Arts and Crafts.

Ardrahan Church hosted "Strings and Other Things," a fundraising concert on May 27th at 8pm, in aid of Special Olympics and the parish.

Glan Church held a Sale of Work on May 28th and Holy Trinity Aughrim hosted a united service on May 29th, the guest preacher being Canon Cecil Hyland, whose visit that weekend was part of a wider review of the diocese.

St John's Ballinasloe hosted our monthly healing service on June 1st.

The Glebe National School invite you to Afternoon Tea there on June 11th from 3-5pm, with a cake sale, bring & buy and raffle – all in aid of the Parent Teacher's Association.

There will be a Teddy Bear's Picnic on Saturday 18th June from midday in the Burren Nature Sanctuary: a joint parish outing with Galway parish. All teddies are welcome, young and old!

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

LIMINAL SPACE

Last month I recorded an event as if it had happened. The event lay ahead of the dates for submitting the notes but before the date of the magazine's next distribution. It could have happened that the event that I wrote about as having occurred might not have occurred: perhaps a tornado (common in Clonfert) or some other act of God would have, by the time of the magazine's arrival, removed all vestiges of the presence of the event from the face of the earth. I was spinning with anxiety that if I held the event over for a month it would have turned sour, stale or boring. In the liminal or threshold stage of 'betwixt and between' I described what I reasonably felt would have occurred given the nature of the event, and the personalities to be involved.

As it so happened all the events of the Charlotte Bronte celebration did occur on April 21st just as I had written about in last month's Newslink. The Bishop did nothing to surprise one, least of all to shock one, and neither did I. Charlotte Bronte did not manifest herself in the graveyard at the moment of the Bishop unveiling the commemorative plaque. The nearest we came to the unexpected

was a poem in true shaman style spoken by a contemporary Mrs Blavatsky that sourced the voice of Charlotte Bronte from beyond the grave. It captured Charlotte foretelling that her marriage would probably not have held together. Her art, her writing, Charlotte foretold, would lay first claims on her time and energies. She would not, she said breathily, trade her art for compliance to her husband's 'wife-controlling' behaviour. Her premature death within a year of marriage saved Charlotte from that fate.



Bishop Kenneth unveiling the commemorative plaque to Charlotte Bronte

I have spent much of my life in a liminal state as a hippy married to an artist of Russian extraction (unrelated to Helena Blavatsky, I think), as a priest in the northern island in Japan, where I was known as Toa-sensei, and more recently as a retired-being living whimsically between the past of a busy existence and a future of eternal rest or perhaps even enlightenment. I love the ambiguity of the present and do not look forward to it passing. I call it 'The Clonfert Liminality'.



Mary Kenny, journalist, author, broadcaster & playwright signing the visitors book at St. Paul's Church, Banagher in the week of Charlotte Bronte's anniversary celebrations in the Church and its grounds.

REST IN PEACE

Mrs Mary Horsman of Heathlawn, Killimor, Co. Galway passed away peacefully on May 18th in Galway Hospice. The funeral of May (as she was widely known as) took place in Christ Church, Portumna on Saturday May 21st. We extend our sympathies to May's children, Hilda, Carol and Baden, her four grandchildren Edward, Baden Michael and Alison, her three great-grandchildren, Emily, Holly and Jude, and her four sisters and three brothers and their families as well as to her many friends. May was born in June 1924, one of ten children. It was a pleasure to visit her and to enjoy our Holy Communion from the unsurpassable 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Well we both thought it was that!

The Funeral of Mrs Patricia Williams of Boula, Portumna took place in Christ Church, Portumna on Sunday May 22nd following her Removal

from Portiuncula Hospital. She is survived by her son, Miller and two daughters, Daphne and Cynthia and four grandchildren, Diane and Mark, Richard and Avril and two great children, Chloe and Thomas. Mrs Pamela Williams, daughter-in-law and Mr Victor Armitage, son-in-law were among the chief mourners at the Funeral which was attended by many relatives and friends. The Rector of Aughrim led the Removal Prayers and the Priest-in-Charge of Portumna Church, The Rev'd Patrick Towers, was the minister for the Funeral. He spoke of Mrs Williams long and faithful commitment and service to Church of Ireland and spoke of those who continually worship and care for the small but delightful Church in Portumna. May Mrs Patricia Williams rest in peace.

