



NEWSLINK

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

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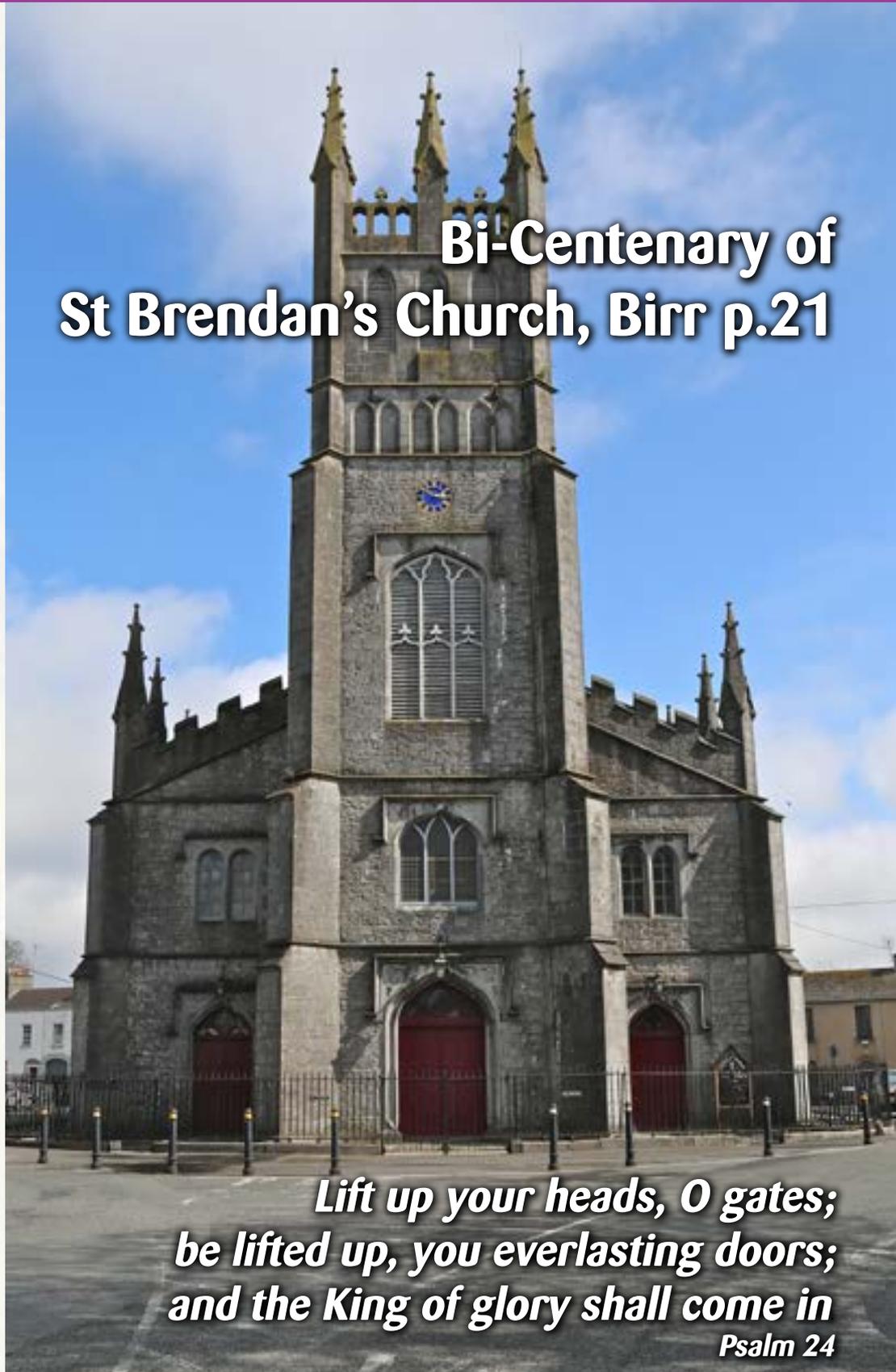
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*Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in
Psalm 24*



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Bishop Kenneth writes

Within the Decade of Commemorations the year 2016 was always going to be an important focal point, and so it has proved. The commemoration of the Easter Rising in 1916 earlier this year contained very significant messages as to the way Ireland in 2016 now sees its past, much of that interpreted and expressed imaginatively by our President, Michael D. Higgins, in a number of speeches and interviews he gave at the time.

The lecture given by Professor Patrick Comerford in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick last March introduced us all to the very considerable involvement of Church of Ireland people in that Rising, and in its aftermath. Like most rebellions, opinions were divided at the time and later, families and friends split and found themselves on opposite sides of events and public opinion.

So far then 2016 has provided us with opportunities to re-evaluate this important part of our history and heritage, and to acknowledge that Church of Ireland people at the time were as diverse a group of people as anyone else in Irish society then, and no one interpretation of historical involvement can dominate any narrative.

So it will continue for the rest of the year. The centenary of the Battle of the Somme which claimed the lives of thousands of Irish people, many of them Church of Ireland will be marked at the beginning of July. Remembrance Sunday in November will be another such an event.

For myself the next big commemoration I'll be involved in will be the National Day of Commemoration on the 10th July. This day commemorates all Irish people who died in past wars or on

United Nations peacekeeping missions. It occurs on the Sunday nearest 11 July, which is the anniversary of the date in 1921 that a truce was signed ending the Irish War of Independence.

The main ceremony takes place in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham Dublin which is attended by the President, and the two Archbishops of Dublin will take part in an interfaith service as part of that event. I will participate in the event at Limerick City Hall on the same day which will include an interfaith service with involvement by the main Christian denominations together with Jewish, Muslim and Hindu religious leaders.

Commemoration is a sensitive issue. Not a celebration of militarism, it should be a remembrance of those who died or were injured in the cause of freedom, understanding that the definition of freedom can be personal and can vary according to circumstances. Above all any such commemoration today must include a commitment to reconciliation amongst those who are divided today, and an endeavour to 'seek peace and pursue it'.

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



Diocesan Calendar

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

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
Sun 10th July, 1pm Dunkerrin Fete & Dog Show, Dunkerrin Community Centre (dog registration from 12.30)
Sat 16th July, 5pm Borrisnafarney/Templeharry Parish Sale, Moneygall Hall
Sun 17th–Sat 23rd July UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Esker Youth Village, Athenry, Co Galway (10+yrs)
Wed 20th July, 1.15pm Resurgam: commemorating 1916, Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick
Sun 24th July, 4pm An Afternoon at the Musicals, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick (tickets €0)
Fri 29th July – Mon 1st August Flower Festival at St Brendan's Church, Birr, Co Offaly
Sun 7th August St Brendan's Patronal Festival, Birr, Co Offaly
Tue 9th August, 8pm Chamber Philharmonia, Cologne in Concert, St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe
Sat 13th August, 5pm The Carice Singers, 'Into the Twilight', St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick (free admission)
Sun 14th August, 11.30am Carice Singers at the Sunday Eucharist, St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe
Fri 26th – Sat 27th Aug UDYC Committee Retreat, Clarecare, Lahinch, Co. Clare
Sat 4th Sep, 5.30pm UDYC Fundraising Car Treasure Hunt with BBQ & Disco, Aghancon Community Hall (BBQ & disco from 7.30pm, €10pp or €30 per family)



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 6th July

Irina Dernova (organ)

Music by J.S. Bach, MacMaster and Gigout

Wednesday 13th July

The Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge

Resurgam: commemorating 1916

Including music by Howells, Byrd, Tomkins and Mawby

Wednesday 20th July

Aisling Kenny (soprano), Judith Gannon (piano)

Including music by Schubert, Purcell, Quilter, Gurney and Mendelssohn

Wednesday 24th August

Peter Barley (organ)

Special recital for Heritage Week

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

Editorial - Grace & Love

Why is it that Christians are so often beastly to each other?

I feel sure that most if not all of us have come across situations of conflict in our church communities – angry voices raised, threats uttered, harsh words spoken, which intentionally or not hurt persons made in the image of God. Such conflict can be very damaging to the individuals concerned, as well as to the church. Some even leave their church as a result.

It is not just Christians who are beastly to each others of course, but people of all faiths and none. And the consequences can be much worse than a parish falling out, as we have recently seen in the horrific massacre in an LGBT club in Orlando, and the foul murder of British MP Jo Cox in Yorkshire. But surely we should expect better of Christians – Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another so that everyone may know we are his disciples (John 13:34-5).

I think being beastly to each other is part of our fallen human nature – a manifestation of original sin, the cure for which is repentance. And conflict in church relationships is made more intense because it is so important for us to feel we belong in our church community – it reaches to the core of our spiritual being, just as a sense of belonging does in family relationships.

General Synod 2015 adopted a 'Dignity in Church Life Charter' addressing the issue of conflict in the church, and the RCB has issued a policy on prevention of bullying and harassment which outlines how concerns about bullying or harassment must be progressed in the Church of Ireland.

But before matters get that far, if another Christian is angry with us we should step back, reflect, pray for the grace to love one another – and then follow Jesus's good advice in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:22-26): take the initiative to seek reconciliation before getting embroiled in a formal complaint.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Breaking News - New Rector for Nenagh

Rev Roderick Smyth has been appointed to be Rector of the Nenagh Union of Parishes. He is currently curate assistant at St John's Malone, Belfast. Before ordination he was a music teacher for over 35 years in various second level schools in Northern Ireland. He is married to Rosemary and they have two adult children. As yet no date has been set for his institution.



Revd Rod Smyth

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

Contact details:

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

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for September 2016, published for Sunday 4th September.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 19th August 2016 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2016

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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 July

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

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.

3rd July, 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green

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.

10th July, 8th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and Most Revd Renato Mag-Gay Abibico, Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

Diocese: The Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes, as they enter into a period of vacancy, and for Ven. Susan Watterson on her retirement as their Rector.

17th July, 9th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda and Most Revd Dr Onesphore Rwaje, Archbishop of L'Eglise Episcopal au Rwanda and Bishop of Gasabo.

Diocese: Those who serve communications in our parishes and dioceses by issuing newsletters, maintaining websites and managing social media.

24th July, 10th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church and Most Revd David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of St Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane.

Diocese: Those from abroad living, working and on holiday amongst us, that they may feel at home in our communities.

31st July, 11th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Province of South East Asia and Most Revd Ng Moon Hing, Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of West Malaysia.

Diocese: The Birr Group of Parishes as they celebrate the Bicentenary of St Brendan's Church, Birr, with a Flower Festival this weekend and the Patronal Festival on Sunday next 7th August.

Partners in Prayer - August 2016

Each Sunday in August

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough and Archbishop Michael Jackson.

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.

7th August, 12th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The United Church of South India (United) and Most Revd Dr Govada Dyvasirvadam, Moderator of CSI & Bishop of Krishna-Godavari.

Diocese: For good weather and a bountiful harvest in the coming weeks, that farmers may receive a just reward for their year's work.

14th August, 13th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa and Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown and Primate of Southern Africa.

Diocese: Those who work and enjoy recreation on the waters of our

island nation, and those who strive to keep them safe, in particular in the RNLI, the Coast Guard, Civil Defence, and Air-Sea Rescue.

21st August, 14th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of South America and Most Revd Hector Zavala Muñoz, Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Chile.

Diocese: Those in our dioceses working to protect, preserve and display our cultural and natural heritage in this National Heritage Week.

28th August, 15th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan and Most Revd Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of South Sudan & Sudan & Bishop of Juba.

Diocese: Those from our dioceses living and working overseas, that they may know how they are kept in the thoughts and prayers of their loved ones at home.

4th September, 16th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Meath & Kildare and Bishop Pat Storey.

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania and Most Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya, Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Mpwapwa.

Diocese: For students and teachers in schools throughout our united dioceses as they begin a new school year; and for Archdeacon Gordon Linney & Canon Cecil Hyland as they assist in our diocesan review.

In the palm of God's hand

- Place in a bowl some small round pebbles, hazelnuts etc
- Take one of the objects from the place it in the palm
- Read the words from Julian of below.
- Rest in the awareness that you are held in God's hand, enfolded in love, known and wanted.



I saw that he is everything that we know to be good and helpful. In his love he clothes us, enfolds and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw it he is everything that is good.

...he showed me more, a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled that it continued to exist and did not suddenly disintegrate; it was so small. And again my mind supplied the answer, 'It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.' In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God.

In this 'little thing' I saw three truths. The first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; and the third is that God sustains it.

Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

A View from the Pew - Conversing about Ministry

by Salters Sterling



The last view from the Pew was raising questions about ministry in the context of Easter, Pentecost and the Gifts given to the Church by and in the power of the Spirit. I want to stick with that theme.

Just after Easter our Diocese organised an excellent conference in which three clergy persons, incidentally all men, shared the ways in which they and the people in their parishes have been exploring new forms of outreach ministry. It was inspiring to learn of a ministry to tourists, of outreach woven into worship and of worship and outreach transforming each other. In each instance the consequence being the touching of many, many more lives than would normally appear to be touched by the usual processes of parish life and worship. Is that not the secret desire of every Christian heart? I firmly believe it is. If that belief is correct why then does there not appear to be a greater desire to experiment within, between and among all our parishes?

In trying to answer that question I am presented with a conundrum which is this. The case studies presented at the conference all involved clergy initiative. A dominant current theory of ministry is that it is the whole body of the faithful who inspire the initiative. Without a fairly extensive conversation within the diocese in which the ordained and the lay are encouraged to speak freely, to listen to each other thoughtfully and respectfully and to share both

disappointment and criticism as well as hope and success we will not adequately resolve the apparent contradiction. Those clergy who follow the dominant theory will be frustrated and deemed failures and those clergy who follow the practice of leading from the front will be regarded as successes and nothing will change.

At the conference and also at a Diocesan Mission meeting I learned that clergy had been invited to begin a conversation about ministry (or something of that order) in their parishes. I am wondering can that really happen with any real chance of enlightenment. What clergy person, except the one who is secure about the success of his or her ministry, is going to leave himself or herself open to a barrage of criticism such as I have heard voiced in vestries (and out of them). One voice or even several voices in a forum where the critics may number ten, twelve or even more is not a recipe for a fruitful conversation and most of us have no training in the mediation skills that would give it a hope of success.

There has also been mention of a consultation on collaborative ministry in the diocese. Collaborative ministry belongs in the category of the whole people inspiring initiative in ministry. So when that consultation has happened we will be briefed on both ways of doing ministry. The question that then arises is how do clergy and people together choose the way their parish or parishes should go, and how are they facilitated in making that choice? All of us need to be reflecting on these matters. They are of vital concern to Christian living and Christian worshipping. By airing them in a View from the Pew I hope that that reflection process can be furthered. And by the way I haven't mentioned ecumenical ramifications. More about that next time. I'm just back from Geneva.

The Carice Singers

The Carice Singers came to Ireland a couple of years ago, performing in St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny, St Anne's Church in Dawson Street, Dublin and at St John's Cathedral in Limerick. They also gave impromptu performances at Lough Derg Yacht Club and sang at the Sunday service in St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe.

This summer the Carice Singers will again be visiting Ireland. They will perform in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Saturday 13th August (see advert on page 17) and will again sing at the Sunday morning Eucharist in St Flannan's Cathedral at 11.30 am on 14th August.

The founder and conductor, George Parris, is a constant visitor to Dromineer and the Lough Derg Regatta each August – when he spends the week sailing and staying with his Uncle George Henry's family

The Carice Singers are an ensemble comprised of some of the UK's finest young professional singers, noted for their "freshness of tone" and "careful musicality" (Gramophone). Named after the daughter of Sir Edward Elgar, the choir aims to bring an imaginative approach to choral music of the Romantic period and beyond, frequently drawing upon the latest academic research to produce original and insightful programmes. Launched in 2011 in the Cotswolds, the choir maintains a tradition of performing in rural areas, as well as making appearances at more familiar venues.

George Parris is a singer, conductor, and student of early-twentieth-century Anglo-Irish music. His commitment to this repertoire has been recognised by, among others, the Peter Warlock Society, the John Ireland Charitable Trust, and the Elgar Society, who awarded him with a Certificate of Merit in 2011. In the same year, he founded The Carice Singers, and has since directed the choir in a number of concerts and recordings, many of which have received excellent reviews. He has recently completed a Master's degree at the University of Oxford, in which he focussed on the 'Irish' music of Sir Arnold Bax.



The Carice singers in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe in 2014

Letters to the Editor - Infant Baptism

Dear Editor,

I want to begin by congratulating Jonathan Pyle on his letter in the June edition of Newslink. He has rightly challenged all of us to take seriously what it means to follow Christ. We are not called to just go to church, but to be the Church, the People of God, the Body of Christ, and our words and actions as individuals, and as the Church, should be so attractive to others that they want to be a part of the Body of Christ as well.

I do disagree with Jonathan, however, on his statement about infant baptism. He wrote (of the Church of Ireland) that "we baptise people who have no idea what they are doing because they are babies – defeating the purpose of baptism." Infant baptism has been a part of Christian practice since the earliest days of the Church. In Acts 16 and 18, and 1 Corinthians 1, we read of whole households being baptized – a phrase that in the ancient world would include infants and children. We also know from the funeral epitaphs of Christian children that they were initiated into the Church as infants from very early in the history of the Church. As the first Christians married and had children, it was important that these infants were baptized and accepted as part of the Church – otherwise, they were not full members of the Body of Christ. At the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, and other leaders of the new Reformed churches closely examined the beliefs and practices which they had inherited from the past, and accepted infant baptism as consistent with Scripture. The vast majority of Christians – Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic –

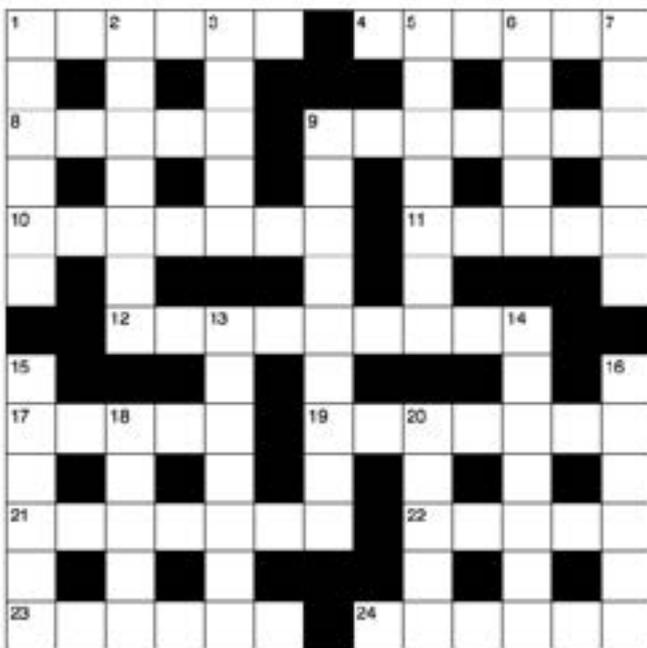
have always accepted infant baptism as valid. It was only rejected by a small minority of Reformers in the 16th Century, called anabaptists (or 'rebaptisers'), the forerunners of modern Amish and Mennonite groups. Only in modern times, with the influence of Pentecostalism, has an insistence in 'believer's baptism' become a numerically significant Protestant position.

Historical reasons aside, the difficulty with insisting that infant baptism is invalid is that it implies that baptism is something that people have done to them because they believe. What is important in baptism is what God does – sacramentally incorporating the newly-baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. That is why the Church has always frowned upon 'rebaptising' adults who had been baptized as children. Such actions deny that God was present in their original baptism.

There is a problem, however, with the attitude of many people toward infant baptism, and this has created some of the opposition to it. It is so often called 'christening', a word that is cultural, not religious or biblical. It is accepted that everyone should get their babies 'done', not because they want them to be part of the Body of Christ, but because they want a party. All Christians need to take baptism more seriously, and parents need to realise that following through on the vows they made for their children at their baptism means teaching them the Christian faith in the home, by example.

Yours etc., Ven Wayne Carney, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Crossword for July/August



ACROSS

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John – (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was – in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

DOWN

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will – over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and – from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX



Solution to the June Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.
 DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Care for Creation

Shine a light on climate justice!

Eco Congregation Ireland is delighted that churches throughout Ireland are joining in their 'Shine a Light on Climate Justice' initiative, which was launched at the National Ecumenical Prayer Service for COP21 in the presence of President Michael D Higgins in November 2015.

The climate justice candle has visited 30 different Dublin parishes by mid-April and it is now continuing its journey throughout the country. Parishes/congregations/meetings/study groups are asked to focus on climate justice for the week that they have the candle. A pack accompanies the candle, which includes prayers for the environment and a Service of Prayer and Reflection. There are different ways you can use the pack. You might choose to use the service the way that it is, you may prefer to adapt it to suit your own purposes, or you may wish simply to include some of the intercessory prayers in your regular service.



Pupils of Rathfarnham Parish NS shine a light

It is hoped that, by taking part in this initiative, churches will be encouraged to include prayers for climate justice in every service and to take actions to 'green' their churches. Eco Congregation Ireland Resources are full of ideas on how to take an eco-friendly approach to church life - practically, spiritually and by connecting with your local community and with people in developing countries already impacted by climate change.

It is crucial that action is taken NOW - for the millions of climate refugees already suffering as a direct result of climate change, for future generations and for the whole of Creation. It was encouraging that world leaders made a legally-binding agreement at COP21 but, in many ways, that was only the beginning. Now they - and we - need to have the courage to follow through in the months and years ahead.

"We all rejoice in the outcome of the Paris Summit," says Rev Martin Sauter of St Finian's Lutheran Church, Dublin, who was the first recipient of the climate justice candle. "Who would have thought that all the nations would agree to these new limits? Truly, the Holy Spirit has been at work. But, the work, as we all sense, is far from over: much more prayer, much more thought and action on all levels needs to follow. The traveling candle can be a wonderful symbol accompanying us."



Pastor Martin Sauter with the Climate Justice candle

We send out the candle in faith and in hope and look forward to receiving updates as it makes its journey around Ireland. If you would like to host the candle, please send an email to info@ecocongregationireland.com.