HOSPITAL

Our prayers are for the speedy recovery of Michael Kenny who is in Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe. We do so much hope Michael will be back home soon.

EYRECOURT CONCERT

Eyrecourt St John the Baptist Church is hosting a Concert on the evening of Saturday June 11th. More details will be published later.

EDWARD HARDY'S SYNOD SPEECH

Edward who is a member of St Paul's Church, Banagher made an eloquent and well 'reason-argued' Secunder's speech on Diocesan Boundaries at the recent General Synod in Dun Laoghaire. It is not easy for most people (though there are exceptions like the Editor of Newslink!) who find speech making in front of so many people quite daunting. Well done Edward. We are proud of you and your style. Back again!

Next month I will bring you more photos of past events, reports on the Eyrecourt Hip pop concert and more on the celebrities who pass in and out of St Paul's Church, Banagher. Enjoy midsummer fun!

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

(on compassionate leave until 1st July)

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

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Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely (on sick leave)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Marie Rowley - Brooke

Tel: 067-32598 Mob: 085-147 4792

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BEREAVEMENT:

20th April - William Shire in Croom - Our deepest sympathy to his son John (St. Michael's Church), John's wife Anne, their daughter Ava, John's sister Ann Drew, brother William, together with their wider family circle and friends.

21st April - Beryl Mary Pragnell in Inverness - our deepest sympathy to our Dean and Rector, Sandra, her sister Sonia, brother Ian, together with their wider family circle and friends.

9th May - Maureen Gaffney - to her husband Phil, their daughters Eilis and Therese, their son Brian and his wife Sue (née Kingston) together with their families, relatives and friends.

On Whit Sunday Dean Sandra and family borrowed a friend's boat and moored on Loch Oich just below the cottage which was Beryl's home for nearly 10 years. The Dean scattered Beryl's ashes and her sister Sonia scattered rose petals.

BAPTISM:

On Saturday 7th May, parents Christine Schwenk and Marek Jedryak brought little Paul Albert Schwenk to the Cathedral for baptism. Godparents Matthias Schwenk and Gorje Heescher from the Lutheran church, Jarek Dabrowki from the Roman Catholic Church, and our own Emma Melin from the Church of Ireland, ensured that this was a real baptism into the worldwide family of Christian believers. Canon Marie conducted the ceremony, and Peter Barley accompanied the hymns. Paul Albert slept happily all the way through!

On the last weekend of April the University of Limerick hosted the All-Ireland AGM of the Credit Unions from all 32 counties. At the end of the proceedings, Fr. Michael Browne (Chaplain to Milford Hospice) celebrated an ecumenical Mass for the delegates. He invited Dean Sandra to take part in the ceremony, and we were very grateful to receive a cheque towards the upkeep of St Mary's Cathedral.

CONFIRMATION 2016

13 young people - Aine Browne, Cathal Browne, Cormac Browne, Jonah Colgan, Sibán Dalton, Anderson James, Giovanni James, Aidan Larkin, Sarah Manley, Adam McMahon, Jessica McNamara, Rachel Rusk and Eliza Zawadka - came to St Michael's Church on 22nd May for confirmation - to affirm and own for themselves the promises made on their behalf at their baptism. They were well supported by their families, friends and godparents along with the regular congregations of Limerick City Parish.



Confirmation candidates

As befitted such a celebration, St Michael's pulled out all the stops! The Cathedral Choir joined with St Michael's choir in leading wonderful hymns and anthems, accompanied by Irina Dernova and Choirmaster Peter Barley on organ. Bishop Kenneth who presided at the confirmations and communions was assisted by Jackie McNair, Chaplain to Villiers School who had prepared the candidates for this great day, and by Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke.

During the final hymn, the candidates were given lighted candles to symbolise their new beginning as full members of the Church, tasked with bringing the light of Christ to the world.