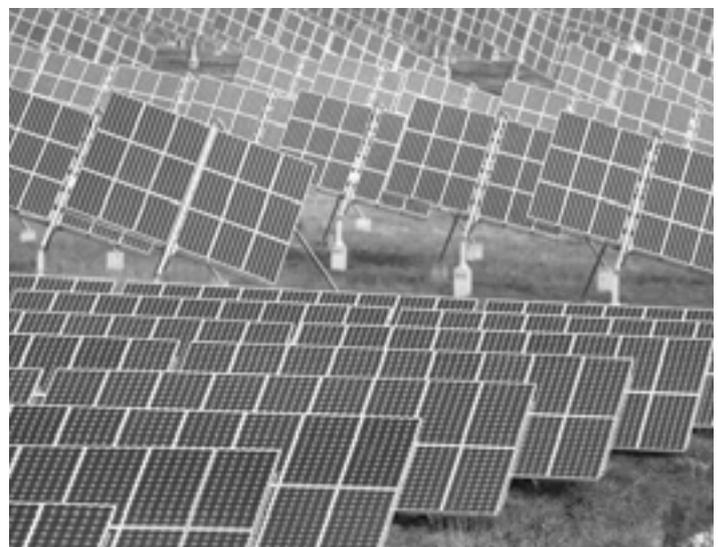
Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Editor: Burning fossil fuels is the main driver for climate change, and the scientific consensus is that we must stop doing so as soon as possible to avoid climate catastrophe. The global move to alternative renewable energy technologies and energy saving is accelerating, but those that profit from fossil fuels have a financial interest in delaying or resisting. If investors divest from fossil fuel companies - sell their shares in them - it gives companies an incentive to move to phase out the use of fossil fuels. So climate change campaigners are seeking to persuade ethical investors - including the Church of Ireland - to divest from fossil fuels. Below is an extract from an excellent letter to the Church of Ireland Gazette of 3rd June from Stephen Trew of Lurgan in the Diocese of Down & Dromore.

The moral argument to divest from fossil fuel companies was presented at General Synod 2015. Afterwards, two dioceses passed motions calling on the RCB to divest from all fossil fuels within five years. The debates on the motions stressed the severe impact that greenhouse gas pollution and climate change are having on the world's poor.

The RCB listened and responded, as we heard at General Synod 2016. They divested from coal, increased investments in renewable energy and drafted a policy on climate change (<http://bit.ly/ColPCC>). However, the policy states that fossil fuel investments will continue to offer profits for many years to come and therefore the RCB will not divest more broadly. This is despite clear warnings from the United Nations and Christian charities that the impact on the poor from climate change will be catastrophic.

The Church of Ireland is continuing to invest in a polluting industry that is causing climate chaos, will create millions more refugees and kills seven million people a year from air pollution. We need to raise our ambition and develop a plan for complete divestment from fossil fuels by 2020. This is an opportunity to take a lead, speak prophetically to society and call for change. I hope the RCB will reconsider its policy.



The World Bank reports renewable energy made up more than half of private investments in energy in 2015

Mary Sumner - founder of the Mothers' Union

In August the Mothers' Union celebrates its 140th anniversary. It has a lot to celebrate, what with four million members doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.



She was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in Hampshire in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting

her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes. When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. The Mothers' Union was established in Ireland in 1888. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpos

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Parents Night was held on 21st May in St. Kieran's Hall. The evening began with the girls singing a hymn followed by "Tomorrow" from Annie. Michelle Kennedy sang beautifully accompanied by her dad, Mr. John Armitage on the keyboard. All girls performed Irish dancing carefully prepared by Mrs. Shirley Clarke. The younger girls read poems, performed a rap and a song. Next was The G Factor starting with beautiful musical entertainment from Abigail Clarke (Irish dancing), Alison Grant (keyboard), Tabitha Larke (tin whistle), Abigail Quinlivan (tin whistle), Ava Austin (ballet) and Laoise Gaffney (keyboard). "Camping" and a baking demonstration were two sketches which had us in stitches! The evening's entertainment ended with singing, also a raffle and refreshments. Congratulations girls! You are a talented bunch and we are extremely proud of you all.

NENAGH BRANCH

The final meeting of the season was held on Saturday, 28th May. Girls enjoyed a pizza party. Jean Blackwell kindly presented girls with their badges for GFS Knowledge, Dance and Science & Discovery. Ciara Drummond was presented with a special badge for attending All Ireland Camp in April.

Emma Gordon gave a very interesting talk on her experience with Zest4Kids when she visited Uganda. Girls were amazed to learn about children in Uganda and how different their lives are to ours in our wealthy first world country. Girls and leaders thank Emma for

showing us her photos and answering questions on her trip. Girls saw children playing games with their new sports kits, singing and attending church which takes 5 hours and is the highlight of the week for people.

ROSCREA BRANCH

Girls and leaders went to Orange Hill Wood, just a short drive from the town, to complete a Forest Walk and Scavenger Hunt as part of the Explorers Badge. The girls took notes along the way and will write a report on their findings or draw pictures depending on their age.



GFS Girls Blowing bubbles in Orange Hill Woods.

Saoirse Barret is moving on to Secondary School but we are delighted that she is going to still attend GFS.

To finish the year the Branch are going to the Cinema followed by Supermacs at the Obama Plaza.

GFS AT DIOCESAN SYNOD We were delighted to see many of you at Synod where GFS had a stand.

GFS wishes everyone a great summer with lots of sunshine and fun.

Boys' Brigade



1ST TRALEE COMPANY

On Friday June 10th the members of The 1st Tralee Company held their display evening. The junior section started proceeding with a marching display, followed by musical performances of The Bare Necessity on the flute by Rosie Giles and The Rose of Tralee on the keyboard by Alison McEvoy. Alex Maritz performed a gymnastics routine. The members sang If I Were a Butterfly, and Rise and Shine including actions. Awards on the evening were given to Nicholas Rusk and Rohan Carter O'Flynn for attendance. Amy Darcy received our bible studies award and Michael Maritz received our friendship award. The cup for the Anchor section went to Evie Giles and for the junior section to Charlotte Fort.



Tralee BB with their end of year awards

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders Colin Boyle, Gerhardt Maritz, Raffella Carter and David Tough for their dedication throughout the session.

Hope you all have a fantastic summer and we will see you all again in September
Collette Price - Captain

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We did it! Ger, the captain, wants to send a huge thank you to everyone that made the Boys' Brigade trip to Tayto Park a massive success; everyone associated with our fundraising projects, the Ulster Bank donation that Helen Powell secured, parents who took time out to come on the trip and help and to the fabulous boys who made it such a pleasure.

And what a great day it was! Something for everyone: A giant play park, a zoo, the Tayto factory, rides...so many rides, or was that the same roller coaster repeated? The lively chat that started on the bus showed just how excited everyone was and the excitement, from the oldest to the youngest, barely waned from 8 am through the whole day. The bus ride home was a little quieter though – and I never thought I'd see the day that Brehon "rested his eyes"!

And there was still June! We have just enjoyed our final night of the year with a BBQ, birthday cakes, achievement certificates for the boys' fundraising (thanks Marty for the printing!) and our 100% attendance awards; BB mugs for Shea, David and Adam. These boys have chosen to join every evening, at the expense of their other sports and activities, which is a dedicated commitment, so well done. As a special treat our friends joined us for the evening. Trish O'Halloran, world champion and record holding weight lifter and her coach and Strong Man champion Kevin Murray put the boys through their paces to work up an appetite for the BBQ! They did some fascinating work associated with "rudimental movements". I

made notes and these will be repeated! We look forward to their next visit, it's always fun, inspiring and challenging and we are grateful to them for their valuable time.

So, that's it, we'll be back in September with more stories to tell. Thank you boys for making this so absolutely worthwhile for all of us leaders, and have a great summer.

Lisa Drummond



At Tayto Park



Adam displays his 100% attendance BB mug

Mothers' Union Christian care for families

Summer is upon us once again, and this year, so far, it seems to be a lovely one! Our branches have finished their meetings for the summer and September seems so far away for now.

I have been very busy since I became Diocesan President in January, and since then I have had a clearer insight into the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide. We are a wonderful organisation and our range and depth of work far exceeds Mary Sumner's original vision for Mothers' Union 140 years ago – see page 9 for an article about her. We now have 4 million members in 83 countries and this would not be possible without the support of all our branch members. Filling out a summary of our work a while ago I realised just how much we do and achieve. Through our activities we give practical and prayerful support to so many people in so many different ways no matter how small we think we are.

On May 15th my commission service was held in St. Kieran's church in Cloughjordan and I have to say that I was overwhelmed by the support and encouragement that I received from so many members that day. I would like to thank everyone who attended, or sent cards and all those who assisted in the service in any way. It was a very special day and one that I won't forget.

In 2017 we celebrate 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland and a special programme of events is being planned to commemorate this wonderful achievement. More on this at a later date and hopefully

all our members will be able to attend some, if not all, of the events! On 9th August we celebrate Mary Sumner Day and some of our branches will be holding tea parties to mark the occasion! Our Young Members Weekend will be held on 7-8th October in the Raddison Blu in Sligo when the guest speaker will be Bishop Richard Henderson and the theme "Family Matters". This is a fun filled weekend and a great opportunity to introduce MU to a younger (or indeed, not so young!) generation. if you can think of anyone that might be interested in attending please let me know. I hope that the sun continues to shine for the rest of the summer and that we all come back refreshed in September!

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President

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 somethings 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 or 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.

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.

Diocesan Board of Mission

Mission Evening No 4 was held in Adare on 8th June. Linda Chambers, CEO of Us Ireland, gave two very interesting reports as follows:

AL AHLI HOSPITAL

You will remember that our Mission project for 2015 was the Al Ahli Arab Hospital, in Gaza City. Linda was able to report that our contribution of €3000 went towards the purchase of solar panels. Electricity supply is very unreliable (4 hours /day, often coming on in the middle of the night), running generators is expensive both in fuel and maintenance, whereas with sunshine for 360 days of the year, it makes sense to install solar panels.



Al Ahli Hospital Director Suhaila Tarazi (L) and Assistant Administrator Samira Farah (R) with Linda Chambers

SCHOOL NEWS

Linda also gave us an insight into the current situation. Life for the 1.8 million citizens of Gaza is very controlled and oppressive: travel & trade with 'the outside world' is restricted to one exit through Israel, a lot of children still suffer trauma from 51 days of bombardment during July & August 2014, and unemployment, especially among the youth, stands at well over 50%.

In spite of all the problems, Al Ahli Arab hospital is very highly respected in Gaza City for its standard of nursing and care. Relations among the staff, both Muslim and Christian are excellent and have never been a problem.

LUYENGO FARM

With regards to Luyengo Farm, Linda showed us a video of the container from Ireland being unloaded in Sept 2015. We also saw the carrot washer in action washing beetroot, overalls and 'wellie boots' being tried on and books being distributed to the schools. However, there is a major problem in Southern Africa, a severe drought, which is having a devastating effect on livestock and the planting season especially in remote areas of the country. It is estimated that 1/4 of the population could die within the next 12 months due to starvation.

The reservoir at Luyengo Farm, to which the Diocese contributed, €0,000 in 2014, has been a 'lifesaver' in that the staff is still able to plant 20% of the normal area under cultivation. The schools, in remote parts of the country are also feeling the effects of the drought, in one case the C of I Bishops Appeal is funding the sinking of a borehole. In spite of all the environmental problems, Us Irl is doing 'trojan work' among the schools within the Anglican Diocese of Swaziland, by improving the standard of education and encouraging better co-ordination of curriculum among the head teachers.



The Great Usuthu River is almost dry

LATE NEWS

Us Ireland is reverting to its former title USPG Ireland. The Diocesan Board of Mission has decided to donate €500 towards drought relief in Swaziland.

Wise words from C S Lewis

If God forgives us, we must forgive others. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than him.

Don't bother much about your feelings. When they are humble, loving, brave, give thanks for them; when they are conceited, selfish, cowardly, ask to have them changed.

Humility, after the first shock, is cheerful virtue.

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

Well done to everyone involved in the successful Cookery Demonstration in the Woodlands Hotel at the end of May. This was organized by our Parents' Association and everyone present learned lots of cookery skills plus enjoyed the delight of tasting the dishes at the end of the evening.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

Good news! We have been given the status of a Health Promoting School and look forward to raising our flag in the near future.

VILLIERS SPORTS DAY

Once again this was a fantastic occasion with lots of activities. Many thanks to Mr. Atkinson and the Transition Year students for making us feel so welcome and organizing such an enjoyable and active day.

SCHOOL TOURS

The younger pupils in school had a very enjoyable day in Bunnratty Castle. The senior pupils had great fun in Cork, visiting Fota Wildlife Park, Blackrock Observatory and Cork City Gaol.

ACTIVE MONTH

Pupils have been busy leaning how to play golf this term. Thanks to Bart, our coach, who has made it great fun to learn the skills of playing golf.

Barbara has been coaching soccer this term and these classes finished up at the end of June with teams representing some of the countries taking part in Euro 2016.

The senior pupils took part in their last soccer tournament this term and afterwards went to the Delta Adventure Centre for some more action, a trip organised using the proceeds of their Junior Entrepreneur Project.

Tony, our hurling coach, also finished up at the end of June wishing the pupils a happy and active summer on his last day. We look forward to his return next school year.



Some golf in Adare



A happy gang at Delta Adventure Centre

METHODIST FIELD DAY

The pupils were invited to join the celebrations once again this year and sang 'My Lighthouse' during the service. We were blessed with beautiful weather and after the service everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch before returning to school.

ST NICK'S BUZZ

The final edition of St. Nick's Buzz was circulated at the end of term with some wonderful reports and interviews. Many thanks to leteke Oggel who has organised the school magazine since 2008 when our first edition was published. This is leteke's last year as a parent in school and we are very grateful for her dedication to this project. She has promised to give Mrs. Brickenden a crash course in publication before the end of the year and hopefully the school will continue to produce the magazine in the future.

JUNIOR INFANT PUPILS

Our new Junior Infant class of 2016 spent the morning in school on June 10th to meet one another and become familiar with the school before the new school year. As always, the older pupils made them feel very welcome and there were lots of smiling faces going home at lunch-time.

TALENT SHOW

Once again 6th class pupils organised our annual talent show when pupils entertained teachers and parents with a wide variety of performances.

GOODBYE TO 6TH CLASS

School closed on Wednesday 29th June with a service of thanksgiving in St. Nicholas' Church when we said farewell to our Sixth Class pupils, Marie, Arthur, Millie, Harry, Bianca, Christian, Katie and Bryan and wished them every success as they move on to secondary school.

Thanks to all our pupils, parents, members of the Board of Management, staff and friends who have all supported the school in so many ways during the past school year.

School re-opens for the new school year on 31st August 2016 and we hope all our pupils, parents and staff have a happy Summer break with lots of lovely sunshine!

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

We extend a very warm welcome to Rev. Terry Mitchell who has been appointed as chairperson of our school's Board of Management. We very much look forward to working with Terry, and to his visits to the school. Thank you very much to Canon Ruth Gill for her huge contribution to our school while she was Chairperson of the Board of Management. Ruth leaves with our sincere thanks and very best wishes.

Thank you very much to Ms. Jill Storey, Mr. Neville Atkinson and to all at Villiers School, Limerick for the kind invitation to, and the warm hospitality at, the Inter Primary Schools Sports Day on 15th May, 2016. Our 3rd - 6th class pupils had a wonderful day. Congratulations to St. Nicholas' National School, Adare who won the event.

Thank you very much to our very industrious PTA Committee who worked very hard to prepare for the Family Fun Day at school on Sunday 29th May. It was a wonderful, fun-filled occasion and it was a particular pleasure to see so many people, of all ages, at the event. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the success of the event, whether by helping out beforehand, on the day or afterwards and to so many for your support. Much fun was had by all present, in glorious sunshine. The event raised €1868.00 for the school, for which we are truly grateful.

Thank you very much to Paudie Malone, GAA Games Development Officer and, in particular to Mr. Gilbert Williams, for the skills and

hurling training for Junior Infants to Fourth Class this term. We are very grateful to the GAA for making this wonderful opportunity available to our pupils.

We were delighted to welcome so many, including our new Junior Infants who will be starting school in September, to our annual Sports Day on 10th June. Congratulations to the Red and Blue Teams who came joint 1st, the Green Team who came 2nd, and to the Yellow Team who came 3rd on the day. Thank you very much to everybody who provided such lovely refreshments and to our PTA and others for all the help on the day. Thank you, also, to everybody who generously supported our Ice Cream Funday Appeal in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland at Sports Day and helped us to raise €180.



Teams ready for Sports Day at Cloughjordan No.1 N.S.

We say a fond farewell to our Sixth Class pupils and we wish them all the very best in Secondary School. Our Sixth Class this year move on to secondary school in Borrisokane Community College, Ursuline Convent Thurles and Villiers School, Limerick. We also say a fond farewell to Tom who leaves us to move to St. Columba's College, Dublin where we hope he will be very happy.



Sixth Class pupils at Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. who leave with our best wishes for Secondary School

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

To end off what has been a wonderful exciting and busy school year in Kiltallagh NS, we were delighted to have our Bishop Kenneth Kearon join us for our End of Year Service on Thursday June 16th. Our service was led by Rev. Jim Stephens and Bishop Ken, assisted by our chairperson Andrew Eadie. Children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class read and sang beautifully, with our quartet of musicians- Charlotte, George, Gavin and Frank - enhancing the service with their beautiful music.

To close the End of Year Service, the Senior Room performed a choral piece called 'My Lighthouse', accompanied by Seán Treacy on guitar. This 'Lighthouse' will shine through the darkness, be their peace in troubled waters and will carry them safe to shore as they continue their educational journey in secondary school.

After the service, all the pupils, their families and past pupils, as well

as community members, returned to our school where a delicious BBQ awaited them. The Parents' Association did a wonderful job, catering for everybody with an amazing display of hot and cold foods – not to mention cakes and desserts!

Bishop Kenneth presented the Sixth Class pupils, Clara, Charlotte, Natasha, Avril, Kate, Syanne and Sarah with their farewell medals. The parents then presented the Sixth Class pupils with their very own customised cake- with a picture of their first day in Junior Infants all those years ago depicted on the top. Following a presentation to Bishop Kenneth, Kate Moroney and Bishop Kenneth then raised our Junior Entrepreneur Flag.

Congratulations to our 1st Class pupil, Rachel Boyle who recently came 3rd in the County Finals of the Community Games in the 60 metre sprint-narrowly missing out on a place in the National Finals in Mosney. This is a wonderful achievement-considering there was a field of 150 athletes.

Well done Rachel, we are very proud of you!

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer

From all in Kiltallagh NS.

St John's Parochial School, Tralee

The Junior Room went to Active Kingdom in Tralee for their school tour. We had a fantastic day jumping on bouncy castles, running races and playing lots of fun games

The senior room went to Cappanalea Outdoor Leisure Centre. We enjoyed rock climbing, abseiling and canoeing in the great outdoors. Thanks to Brian and the crew for a wonderful day!

The Junior Class also went to Kerry County Museum on an archaeological dig. Using our tools and equipment, we uncovered artefacts, treasures and even a skeleton!

The Senior Class visited Villiers in Limerick for a sports day. We were very well catered for throughout the day by Neville and the Transition Year students. A great day was had by everyone!

The Senior Class also travelled to Annascaul to climb Brackloon. We had great fun climbing the mountain with members from Tralee Mountaineering Club. Thanks to Daithí and the crew for their time, energy and enthusiasm!

A Graduation service for 6th Class pupils takes place Wednesday 29th June in St. John's Church followed by tea/coffee in Teach an tSolais.

The Family Fun Day will have taken place on Sunday 26th June at Tralee Rugby Club at 2p.m.

The Staff, Pupils, Parents and Board would like to thank Archdeacon Sue Watterson for her interest and contribution to the school and wish her health and happiness on her forthcoming retirement.

We hope everyone enjoys the Summer Holidays starting June 30th 12pm and we look forward to the new school year 1st Sept 2016

David Tough
Chairman
Board of Management

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

Another school year has drawn to a close and it has been a busy one right up until the end. Our school tour to King John's Castle and the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare was a great success. The pupils enjoyed exploring the castle and viewing the various interactive displays. We then travelled the short distance to the Woodlands where a hot lunch was provided followed by some cupcake design and a swim.

On Saturday 11th June pupils and parents took part in a sponsored cycle along the Great Southern Trail from Ardagh to Rathkeale. A great morning was had and the pupils have raised over €1100 for school funds. The funds raised will be used to help pay for buses for swimming lessons and the school tour next school year. A big thank you to everyone who supported us.

Following the success and wonderful day in Villiers at the inter primary school sports day in May we had our own school sports day on Friday 17th June. The focus of our day was on co-operative games rather than the traditional sports day races. Thank you to all the parents who helped with the barbecue lunch.

We wish our Sixth Class pupils well as they leave us at the end of term for secondary in the autumn. School will close on Friday 24th June and will reopen on Thursday 1st September.

St Johns National School Shannon

Major Congratulations are due to the children, parents and staff of St.John's N.S. on our being awarded the FIRST Health Promoting School Flag, in Clare . This time last year we got our first Green Flag and in November 2015 we got our Second Active School Flag. The H.P.S flag brings the total to three in one year.They are all based on well scrutinised Action Planning and involved a lot of work on everyone's part and are very beneficial to the children in the level of skills developed.

Our other good news is that our results in our national reading and Maths tests were excellent, proving that the one teacher school can be very successful.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome three Syrian refugee children to our school . Sidra al Kurdi and the Mustafa Family join us next week, who together with other new entrants Jason, Eli and Chamil brings our numbers well over the magic 15.

Best wishes to everyone for the Summer.

Villiers School

TY DRAMA

The Belltable hosted our Transition Year students on both Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May as they preformed 'The Beggar's Opera', written in 1728 by John Gay. The play was adapted by Villiers past pupil Maeve Stone and her colleague Darren Maher.

The play was about a criminal biker named Macheath who has married two women Polly and Lucy. When Polly's Father Peachum, the town's corrupt lawyer, finds out about his daughter's marriage to the town's most notorious criminal, Macheath, he is not best pleased and sets out to have Macheath sentenced to death by the electric chair.

With courtesans, rednecks, tattooed prisoners and drunken prison wardens this play was a thriller with action until the very end and was thoroughly enjoyed by two sell out crowds.

FAREWELL TO FORM 6

It is that time of year again when it is time to say goodbye to the 6th year students, the majority of whom have spent their last 6 years learning, growing and maturing inside the walls of Villiers. From their first year in Villiers being the smallest of the lot, huge bags, bright blue eye shadow and not forgetting a good hockey disco or two!

Time was spent budding new friendships and finding their footing in their huge new surroundings. From first to sixth, and many years



between, hockey and rugby games were won (and lost), debates were debated, dramas performed, competitions competed in, trips taken, countries visited, tests worried about, fashion shows modelled and much, much more.