After the service everyone was treated to lovely refreshments, all contributed by parishioners. Many thanks are due to all who helped to make this such a wonderful occasion - those who - prepared the Service booklets, baked, served tea and coffee, cleaned and polished, arranged the flowers, stewarded, and washed up afterwards. All in all it was a great team effort!



Choir and Confirmation Candidates

RSCM MUSIC SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

On Sunday 19th June at 5pm in St Mary's Cathedral, there will be a special organ concert to mark the annual RSCM Music Sunday campaign. Once a year, the RSCM (the Royal School of Church Music) promotes a particular Sunday for the purpose of celebrating the rich variety of music making that takes place in churches across the world. As part of this, a '50/50' fundraising campaign is included, whereby half the money raised goes to support the valuable educational work of the RSCM and this year half of the money raised will be going to the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music, who have done so much to support all music in the cathedral since they were founded in 2000 by the then Organist, the late Stuart Gray. Peter Barley will give an organ recital (please see the separate advert on page 21). Admission €5. Do please come along, with your friends and support these worthy causes.

CHOIR TRIP TO TRALEE

On Sunday, 26th June, St Mary's Cathedral Choir is looking forward to travelling to Tralee to sing Choral Evensong in St John's Church, Tralee at 7pm. This is to honour the retirement of the Archdeacon of Limerick, Ven Susan Watterson.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lucy Kavanagh who was commissioned as Diocesan President of Limerick and Killaloe Mothers' Union by the Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Canon Ruth Gill, at a Festival Service in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on Sunday 15th May.

STATE EXAMINATIONS: Wednesday 8th of June is the start of the Leaving and Junior Certificate. We wish all students from the parish the best of luck and hope the papers will be kind to them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. We wish them all a happy and safe summer break.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

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

LOSSES

Croom Church lost one of its long-time members, and one of the oldest members in our Group, this past month: William "Willie" Shire, who died at home on 20 April at the age of 92. He had been a stalwart defender of Croom Church, and his funeral on Sunday, 24 April, packed the church to overflowing. He was buried with his beloved wife of 62 years, Kathleen, in the Crecora Cemetery. We offer our condolences to his family: Ann Drew, who is a member of the Askeaton Church; John Shire, a member of St. Michael's; and William Shire, of Australia, and their families.

Adare was the site for the funeral of a member of the community on Sunday, 8 May: Lady Kathleen Pelham Clinton, of Ballinakill, Kilfinny. We extend condolences to her family and caregivers.

CELEBRATIONS

On a more joyful note, the Kilmallock Church joined with Ian and Marie Hogan and their families in celebrating the baptism of their son, Padraig, on 24 April. The church was filled, and Paudie remained alert and happy throughout the ceremony. We congratulate him and his family on this happy occasion.



The Hogan family and Rev. Liz at Paudie's baptism.

Joy was also the order of the day at the Blessing of the Animals Service, in celebration of Rogation Days. It was held outdoors at the Rectory on Sunday evening, 8 May. Joining the 34 adults and children in attendance were about 12 dogs and two wary cats. The service was put together and led by the Lay Readers who have been in training for the past months, with assistance from Rev. Liz. After the service, the adults enjoyed some tea and refreshments on the lawn, while the children and dogs romped in the lower field. We give thanks to God for the beautiful weather that evening!



Doreen Shine holds Holly after her blessing at the Animal Blessing in Adare, while Valerie Shine-O'Kelly looks on.

Members of our parishes traveled outside our boundaries for other celebrations in this past month. Eight of us went north to Tuam for the installation of the Rev. Stan Evans as Provost of Tuam Cathedral on Sunday, 1 May. It was a delight to see Stan, who used to serve these parishes, take on this new role in his ministry.

And on 15 May, a number of members traveled to Cloughjordan for the commissioning of Lucy Kavanagh as the Diocesan President of Mothers' Union. We often see Lucy at MU events in Adare, as she is a member of Limerick City Parish. Plus she is the sister of our own member Janet Bray. Congratulations, Lucy!

Pentecost is a special day in the church year, and we had a special celebration at Kilpeacon. There it was also the closing day for Sunday School until the autumn. Each of the students received a prize, and they participated in the service by sharing fruit as symbols of gifts of the Spirit. As a very small taste of the original events of Pentecost, we heard the good news of Christ, in the form of John 3:16, read in ten different languages. Thank you to those who shared their language gifts. And thank you to the Sunday School teachers!

And now, we are looking forward to the confirmation of five of our young members on 19 June in Kilpeacon.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

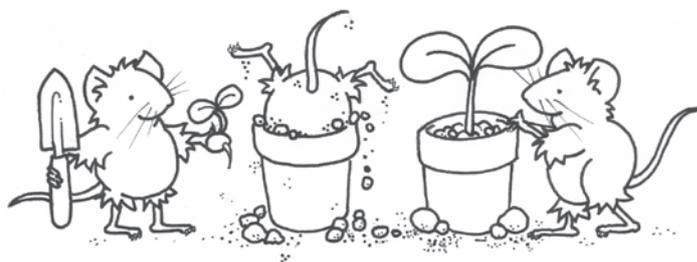
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

It has been a difficult month for some of our parishioners. We offer prayerful thoughts and sympathies to those who have been bereaved. Our thoughts are with Priscilla O'Donovan on the death of her husband Tom. Priscilla has sung or lead singing in St. Brendan's Church Tarbert a number of times and Tom was a well-known folk singer around the Tarbert-Listowel area. We also think of Ann Drew and her family on the death of her father Willie Shire. Ann is Church Warden at St. Mary's Askeaton and her father was a member of the Adare group, regularly attending Croom Church. He was born and died in the same farm house. May both Tom and Willie rest in peace and rise in Glory.

The month of June will be a "messy" month as Rev'd Keith is away most Sundays, but he is around on week days.



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

Congratulations and prayerful good wishes to Jill and Pierse our adult candidates and Darragh, Adam, Jack, Zac, Michael, Lily, Holly, Charlotte, Orla and Jennifer the young people who were Confirmed by Bishop Kenneth on Sunday 8th May in St John the Evangelist Tralee. 'Graduation' from Boys Brigade and Confirmation Class to Youth Club has already taken place with the ten pin bowling event in April, there will be a break for the summer but Youth Club will resume again in September.

During the Confirmation Service Bishop Kenneth rededicated the East Sanctuary in St John's which has been recently refurbished. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard re-carpeting, painting and polishing, moving heavy pews around and re-polishing the chancel tiles. Thank you also to those who contributed financially, it is greatly appreciated.



Bishop Kenneth and Archdeacon Sue with some of the Confirmation Candidates

It is some time since the Healer Prayer Group has met, in fact since the death of Peter Keane – who is greatly missed, the group did not meet during 2016. After the summer break however, the group will resume their monthly meetings. Details nearer the time.

Thank you to Marian Hogan who has agreed to edit the twice monthly newsletter for the parishes. The newsletter will be available on the first and third Sundays, anyone who would like to receive the newsletter by email please contact Archdeacon Sue. Similarly if you have been used to receiving the newsletter by email but haven't done so in recent months, let Archdeacon Sue know in case your name has been lost in the creation of the new list. Details of where to send your articles and notices will be made available in the next newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Mark Holland from the United States to Tralee on June 1st. Mark will be staying in the apartment in Teach an tSolais for two months and is looking forward to experiencing Irish culture, and sharing in the leading of worship.

The choir of St Mary's Cathedral Limerick will sing Choral Evensong in St John's Tralee on Sunday 26th June at 7pm. We are very grateful to Peter and the choir for making the journey down to Kerry – this will be Archdeacon Sue's final service.

The end of year service for St John's Parochial School pupils will take place on Wednesday 29th June at 11am, so that the Wednesday congregation may join with pupils and their families. The service will be followed by refreshments in Teach an tSolais.



Congregations of St James' Church Dingle and Kilgobbin who attended The Feile na Bealtaine service as Gaelige.