This friendly, outgoing yet hard working bunch have had the world at their fingertips in Villiers, with new experiences had by all each and every day. The class of 2016 have surely and truly made their time in Villiers a happy and unforgettable 6 years for not just themselves, but for the wider Villiers family, with memories and friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. We wish them well in their leaving certificate examinations and beyond.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

Congratulations to all participants from ten primary schools from counties Galway, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly and Kerry who participated in our sports day on Tuesday 24th May. All visiting students were given the opportunity to play basketball, tag rugby, soccer, orienteering and fun games. Well done to Adare who ended up the eventual victors.

Former Villiers Student, Robert Mortell reaches top of Mount Everest
Robert, LC class of 2009, became the youngest Irish person ever to reach the top of Mount Everest.

He told NewsTalk that the view from top of the world was "pretty incredible", describing it as follows: "We could see Nepal and Tibet. It is quite special. But what's special about Everest is that it dwarfs everything around it. There's nothing close to it.

Robert's team were two days off their targeted summit date but that is all part of the Everest experience where climbers are at the mercy of the weather, which can often be perilous. Even while Robert was climbing he said they were unaware of other incidents on the mountain while they were preparing. These included the deaths of an Indian climber, a Dutchman and an Australian woman. Robert was very philosophical about this saying that "On the north side where I was, we were unaware of major issues with other teams. All the teams help each other. We have a doctor on our team. You focus on your own climb and watch out for people around you."

Robert's success has been four years in the making and he credits the support he received from his family, friends, girlfriend, colleagues and sponsors. He trained for four years before taking on Mount Everest. In 2013 he scaled the Matterhorn in Switzerland and in 2014 he climbed the Denali, the highest mountain peak in North America.

We at Villiers are very proud of Robert and are not surprised that he has achieved this amazing feat. Congratulations.

News from the Villiers Sanctuary

As I write this, the exams are all but finished here in Villiers and another year draws ever closer to an end. Congratulations to one and all for reaching this milestone in your life's journey. Lots of prayers have been said and lots of candles have been lit over the past few weeks here in the Sanctuary. As ever it is a humbling experience to be able to offer a quiet spiritual space to anyone who seeks out time to just simply 'be' amidst the stress and tension filled exam centres. It shows the importance of the place and space that is the Sanctuary here in Villiers and of course that led me to question where else in our lives do we have a place and space for God. We live in a world that is filled with both comforts and distractions. If we are bored, we can get lost on social media sites. If we're hungry, we can buy a convenient snack. If we're tired, we can always find a convenient place to grab a coffee. While all of these luxuries can be great gifts, they can also leave little space for God to meet us. When it comes to exams and that striving for future career and success so that we can make lots of money, where is the space and place for God? We

live with a constant, nagging fear that we don't have enough money or material wealth. Our culture says the answer is to get more... save more... make more. But here in the Sanctuary you can find a space and place that offers a meeting with God who in turn offers a very different solution. There is nothing wrong with having a wonderful career or indeed creating wealth for ourselves. However, if there is no space or place for God within that then our interaction with our neighbours can become one that is somewhat devoid of relationship. We have all had early life experiences that continue to shape our behaviour, beliefs and expectations of life and relationships. For many of us, our time in school is the source of such experiences. Villiers recognises that a vital part of our school community is that of hospitality and relationship and not just a place where students attend and get taught. The sanctuary offers a space and place to reflect and to interact with each other and with God. I am blessed to be a part of it.

My prayer for each and every one of you is that you will make the time to create a space where you can have a place to enter into a relationship with God.

Good luck and every blessing to all our outgoing 6th form in their future journey. May they always have a space and place for God.

Blessings and peace,
Chaplain Jackie McNair



The Rector's new interest in angling proved to be a real asset when it came to getting more people into church

The Future of Reader Ministry

Extract from an address by Rt Rev Robert Paterson, Chair of the Church of England Readers' Council.

It was probably the two World Wars that changed the initial direction of Reader ministry from being a means to extend the effectiveness of the traditional parochial system into new pioneering work on the boundaries between church and world, into something more churchy. During and following those wars large numbers of clergy became chaplains to the forces and many lost their lives. Readers naturally stepped into their places, at least as far as non-sacramental ministry was concerned. The arrival of the blue scarf a couple of generations ago completed the outfit, with the result that very few Readers have not been thanked for a 'Nice service, Reverend'!

The time has come to retreat from being 'clones of the clergy', and to rejoice in a confident and in no-way second rate lay ministry, but one which will not be the same.

Lay ministry in the future will be much more diverse. Yes, we'll still need well-trained, articulate lay theologians, but we'll also need people equipped, authorised and accountable in evangelistic, pastoral, formational and liturgical ministry whose focus will be on the Kingdom of God. They'll include evangelists, chaplains, teachers of the faith, lay congregation leaders, pastoral assistants, youth and children's workers, community workers, worship leaders and people like Readers who can bring God into the conversation. I have no doubt that some of the trappings will need to be shed en route.

Let us see what some others have pointed to about this gospel ministry. Bringing God into the conversation is about introducing people to the Lord Jesus Christ, just as you would introduce two people to one another because they are your friends. That means you have to know Jesus and you have to know lots of people who are not

yet Christians. Our friends won't respond well to being introduced to Christ unless they see in my life and yours that knowing Jesus has made us more spiritually beautiful, that it is changing us from glory into glory. Every Christian disciple is called to 'make Christ visible'.

Miscellaneous observations

If you can't shine, at least twinkle! - Alistair Begg

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere. - Anon

People who cannot bear to be alone are the worst company. - A Guinon

You are only what you are when no one is looking. - R C Edwards

You must not always expect the wind to be at your back all the way to heaven. - William Tiptaft

Age: the only thing that comes to us without effort. - Anon

If you will be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young. - John Lyly

St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Birr

Birr Flower Festival

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&

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Diocesan Confirmation Weekend 2016

Report by Ciara Fitzell (leader)

The Diocesan confirmation weekend was held this year from Friday 3rd to Monday 6th of June at Muckcross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co Kerry. I think it's safe to say that while the group was small in numbers, a great weekend was had by all!



Diocesan Confirmation Group

Canon Jane Galbraith led our worship sessions and workshops where we looked at the challenges of standing out amongst our peers and being the Christian in peer groups, even when we aren't sure where God is leading us. This was demonstrated through a series of fun games including blindfolded obstacle course and feeding chocolate pudding to one another with a spoon attached to a long wooden stick.

The weekend was jam-packed with great activities both on and off site. On Saturday everyone enjoyed a trip to Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre where we spent the day in the sun kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. Sunday we attended Church in Killarney, visited Torc Waterfall and went swimming at the famous Aquadome. Monday, we challenged our fears of heights at Killarney's Play at Heights. These activities had something in it for everyone and we were all challenged too, which fitted in perfectly with Canon Jane's sessions. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and look forward to seeing each other again at future events over the summer.

Editor: We in Newslink wish these young people and all who have been confirmed in 2016 every blessing in their Christian journey.



Stand Up Paddle Boarding



Kayaking at Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre



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The Girls Friendly Society Camp 2016

Diocesan Camp took place at the Faith Mission Centre, Durrow on 10 – 12 June 2016. Report by Sandra Hayes, CloughJordan Branch.

FRIDAY

Our highlight of the evening was Zumba dancing: fantastic fun, fabulous music, most enjoyable. Even the leaders joined in! What a wonderful way to start our camp!

SATURDAY

Each girl decorated a backpack with fabric markers: the backpacks were very useful for our shopping trip to Kilkenny. Penneys was a great hit! For lunch we enjoyed a picnic in the grounds of Kilkenny Castle. Our next stop was The Kilkenny Activity Centre where splat -

ball was on first. We played in teams. Next up was the assault

course where we ended by going down the slide to a muddy pool at the bottom. It was dusty, dirty and mucky but terrific fun! Back in Durrow we decorated tiles to use as coasters and tried out String Art. The day ended with a feast in our rooms.

SUNDAY

We went to a service of Morning Prayer in Durrow. Back to the centre for packing, cleaning, dinner and prize giving. We set off for home. Huge thanks go to everybody who made this camp such a wonderful experience and to those ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen to prepare delicious meals for us. Camp was simply fantastic fun, friendly and fabulous!



'More tea, Rector?' A Personal View of Diocesan Synod 2016

by Patrick Rowley-Brooke, Nenagh Union of Parishes

This year saw a complete change away from the homely atmosphere of last year's Synod in Aghancon Village Hall to the plush surroundings of the Malton Hotel in Killarney.

After a spiritual opening led by Archdeacon Sue Watterson (whom we shall greatly miss on her imminent retirement), the rest of the preliminaries followed the usual choreography as the top table took their places, followed by the Roll of Members and the Statutes being carefully placed on the table; appointments of the Assessor and Returning Officer (Alec Hoffman and Margaret Groves respectively).

The Bishop of Killarney (Ray Brown) welcomed us to the town with wise words about 'the heart of faith'; he described how he and many members of the town were going on a walk on the following day to celebrate the life and work of Sister Consilio, who turns 80 this year, and is celebrating the 50th anniversary of her founding Cuan Mhuire (Harbour of Mary) that has treated and tried to rehabilitate over 75,000 addicts – the 'heart' being to 'love one another'!

This was the first synod without Trevor Morrow, and Bishop Kenneth, in his address, paid tribute to the outstanding contribution Trevor made not only to the Diocese but also to the wider Church of Ireland community.

Then the business of the day proceeded – literally in earnest. Hey ho, I thought, here we go again... "we need change to stop the rot"... 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose'! As various members spoke from their elevated position I felt, as in past years, there was a distinct but not overt attitude from the lay members that the problem belonged to the clergy; on the other hand, more blatantly, the clergy placed the need for change on the laity: 'select vestries must take on more of the administration' and so on.

We've been there many times before and still we see the 'slow puncture' that Reverend Dr Keith Scott so eloquently described some Synods ago (Peter Schutz said there were 250 fewer sustentations). This Synod did not seem to me to be heading towards any better solution than those past. Yes, there were words about being more open in the community and doing more for the children; though how you make a teenager who's had the rite of passage of confirmation and its associated party remain with the Church is not obvious, especially when it usually coincides with the transition to post-primary education. Did the Synod have nothing new to offer?

Suddenly, a ray of light shone from Dean Gary Paulsen as he proposed the acceptance of the Report of the Diocesan Council: he stated that the vast majority of the clergy's time is taken up with administration, most of which rests in trying to keep our increasingly aged and often defunct properties from disintegrating entirely. So how can the clergy find the time for 'more tea Rector?' or the all-important personal visits that are so essential to parish life? His solution was simple: "there is need for a professional diocesan property manager." What! So simple but so obvious – I know from personal experience that the buildings and associated administration in the Nenagh Union occupied a disproportionate amount of my wife's time as a Rector, leaving little left for visiting where traditional church-goers could articulate their ideas and concerns away from the public glare.



The art of tea drinking is so important...

Gary's proposal was greeted with some mixed reactions but Canon Ruth Gill, a rural dean who is responsible for overseeing many properties, endorsed his views. In this modern and often litigious world, how many clergy have received adequate training in building management? It's not part of the curriculum of theological colleges and I would be surprised if it were.

Bishop Kenneth has instituted a review of the Diocese, and Archdeacon Gordon Linney, backed by Canon Cecil Hyland, put forward their methodology: summarised as observe; listen; encourage. I hope they observed and listened to Gary: if they did it will certainly lead to the encouragement of the clergy so that they can spend more time taking tea.



Dean Gary Paulsen addresses Synod



Members of Synod saluting our United Dioceses

St Brendan's Church, Birr - Celebrating 200 years

St Brendan's Church in Birr is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its consecration this year. St Brendan, called 'the Elder' to distinguish him from Clonfert's St Brendan the Navigator, established his monastery in the Birr area around 548 AD. History and legend assess Brendan as an abbot, a bishop, a teacher, a scribe, a holy man and a prophet, and he was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland. We know little about St Brendan's Monastery, but it continued in operation for many centuries.



The West façade of St Brendan's Church is a focal point of the Oxmantown Mall vista, opposite the grand entrance to Birr Castle

The 14th or 15th Century pre-Reformation church in Birr was also dedicated to St Brendan. During the early Reformation period the church went into decline until 1615, when it was repaired and enlarged. Although the church had been enlarged again, sometime in the latter half of the 18th century, by 1806 it was the opinion of the Vestry as the minutes recall that 'the present church ought to be enlarged or a new church built'. The present St Brendan's Church, at the eastern end of Oxmantown Mall, was designed by the architect John Johnson and consecrated in 1816, the site being donated by the Second Earl of Rosse (as was the site for St Brendan's Roman Catholic Church around the same time).

In 1876 the Chancel was added, by architect Sir Thomas Drew, and sometime later the ornate reredos panel behind the altar. Some of the parishioners objected to the design of this, feeling it was too 'Catholic'. After much disagreement, the matter was referred to the Bishop for judgment. He attempted to negotiate a compromise, which pleased some, but not all, of the parishioners. One Sunday morning, the churchwardens opened the church to discover that the reredos had been vandalised, covered in tar and straw. The sexton was the only one with a key, so he was questioned by the Select Vestry. He was asked, "Did you do this?" He answered, "No." He was asked, "Do you know who did this?" He answered, "No." He was asked, "Would you tell us if you did know?" He answered, "No." He was given the sack, and evicted from the sexton's house. In 2008, that sexton's great-grandson visited Birr Church in the person of Bishop Trevor Williams!



The once-contentious reredos panel behind the altar - the mosaics of the four evangelists were added in 1924

The British Army barracks in Crinkle, on the outskirts of Birr, was much involved in the life of the parish in Birr. Though having its own chapel where baptisms and funerals were conducted, soldiers had to come to St Brendan's for Sunday worship, and to be married, and parish records indicate a number of such weddings between soldiers and local girls every month from the late 18th century on until 1922, when the British Army left and the barracks were burnt. There are still memorials in the church connected with the Leinster Regiment, who were the main occupants in Crinkle, and there are even some of the soldiers' prayer books and bibles which were left behind when they departed.



The extensive galleries provided ample space for the Crinkle garrison

With the departure of the British Army, and the dislocation of so many Church of Ireland residents during and after the War of Independence and the Civil War, the congregation suffered a gradual decline. However, the faithful remnant continued in the worship of Almighty God, and the maintenance of the beautiful building which is their inheritance. They now face into the parish's third century, looking at the new challenges and opportunities presented to the People of God in our modern age.



The large square font dates from around 1879

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Prayer Vigil for Orlando in St Mary's Cathedral

49 lives were tragically cut short on Sunday 12th June last when a gunman entered the gay club 'Pulse' in Orlando, Florida, and opened fire. Many others were injured. The victims were deliberately targeted because they were part of the LGBTQ community.

Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke, currently Priest in Charge of Limerick City Parish, prepared a Prayer Vigil which was held on Wednesday 15th June in the Cathedral. A Rainbow flag on the altar was covered with 49 candles which were lit during the Vigil with the names and ages of the victims read out. Prayers, short readings from Scripture, and silence were the main ingredients of the vigil, with two moving pieces of music for organ by Bach and Brahms played by Cathedral Organist, Peter Barley.

It was important that the Anglican Communion in Limerick was seen to add its voice to the worldwide outpouring of shock at the killings, and tributes to the beloved children of God who were killed, tributes that were sadly lacking in the responses from many mainstream Christian denominations.

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, neither priest nor lay person... In Christ there is neither black nor white, neither rich nor poor, neither abled nor

disabled... In Christ there is neither male nor female, neither lesbian nor gay, neither transgender nor straight nor queer... In Christ there is no 'us' and 'them' – there is only 'us'.



Clonmacnoise Outdoor Service 31 July at 4pm

Editor: Many folk in our united dioceses will remember from childhood as I do family trips for all ages from 8 months to 80 years to the annual outdoor service at Clonmacnoise, usually combined with a picnic. What fun we all had! So this year why not put the date in the diary and say in the words of the hymn:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river –
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

Clonmacnoise is an ancient monastic site near Shannonbridge, County Offaly. Founded by St Ciaran in the mid-6th century, it became a great centre of religion and learning, visited by scholars from all over the world. Many historical manuscripts, including the 11th century Annals of Tighernach and the 12th century Book of the Dun Cow, were written here.



The beautiful River Shannon at Clonmacnoise

Temple Connor Church dates from the 12th century and is still in regular use according to the rites of the Church of Ireland. It is part of the Athlone Union of Parishes. One of the highlights each year is the outdoor service held in July. This year it will take place on Sunday 31 July at 4pm and the preacher will be the Revd Canon Trevor Sullivan.

Generations of Church of Ireland people have gathered at this particular service beside the Shannon. It is even said that the hymn, "Shall we gather at the river" remained in the 1960 edition of the hymn book and still remains in the Church Hymnal today because of those who gathered at this ancient site each year.

It has not only been a pilgrimage for people from Meath and Kildare but also Limerick and Killaloe. All are welcome to come along and witness to our ancient faith on this ancient sacred ground.



C12th Temple Connor Church is still in regular use

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Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

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

The cathedral in Killaloe was used again this year for the Killaloe Music Festival from 10-12 June and we look forward now to this event again next year.

CLONLARA CHURCH GROUNDS were a hive of activity with 'Operation Clean-up.' Stephen Holmes (church warden at Castleconnell) has formed a committee to oversee this church and how we can get it being used more often. The community gathered with strimmers and chain saws, paint brushes and about 25 of the local community gave up their morning to give us hand. We even had our councillor Michael Begley who is Cathaoirleach of Killaloe Municipal District showing us how to use a chain saw to great effect and spent the entire time at it. We have two Anglicans who have moved to the area and so we will see how this works out. Yet the encouragement is from the community who do not want see this become another church ruin and such community spirit is greatly encouraging when you could really do without another church building. A big thank you to all who helped, printed posters, and worked so hard when there was nothing in it for them but an act of random kindness.



'Operation Clean up' at Clonlara Church

CASTLECONNELL CHURCH had a confirmation service on 19 June and our three candidates Daibhi, Eddie and Adam were confirmed by +Kenneth. The community in Castleconnell were extremely grateful that the bishop came and added in this service into his schedule. Some cake and tea was had after the service before the families dispersed for their own celebrations.



Confirmation candidates with Bishop Kenneth & Dean Gary Paulsen

TUAMGRANEY CHURCH

A joint service was held at Tuamgraney Church on 22 June and we welcomed Fr Donagh and his community joining us again in the service. Once again the community support and encouragement to keep this church open is heart-warming. The church will be opened this summer or visitors. The details being worked out depend on local volunteers. This is the oldest church on the island that has been opened for continuous worship and therefore great interest in the building. We are hoping to develop this as a space for quiet days for the greater diocese. There is the wood opposite the church that has been planted a with indigenous trees and oaks and is a great space to go and walk. There is great possibility of utilizing this and giving people a different space to connect with God away from a formal liturgy.

EVENTS

The O'Brien Summer School takes place in the Cathedral on 2 and 3rd July the theme being 'The Era of King Brian Boru', this is an initiative to make Irish history accessible to all from experts in their field..

The Chamber Philharmonia Cologne will have a concert on Tuesday 9th August 2016 at 8 pm in St. Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe.

The Carice Singers will be singing at our Sunday morning Eucharist on 14 August. They will sing Christopher Tye's Missa Euge Bone and the anthem, Frederick Delius's Ave Maria during the service and give a short recital directly after the service, for which we would not charge a entry fee. Please do come along and hear this wonderful choir. Service starts at 11.30 (see article on page 6)

CONGRATULATIONS to Craig Cullen and Nicola Boucher who got engaged on 26th May - We wish them well and a happy future together.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234
Email: mapleire@gmail.com
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Claudia Meium, coordinator of Birr Churches Together, with the Archdeacon met with the committee in charge of Birr St Vincent de Paul to look at possible ways BCT could help our Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Church of Ireland congregations work together for the benefit of the community. Further meetings are planned.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, 5th June, little Anna Lynch was baptized in Birr Church by Canon Ruth Gill. Anna is the daughter of Valerie and Darragh Lynch, and granddaughter of Hilda and Raymond Colbourne. Her Godparents are David Colbourne and Brenda Lynch.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

On Friday, 29th July until bank Holiday Monday, 1st August, our Flower Festival will take place in Birr Church. Many thanks to Richard Haslam and Ethel Mitchell for coordinating this event. All are welcome. See advert on page 16

BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

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

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

Saturday, 1st October – UDYC '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 with the Guinness Choir

DIOCESAN REVIEW

On the weekend of August 26th – 28th, Canon Cecil Hyland will be visiting with us in the Birr Group of Parishes. Cecil, retired rector of Howth in Dublin, along with former Dublin Archdeacon Gordon Linney, have been asked by Bishop Kenneth to conduct a review of our Diocese with a view to finding ways we can operate more faithfully and efficiently to build up the Body of Christ in this area. Between the two of them, they are visiting many of our groups of parishes in the Diocese. Cecil will be visiting some of the parishioners and institutions on the Friday and Saturday, and preaching at some of the services on Sunday, 28th August.

LOCKEEN TEA PARTY

On Sunday, 28th August, there will be a fund-raising Tea Party at the home of Hazel Perdue in Lockeen in aid of repairs to the windows and tower in Lockeen Church. More details will be provided closer to the date; all are welcome.

FETE

At this writing, the Parish Summer Fete is about to take place at Oxmantown School. We are delighted that so many parishioners have rallied around to take part in all the activities for young and old.



Valerie and Darragh Lynch with their daughter Eva Anna, after baptism in Birr on the 5th June.

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

Deepest condolences are offered to Arthur Moynan on the death of his brother Robert.

Henry William Bridge late of Racket Hall: Mrs. Josephine Bridge and her family laid to rest the ashes of Henry Bridge, in Dungar Cemetary on Friday May 27th. Henry (Bill) emigrated to Canada many years ago in the 1950's and died two years ago. Bill's ashes brought home to the place he loved, for burial; Roscrea.

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Stanley and Nick Dawson who were married in the presence of family and friends on Saturday May 28th. Revd. Leonard Ruddock officiated, assisted by Revd. Jane. Revd. Leonard being the bride's God-father reminded her that many years ago almost to the day Linda was baptized in St.Cronan's Church. May God continue to bless Linda and Nick for their married lives together.

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 prayers 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'. Wed.June 8th. was the day for two performances by the whole school of 'Matilda the Musical'. Superb! Amazing talent! Put a lump in your throat feeling! Were some of the comments following this outstanding production. Perhaps expected by second level students...but these were National School level children. Congratulations all round to students and staff and Parent's Association for a great night's entertainment. End of Year Service took place in St.Cronan's Church on Friday June 17th. led by the school. The four sixth class students graduated and will attend three different secondary schools.