The Feile na Bealtaine service as Gaelige, conducted by Canon George Salter and the Rev Phyllis Jones.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997
Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

WALKING WITH GOD 1:

Sunday May 15th was one of the better days this year and I couldn't help but smile on my way to church when one of the chosen pieces playing on Radio Kerry was the Summer section from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. How appropriate, I thought; after Holy Communion some of the congregation would be joining me for our annual wilderness walk. Pelagius, the 4th – 5th century monk who was scorned as a heretic, was very clear in his beliefs which were contrary to those of his contemporary theologian, Augustus, in that he didn't believe in the Augustinian dogma that everything is predestined and the world is bad and people are rotten to the core. Pelagius – and I have to state I'm a fan – believed that not only was the world eminently good, everything new-born is a gift from God, whether that be a child, a flower or a wild animal in the forest.

So to the forest and the moor we went and indeed the first real flush of new-born life was everywhere. It goes without saying that we went like a herd of elephants and apart from the trees, frogs and flowers, everything that could run or fly from us did so. But it was a marvellous walk – even if Rev. Simon complained that I should have told him to bring boots instead of hush puppies – and Lynda's suggestion of 5 minutes silence really brought home to us

the beauty of the reawakening world. There are special places in God's world and we in St Mary's are very lucky indeed to have many of them so close to home. To quote Pelagius:

Look at the animals roaming the forest: God's spirit dwells within them... Look at the fish in the river and the sea: God's spirit dwells within them... When God pronounced that His creation was good, it was not only His hand that fashioned every creature; it was that His breath had brought every creature to life.

Look too at the great trees of the forest; look at the wildflowers and the grass of the fields; look even at your crops. The presence of God's spirit in all living things is what makes them beautiful.



WALKING WITH GOD 2:

On Sunday May 22nd it was time for the smaller constituents to go for their nature walk and this time we went "down the demesne" in Killarney National Park. As usual, the children were very energetic, but kept in train by the Sunday School teachers. Each of the children took a photograph of a species that caught their eye and these will be going on display at the back of the church during June, so if you're in Killarney during the month, drop in and have a look.

LANDSCAPING; PUBLICATIONS & A SILVER FOR ST MARY'S:

The outside of St Mary's is really taking shape and all of the disruption to the grounds as a result of the railings replacement has been repaired and reseeded. Rev. Simon has also produced a new pamphlet outlining the many features of interest in the church and this will certainly enhance the visitor experience. We were all very chuffed when the parish web site competition results were announced at the recent synod and St Mary's received the silver gong overall. It goes without saying that as we're from Kerry, Bangor, this year's winners (congratulations to them) had better look out because we're in training for 2017 already and they might just find it tough to hold on to the trophy!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1 st & 3 rd

EARTH WEEK.

A programme was organised by Declan Crowley of St James Church Killorglin which included St Michael's Church involving young people from both the Community College and the Intermediate

School in Killorglin.

The speaker on climate justice was from Trocaire and she led a discussion in the Community School.

Young people from both schools brought water from the first talk, marching with flags and banners through the town of Killorglin, to the second talk in the ISK where another discussion was held, This was done to show solidarity with those in the developing world who have little access to fresh water and who have to walk long distances to collect water.

ECUMENICAL EARTH WALK.

At 6.15 an ecumenical group gathered at St James and walked along the river bank on a fine spring evening returning to St Michael's on the Iveragh Road. The reflections on climate justice at various points along the route were led by Michael Briggs from Christain Aid. Both events were challenging and were continuing reminders of God's call to us to seek Justice for all and especially for the developing nations that are experiencing such devastation because of global warming.

CONFIRMATION

Finally the big day arrived and the confirmation service was held in St Michael's Church in Killorglin on Sunday the 24th of April. It was the largest group that we have had from the parish in recent years and it was wonderful to see a full church with all the partitions opened into the side chapels and into the hall.

We had nine candidates - all Girls, Six from Kiltallagh NS, Charlotte Orme, Clara Wharton, Avril Murphy, Natasha Griffin, Sarah Flaherty and Kate Moroney. Isabel Stephens attends Scoile Mhuire in Killorglin, Ciara Byrne attends Cullina NS in Beaufort and Katie Boyle is a first year student in Bandon Grammar School. It was a very enjoyable service and great credit is due to all who prepared the Church and to the girls themselves who contributed so much to the service.