JAMES KILBANE COUNTRY GOSPEL CONCERT took place on Sunday May 29th. ...if the Lord has all the best music...James Kilbane and his two accompanying musicians certainly know how to play and sing it. Toes were tapping, shoulders jiggling and many hands clapping to this story-telling troubadour and his band. James delivered a packed programme to an appreciative audience of over 250 people. It was a pleasure to have Revd. Lesley Robinson present also.

SPECIAL VISITOR We look forward to welcoming former Archdeacon of Dublin Revd. Gordon Linney to our group of parishes over the first weekend in July, as part of Bishop Kenneth's survey of the dioceses. Revd. Linney and Revd. Cecil Hyland are stepping into the shoes of parishioners all over the dioceses, to get the feel of 'life in our place, for our times'.

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

To commemorate this year of centenaries during National Heritage Week August 25th. to 28th. St .Cronan's Church hope to host an exhibition of memorabilia and floral arrangements depicting the human side of The Great War and the 1916 Rising. One hundred years on it is good to see both sides of this complex era in our history being commemorated under the same roof. Adrian Hewson is planner and coordinator of the event. 511 words

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

BAPTISM

We welcomed Emily Danielle, her parents Sheila Cahill and Alan Fogarty, God parents Shane Fogarty and Marie Hogan and their many friends and family, on the occasion of Emily's baptism on the 19th June. Little Emily was wide awake during the whole service taking it all in!

THE RECTORY

Whilst we didn't have Monty Don or Diarmuid Gavin helping out in the Rectory Garden the place is beginning to look much smarter now thanks to all the hard work done by Eddie, Yvonne, Franny, Jean, Caleb, Debbie, Joc, Sylvia and Andrew. Cindy, with some help from Olive and Mary, provided delicious refreshments (which some members of the choir also enjoyed). Peter kindly loaned his tractor and dealt with the vast amount of stuff that required a new home – and Melvin! There is still more work to be done, so when you hear the call, please do come along, as many hands definitely make light work!

Hopefully the repair works to the gate piers will be completed soon and the gate to the Rectory open and welcoming!



Loading the trailer

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Some of the willing 'gardeners'!

JOC REFLECTS ON SUMMER

How blessed we are with our Irish summers! We may not have sun the whole day, every day, as they do in some countries, but the clouds make for beautiful skies and sunsets, and without the rain our land would not be so green. Looking at my own wildflower meadow I understand why farmers say we grow the best grass in the world: I need a flock of sheep, or a forage harvester, to put manners on it – it has gone to hay already as I have been too busy to mow it. The field of barley outside my window is colouring up already, and the whole countryside is scented with Elder and Honeysuckle. In the balmy airs our seas and lakes make playgrounds of themselves. Dromineer (Nenagh-on-Sea) is jammers at the weekends. And then there's the Burren, Connemara, Kerry and countless other places filled with magic to visit and feed our souls awhile. Who needs to fly away on holiday, when our own country has so much to offer? Whether we holiday abroad or stay at home, let us give thanks to God for all his bounteous gifts!

TILL THE AUTUMN...

Wishing everyone happy holidays, safe travelling, enjoyable ... gardening, sailing, riding, golfing, walking, bbq-ing and a fun filled summer!

JOYFUL BREAKING NEWS

Nenagh Union is to have a new Rector after an 18 month vacancy – Rev Roderick Smyth. See page 4.

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: terry438@gmail.com

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Sandra Williams and her family on the occasion of Noah's baptism on the 28th May. On the 29th of May we shared in the baptism of Chloe Cavanagh, daughter of John and Diane. We welcome both Noah and Chloe into God's family the Church and pray that they will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Borrisokane Sunday School recently celebrated their Award Service on the 5th of June. It was an opportunity, not only to acknowledge the children and their role in the Church, but also to thank the teachers for helping the children to learn more about Jesus and his love for them. We wish them all a restful holiday with their families.

CONDOLENCES

As the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to Bobby McLean and his family on the loss of his sister Patricia Williams. Her funeral was held on the 22nd May at Christ Church, Portumna.

We also extend our condolences to Dick Culpert whose sister May Ho rsmann passed away on the 18th May. Her funeral was also held at Christ Church, Portumna on the 21st May.

CLOUGHJORDAN FETE

St Kieran's Cloughjordan held their annual fete on the afternoon of the 19th June. It was well attended and included a variety of different stalls and activities. It provided the opportunity to not only raise funds for the parish, but also to work together and to share our different gifts and talents.



Cakes for Sale at Cloughjordan Fete



Guess the number of sods!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a success and also thank you to the support of the wider Cloughjordan community.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Parish of Borrisnafarney will hold their fete at Moneygall on the 16th July at 5:00pm. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon and evening.

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) Seminar was held in Cloughjordan Parish Hall from 10.30a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 28th June. The target audience for the seminars was Clergy and key people from the parishes.

KAREN GILLESPIE (granddaughter of Fred and Muriel Williams) is hosting a Community Walk in Aid of Methodist World Development and Relief Partners in South Africa. The Community Walk will begin at the Methodist Church Hall in Cloughjordan on Sunday July 10th at 2pm with light refreshments afterwards. There are two routes available 2km or 6km - catering for all ages and abilities. It promises to be a fun day out for all the family. Karen is travelling to South Africa in August to work with a number of organisations, one of which offers both respite and palliative care, community empowerment and job creation for all those, young and old, impacted by HIV/AIDS. All donations are welcome.

PARISH READERS

Lastly thank you to all the Parish Readers who faithfully lead services of worship each week. The work they do is appreciated as we acknowledge the vital role of each one, as they share their ministry in the Church. Their contribution allows a number of different Parishes to offer weekly services and keep the doors of the Church open.

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

Newslink may just be distributed in time for you to get to Aghancon Fete on Sunday 3rd July at 2pm. for a great afternoon of meeting with friends, and having a really good time together.

Dunkerrin are holding theirs on the following Sunday the 10th July. Dog Show included! This also begins at 2pm, but registration of dogs will begin at 1pm. Thank you to Dunkerrin Community for allowing us to use their Community Centre. This promises to be a great day too. and remember 'Dogs are Welcome in the Hall' So dog owners can visit all the stalls and enjoy a cup of tea!

Shinrone's very successful Fete and Dog Show is now over! It was a really great day, not least because God supplied beautiful sunshine! Thank you Lord.

Financially the result was astonishing. €8345 with €500 being given to Birr Community Care Unit, leaving the parish with €7845 Thank you so much to so many people who put so much work into the event, before, during and after. Especially those people who I call 'Friends of the Parish' your support and generosity mean so much to us, and they encourage us to think outside our boxes and do better ourselves. May God bless you all.

The raffle, was again very successful, bringing in over €3000. All prizes were donated, and the first prize of lunch for 6 in The Thatch Restaurant, Crinkle, was won by Aiden O'Sullivan, Roscrea. Jack Denis from Dunkerrin won the 2nd prize of €100, and the 3rd and 4th prizes of €50 each were won by Valerie Wakefield and the Reverend Cecil Bryan. Congratulations to you all.

June Dunne and Billy Jackson both had the correct weight of the cake and took home half each! Ben Talbot correctly guessed the number of sweets in the jar. Well done!

There were 82 dogs at the show a brilliant turnout. The Champion came from Nenagh and the Reserve from Co. Mayo! Others came from Sligo and all places in between! A brilliant day with prizes generously sponsored by many local businesses. Special thanks to Joe Bergin, John Brown and Lorraine Malone. We could not hold the dog show without you.



First and Second Prize winning dogs at Shinrone Dog Show

AGHANCON'S TABLE QUIZ was a most enjoyable evening. the winner of the Pace Name quiz was drawn and Violet Shaw was the lucky winner! The total raised was €1300. Well done to all. The rectory family stayed together, and between Canon Michael, Evelyn, Fiacra and Eanna, they proved to be the brains of the parish!!! winning the Quiz. Thank you to all the organisers and tea servers/makers.

Pam Reid celebrated her 90th birthday with a surprise visit from members of the Mothers' Union who brought a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Congratulations to you Pam, may God continue to bless you.

THE MOTHERS UNION also had an outing, at which they were joined by the Roscrea Group. They visited Angela Jupe's Bellefield garden in Shinrone. Angela is a font of information about all things horticultural. The new water feature is beautiful and I understand, what in the dim and distant past was the stallion house! is now a greenhouse! The weather was great and people were fascinated by everything but particularly her collection of older type shrubs and roses. Thank you Angela.

KINNITTY IS NOW FLOODLIT! Thanks largely to the work of parishioners Norman Grant and Ivan and Alan Sheppard. There are now 4 floodlights which illuminate the church and an extra one to illuminate the unique pyramid vault that is in the grounds. This vault was built by one of the Barnard family, former owners of Kinnitty Castle, as a family vault, after he returned from 'the grand tour'. The new light illuminates 3 of the 4 sides of the pyramid so it can be seen from 3 roads. The church is made of sandstone, so could not be power washed, but Norman Grant, sprayed it gently with a chemical, then gave it a light washing and the church has been restored to its former glory! Next step to preserve the beautiful stained glass windows. Once permission has been granted, a secondary glazing will be put in place. I'm told all this work happened in under 3 days! and no sign of any upheaval. Well done to you all.

SHINRONE was privileged to be one of the parishes visited by Archdeacon Gordon Linney. Hopefully he found us as interesting as we found him!

The story he told of how Archbishop Desmond Tutu came to realise that Christian people have 'something' brought home forcefully how so often our actions have effects we may never be aware of ourselves. The teenage Desmond was daring his friends to knock off, with a stone, the wide-brimmed hat being worn by the new white clergyman, dressed completely in white, as he came down their township road. Everything changed when his mother came to the door of their house and the clergyman took his hat off to her. No white man ever took their hat off to a black woman. What was different? Christ? Did that pastor ever know how he had helped to make 'Desmond Tutu'? South Africa and the world would be a poorer place if that spontaneous gesture of common politeness had not been seen by that teenager.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

THE KILMURRAY MACMAHON BELL

Most Church of Ireland parishioners heading West past Ennis to take the ferry to Kerry, and following the signpost off the Kilrush Road will pass through the hamlet of Kilmurray MacMahon. Does it ring a bell? Unlikely, unless your roots speak through an ancestor or you are an avid local church historian (like our very own Adrian Hewson from Roscrea). No evidence exists today of the parish church built in 1810 and demolished in 1960.

However it "rings a bell" from out of the youth of Br. Sean Mac Mahon, a retired Christian Brother living in Ennis and a native of Kilmurray MacMahon. He remembers as a boy the church bell as it summoned the then existent congregation with names such as Ardell, Brew, Cleary, Cox, Knight, Parker, Studdert, Peacock, Hadlock, Lloyd and Gore. Br. Sean in retirement is a prolific writer on local history himself, including the life and affairs of GAA Founder, Michael Cusack, a native of the Burren. And he is a great friend of the present Rector and the Church of Ireland community today.



Br. Sean McNamara—tracing the sound of an ancient bell.

He has been sharing his excitement at hearing the sound of that same church bell again far away on the North Antrim Coast where it resides in Dunseverick Church, part of the Ballintoy Group which includes Rathlin Island. Recently on a holiday stay with a friend in the area, Br. Sean was warmly entertained by the Rector Rev Patrick Barton, attended worship and got to ring the ancient bell transferred from Clare and installed in 1961 under the supervision of then Rector of Dunseverick, Chancellor George Templeton.

Chancellor Templeton, records reveal, travelled down to West Clare with a parishioner John McKay to pick up the bell, a valued replacement for their own which had developed a crack. Today Br. Sean testifies to its resonant and deep tone heard over the fields between Ballycastle and Portrush.