Bishop Kenneth, Revs Jim and Simon and the Confirmation Candidates

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following:

To Rosalie Champ and family on the death of her sister Elizabeth Burke late of Castlemaine who lived in Basingstoke in the UK for many years. Elizabeth became unwell and was brought to hospital where she passed away unexpectedly She attended the the Kingdom Hall in Basingstoke where her funeral service was conducted . To the family of the late Irene O Reilly (nee Boyle) who died in New York. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her daughter Rachel and her son Rory and grandson Garland who live in New York and with her mother Kathleen Boyle and with her sister Mabel Flynn and her

family of the old Rectory in Castlemaine, on the death of a much loved Mother daughter, sister, grandmother and aunt. A memorial service was held in Kiltallagh Church on the afternoon of the 21st of May. Her remains were interred in New York with her husband Pat.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Katie Boyle who won a silver medal in the discus at a schools competition which was held recently in the CIT Sports Ground

GARDEN FETE:

This will be held in St Michael's on Sunday the 31st July.

KILTALLAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL:

The school end of year service will be held in Kiltallagh Church on the 16th June, Bishop Kenneth will attend, Students who plan to attend next September are also invited.

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

Editor: Kenmare notes are missing this month as Rev Michael Cavanagh suffered a serious car accident on the Eve of Trinity Sunday and is in hospital in Tralee as I write this. Thanks and praise to God that his injuries are minimal and he is improving every day. We hold him and his wife Marjorie in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Vacant

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

We look forward to welcoming our new minister in July, the appointment will be formally made at Conference in June. Until July the Adare and Ballingrane circuit will be under the care of Rev. Denis Maguire, who is stationed in Bandon, Co. Cork. 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.

SERVICES FOR JUNE:

5 June Siobhan Wheeler

Adare 10.15 a.m.

Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

12 June Rev. Tom Kingston

United Circuit Service with Holy Communion in
Ballingrane 11.00 a.m.

19 June Rev. Denis Sandes

United Circuit Service in Adare 11.00 a.m.

26 June Siobhan Wheeler

Adare 10.15 a.m.

Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

On 1 May the Confirmation Service in Adare, led by Rev. Shannon DeLaureal, welcomed nine young people into full membership of the church. Please remember them and pray for them: Samuella Asante-Amoah, Adam Bovenizer, Luke Bovenizer, Bianca Marais, Katie Purser, Bryan Smyth. Cian Sparling, Garrett Sparling and Reuben Wheeler.

Following the united service on 15 May, Rev. Dr. Heather Morris led a short service for the burial of Rev Bill Olmsted's ashes in Ballingrane graveyard.

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 p.m.

Annual Methodist Conference will be held in Portadown, commencing on Wednesday, 15 June 2016 at 7.30 p.m. with the service of installation for the incoming President, Rev. Bill Mullally from Cork. The circuit representative is Lorna Shier.

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

One of the nice things about of being in ministry is that you sometimes get asked to do unusual things; things that are not really in the 'job description.' For a couple of years I've been asked to participate in Common Purpose courses that have been run in Limerick. Common Purpose - <http://commonpurpose.org/> - runs leadership development programmes that inspire and equip people to work across boundaries. This enables them to solve complex problems in organizations and in society.

The Navigator Programme is a local programme that uses the city as a classroom 'taking you behind the scenes and immersing you in real life challenges faced by leaders from a wide range of sectors.' During the course local people in leadership roles are asked to come along and contribute. The session begins with each contributor giving a very brief introduction about their role then the group is split into smaller groups and the contributors are invited to join these small groups, rotating every 25 minutes in a cafe style conversation format.

This year I was invited to the session Passion and Resonance – An Insight into leading using persuasion, influence and communication to push for change. I found that the people I spoke with seemed really interested in the Church. Maybe it's because it's a good space to ask the questions you always wanted to ask in a way that you always wanted to ask them (without worrying about what others might think of you!) or maybe people think about church and faith more than they seem to. People who are involved in church, definitely including myself – even though we may try hard not to – regularly judge the position of others by Sunday service attendance.

Anyway I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and worked out new ways of talking about things like Christian belief, Church practice, faith development and Church history. I believe I can get a bit lazy about the way I communicate when most of these sorts of discussions happen within the Church community. So thank you to Common Purpose.

Talking about common purpose it seems that 2016 has made that possible around the country. There are so many opportunities to learn about and get involved in the centenary. We had a great

exhibition in CB1 from the Active Retirement group. I don't think 1916 can be the easiest subject to inspire painting but there was a wide selection of interpretation and certainly the launch afternoon was very well attended and enjoyed. Paul Quane is the community artist that took the group through the whole journey from empty canvass to complete exhibition. It's really uplifting to see people get involved and animated by their own and the group's creative process.



Active retirement exhibition launch

At the beginning of May CB1 was host to the operations team from the Irish Heart Foundation as they spent the day raising funds for their work. We're very happy to provide this city centre service to charities so please pass the message on!



Irish heart Foundation - Laura Bohan, Claire O'Donoghue, Anna-Victoria Ni Loingsigh

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

Bible Study Friday 10am

Drop in for coffee Friday 11am

Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am

The Giving Space monthly as arranged on Saturdays

The Gateway KENMARE

Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee)

Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am

Bible study 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.

May has been another busy month across this part of the circuit. The Giving Space in Killarney teaches children to live generously and to understand what generosity is. This group which meets monthly on a Saturday had fun in April in the Demesne and generously gave out chocolate to people they met. In May they plan to go to Inch Beach and do a 'tidy up' gathering litter and have fun too! A soup, bread and cheese lunch took place recently to raise funds for and an awareness of the work of Christian Aid.

In the Gateway, Kenmare an early morning prayer group has begun to meet on Wednesdays before the Bible Study. This is a time to pray for the town of Kenmare and seek God's face for the way forward. A new MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland) group has begun in Kenmare.

The Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland meets from 15th June in Portadown, Co Armagh. One of the highlights will be the installation service of Rev Bill Mullally as the new President of the Methodist Church. Bill currently ministers on this circuit with responsibility for churches in Cork, Youghal and Kinsale. Please remember Bill in your prayers!

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808

Email: Shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00am – Borrisokane

11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sunday's

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

11:45am – Roscrea

7:00pm – Shinrone

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Karen Gillespie, Cloughjordan, has been selected as part of a mission trip to South Africa in August 2016. This group visit is being organised by the Methodist Church in Ireland via two of its departments: the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) and World Development & Relief.

Karen has previously been to Zimbabwe in 2014 with Christian Aid, visiting projects, sharing experiences and learning about the culture. She wrote about her experience saying, "I was told before I went that I would experience Culture Shock. However, when I returned home from Zimbabwe my outlook was different. Previously

my relationship with God was somewhat personal and private. However, I was instilled with a completely different outlook on life, a stronger faith; an open and accepting mentality, a resilience for any challenge that came my way, most of all God gave me a nudge to do more". There is no greater feeling than witnessing a smile on a person's face, being accepted for who you are and being surrounded by positivity. Karen hopes to come back and share her experiences so folks who find it impossible to travel to South Africa will feel connected.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

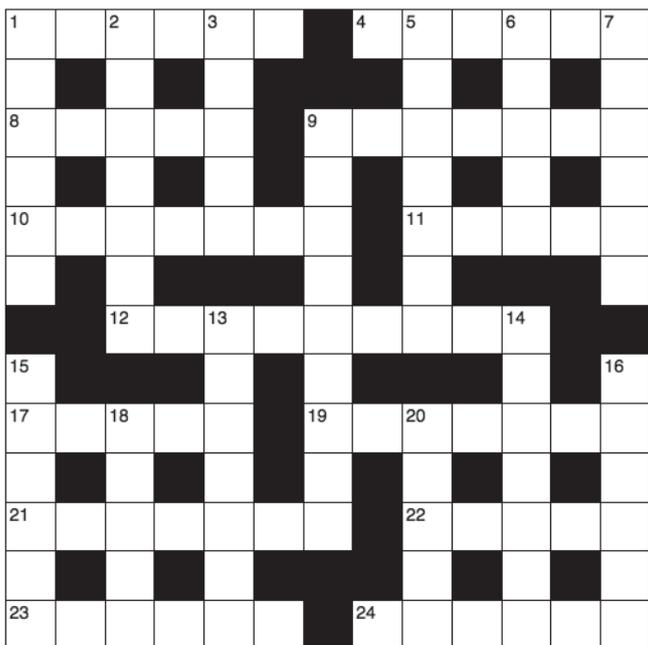
ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB

One outdoor fun event is planned for June. On Saturday 4th June, the youth will meet up at Knockshgowna for bikes and BBQ 6-8pm. Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

A coffee morning in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust will be held in Roscrea Methodist Hall on Sat. 2nd July from 10.30 – 12.00.

Crossword for June



ACROSS

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew – , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got – , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some – with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, – rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A – went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Solution to the May Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.
DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

Havergal and Roxborough Schools Charity

Many charities are our legacy from generous benefactions from the past. The gifts arise out of generous spirits upon seeing a need and responding to it.

The story of the Havergal and Roxboro Schools involves the coming together of two orphanage schools of those names around 1950. They evolved from what were known as "the Ragged Schools" which were originally located in Limerick City centre. The management of these schools came under the direction of the Rector of Trinity Church in Limerick at that time, Rev. Thomas Waller and were kept going through local fundraising. The last address of the schools was at Eden Terrace in the North Circular Road when it closed in 1962.

It was from this background that Havergal & Roxboro Schools Charity came to birth in the late summer of 1988. It has been awarding grants towards education costs to families from that time. The cost of educating our young people is a major expense for families and often requires sacrifice to achieve it. Therefore any

source that would lessen these outgoings is welcome news indeed. Havergal and Roxboro Schools Charity offers financial assistance to families as they seek to meet education costs, mainly for second level but which includes also grants towards third level as well. The Charity is specifically for Church of Ireland families in the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe. Those who apply are required to complete an application form each year that can be obtained from the Secretary (until May 7) or from their Rector. Completed Applications should be returned to the Secretary during July.

This year the closing date for applications is Monday, July 25. The Secretary (pro tem) is the Very Rev Maurice Sirr, 17a Knockhill, Ennis Road, Limerick. A scholarship worth €500 is awarded annually to a student at the Villiers entrance examination who meets the criteria and becomes tenable in Villiers school. It is worth €3000 over the six year period. However, all other grants are awarded to any school of choice.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 41 to 51

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival with their family and friends. This year Jesus was twelve.

The women and children went in front to set the pace



Next year, Jesus, you'll be walking at the back with the men.

The Passover feasting lasted eight days...



..and then they set off for home again



but without Jesus.

Mary and Joseph didn't find out until the evening



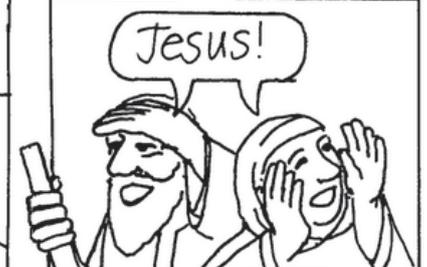
I thought he was with you!

So they walked back to Jerusalem and started searching for Jesus....



Sorry, I haven't seen him.

..and the next day,



then on the third day

they went to the temple



He was talking with the teachers.



You must be very proud of your clever son



But Mary was not happy.

How could you treat your father and I like this?



Didn't you know I'd be here?



I needed to be where my birth father, God, is working.

Mary thought about this all the way home



... and all her life.

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- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

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

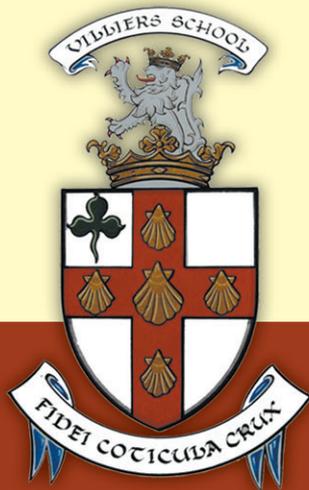
Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

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CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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