The creative sharing between a dying church community and a living Ulster one in the Diocese of Dalriada (Connor) was most likely facilitated by the relationship between the Ardill family of Kilmurray MacMahon and friends in Dunseverick.

Sean as a boy lived next to Kilmurray Church and often chatted to then caretaker Jim Cleary as he prepared for the 10am service. He also recalls fondly the likes of the Ardill sisters joining in local house dances, even if at another remove official ecumenical sharing as we know it today, was yet to be.

MARGUERITE GROVES passed away peacefully, if unexpectedly, in Carrigoran House Retirement Home, Newmarket-on-Fergus on June 7th. Cardiff reared she entered the home a couple of years back alongside husband Mervyn who pre-deceased her. They had been living in a cottage several miles from Corofin, near to her brother and sister-in-law Len and Audrey Elliot, both deceased. Prior to this she and Mervyn had spent some time in the Gulf States where Mervyn was an architect.

Among the congregation at the funeral service in Carrigoran chapel were friends from Corofin village and area where they made a significant contribution to community life, quiet and otherwise retiring as they were. Marguerite had a deep love of her dogs and missed them in the nursing home.

Her step daughter Alison Thornton from Cornwall and nephew David Elliot both gave tributes as did Sr Ignatia who attended her in her final moments. Canon Bob conducted with the assistance of Fr Ger Nash, former PP of Corofin. Welsh Hymn tunes helped to colour her send-off



Student Patrick Holden mans the desk at the Timeline Exhibition for tourists to Kiltfenora Village and St Fachnan's Cathedral. He is one of three students who work for a bursary to college.. From tourist donations the church fabric fund also benefits.



Parish party in the rectory coach house

'A Teddy's Day Out' was the theme of our joint parish outing with Galway Parish in the Burren Nature Sanctuary on June 18th: a teddy bear's picnic was followed by 'teddy prayers,' a teddy bears parade, walks through the fairy forest and playground fun.

A special service was held on June 23rd in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim, to mark the end of the school year. We wish every blessing to the students and staff for their well-earned summer holidays.

Work continues apace in the Rectory Garden Project, thanks to Galway Rural Development and Ross Weilly: we were delighted to bring our first crops to market at the sales of work in Glan Church and at the Glebe National School. Deep excavations are currently underway for the construction of a new septic tank in the Rectory grounds – sincere thanks to Jamie and Edward Costello for their work on that project.

ECUMENICAL UPDATE

The rector continues to be grateful for the warmth of hospitality offered him by our neighbouring churches. He was invited as guest speaker on May 25th at a meeting of the Roman Catholic clergy from the Ballinasloe Deanery. On June 10th the Redemptorist community in Esker invited him to preach at a special novena celebrating the 150 years in which the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help has been entrusted into their care.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardahan, 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

SYMPATHIES

A funeral service was held for Coral Poolman on June 1st in Glan Church. Our deepest sympathies are with Coral's family and loved ones.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Annie Walshe, who celebrated her 96th birthday at the end of May and Robert Cooke who celebrated his 70th birthday at the start of June. Every blessing to John and Marjorie Salter who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently.

DIOCESAN REVIEW

Many thanks to all who did so much to welcome Canon Cecil Hyland during his visit of our parish from May 27th to 29th. In his whistle-stop tour of our six churches, and all of the highways and byways between them, Canon Cecil was treated to the latest in a series of wonderful concerts in Ardahan Church, entitled 'Strings and Other Things,' which showcased the musical talent of so many of the young people in that area. He enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the sale of work in Glan Church, preached at a united service in Holy Trinity Aughrim, and joined in the a parish party at the rectory coach house. Throughout his visit he was struck by the warmth and goodwill of our parishioners and the vibrancy of our happy parish.

PARISH EVENTS

The Rectory Coach House Art Group held a fundraiser on June 11th for the Galway East Cancer Care Centre in Ballinasloe. Also on June 11th The Glebe National School opened its doors for Afternoon Tea and a sale of work, in aid of their Parent Teacher's Association.. On June 17th Ireland's First Lady, Mrs Sabina Higgins, celebrated the book launch of Woodlawn A History, which includes contributions from Woodlawn Parish Treasurer Tom Seale: congratulations to all involved in compiling this impressive monument to our local history.



Parish Outing in the Burren Nature Sanctuary



All the "tie cards" made for Fathers Day with the children's end-of-year certificates



'Strings and Other Things' in Ardahan Church

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

(on compassionate leave)

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely (on sick leave)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Marie Rowley – Brooke

Mob: 085-147 4792

Email: canonmarie@me.com

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

MICHAEL KENNY

We are very sorry to have record the death of Michael Kenny of Ballyhoose, Lawrencetown with the Clonfert Group of Parishes. We extend our deep sympathies to his wife, Kathleen and to his daughters, Linda, Michelle and Sarah, his granddaughter, Alex and to his sisters Daphne and Deidre. The funeral and the Interment took place in Eyrecourt. The horse drawn funeral carriage was driven by Michael's daughter, Michelle, from Ballyhoose to St John the Baptist Church where a large crowd of mourners were present to pay their respects through the readings of Holy Scripture, through poetry, through prayers, and through the singing of hymns. May Michael rest in peace.

ST JOHN'S EYRECOURT was the venue for a delightful 'Musical Evening' given by the Virtuoso Chamber Choir on Saturday June 11th. It was a lovely summer's evening, the church was filled, and the music was light and varied to suit every taste. The refreshments served in the interval were themselves varied and light as befitted a warm summer's evening.

PORTUMNA CHURCH enjoyed fine weather for their annual picnic in the Portumna parklands. Following evensong the parish and visitors went a-picnicking. It was an occasion of much cheer and chat. The weather was perfect too!

THE PARISH ENJOYED the annual outdoor Shannon Harbour Service on Sunday, June 19th and looks forward to a Group BBQ within August. Pray for the good weather to bless these events too.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kenneth Bracken and his partner, Andrea Eades, on the birth of their son, Luke. We hope Ken will quickly fast track his son in the attainment of a variety of musical schools. We have been blessed in Banagher with live organ music over many years. Dad Ken has now taken on the duties of playing but may we encourage him to train up young Luke to acquire such skills by the development of his aural abilities and rhythmic movements. Babyhood, as modern research is showing, is the time to put down skills that will later bear fruit on the organ or at concerts such as performed (see above) in Eyrecourt.

COFFEE MORNING/AFTERNOON & BAKE SALE – hosted by Rachel Brickenden, parishioner of St. Michael's Church and a third year nursing student in Trinity-Adelaide School of Nursing who is off to Belarus for two weeks as a volunteer at a summer camp to work with children and their families affected by the Chernobyl disaster was held in St. Michael's on Saturday 18 June. Rachel would like to thank everyone for their generous support and is delighted to say

€1,600 was raised to cover costs associated with the trip

FATHERS' DAY FAMILY WORSHIP at St. Michael's Church on 19 June. – Canon Marie led the service and the children led the prayers and read so well. Sunday school and the next family service in St. Michael's will be in September.

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWS In early June, the school said goodbye to their caretaker, Jimmy Lynch after many years of wonderful care and attention to the school. They are delighted to welcome Denis Hayes as their new caretaker and hope he will be very happy in the school. The 6th Class Valedictory Assembly took place on the 21st of June and was led by Mr. Paul Richie, of the Baptist Church. Wishing them all well in their new schools in September.

STATE EXAMINATIONS Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations are now over. We hope that the Leaving Certificate candidates will have their efforts duly rewarded when results come out on the 10th of August. We wish all candidates well and hope they now enjoy the summer!!

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL NEWS: The Festival weekend held for the first time in St. Mary's on the 28th/29th May around the time of the Marian feast of the Visitation was very successful. Sincere thanks to the many people who helped, from catering and flowers to logistics and organizational aspects. The weekend was built around music and the Cathedral itself. Two concerts drew an enthusiastic response from good-sized audiences, whilst an intriguing exhibition of privately-owned artefacts illuminated the historical tours of the cathedral.

A particular highlight of the Festival Weekend was a special concert with three Church of Ireland cathedral choirs – those of Kilkenny, Waterford and St Mary's. This was a 'return match' in that St Mary's choir had travelled to Kilkenny this time last year for a similar choral festal gathering...and will journey to Waterford next year. On the Sunday of the festival weekend, Father Martin Browne from Glenstal Abbey preached an illuminating and cogently argued address, whilst in the afternoon we were serenaded by the wonderful playing of the Limerick Wind Ensemble.

RSCM Music Sunday recital

A special organ recital was held in the cathedral on Sunday 19th June to mark RSCM Music Sunday. The cathedral organist, Peter Barley, played suitably festive music, ranging from lively Baroque

music by Handel and J.S. Bach to stirring marches by Elgar and Walton. Music Sunday is an annual fundraising initiative by the Royal School of Church Music, an international and inter-denominational body, for its important educational work. It is a 50/50 campaign, so half the money raised will go to the RSCM and half to the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music. The recital yielded the tidy sum of nearly 100 euro for each body, plus some donations to the cathedral itself from a fair few visitors who wandered in during the concert! Sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event

Staying on a local and musical note, Nicole Robinson will be staging a concert in St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 24th July at 4pm, entitled 'An Afternoon at the Musicals'. Some readers will remember that Nicole's mother was Rector of Roscrea before her current position in Clontarf, Dublin. Do spread the word and support Nicole's concert if you can - please see advert on page 18

We can look forward to two superb choral concerts by prestigious choirs from the UK in July and August. On Saturday August 13th at 5pm, the Carice Singers will be performing a concert of Romantic choral music. Meanwhile, a big thank you to those parishioners who are kindly hosting members of Selwyn College Choir when they visit Limerick as part of a tour of Ireland in July. Selwyn Choir will be performing a special programme commemorating both 1916 anniversaries (The Easter Rising and The Battle of the Somme) on Wednesday 13th July at 1.15pm. Both concerts are free admission. Please see the adverts on page 17

CHRISTMAS FAIR After the success of last year's Christmas Fair, it was agreed to go with it again this year and it is taking place in Villiers School on a Saturday 12th of November. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves, books, bottles, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac (no electrical). Please keep us in mind when "Spring cleaning" your house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods and novel ideas for stalls and will take them off your hands anytime.



The cathedral roof was a masterpiece of medieval masonry

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

The highlight in our Group this past month was our Confirmation service. Bishop Kenneth Kearon confirmed five candidates at Kilpeacon Church in the morning service on 19 June. They were: Rachel, Samantha, and Sarah Musgrave, of Kilpeacon; Ella Bowen, of Kilmallock Church; and Robbie Gardiner, of Croom Church.

Their classes started in early March this year, so they have been preparing for a while. Congratulations to them all and thanks for good attention and faithfulness!



Kilpeacon Confirmation

Thanks also go to the people of Kilpeacon for preparing the church for the confirmation service and for hosting the tea/coffee and refreshments after the service. The church and gate lodge had been cleaned, the gates newly painted, and new altar linens acquired for the service. Everything looked great, and the hospitality was much appreciated.

In other news, the Kilmallock Church was preparing for its final day for the Sunday School until the autumn. We had a special Service of the Word, with the children taking parts of the service, on Sunday, 26 June. Thank you to the teachers - Michelle, Ciara, Tabitha, and Shirley - for their teaching during the year.

Vestry members of St. Nicholas, Adare, are aware that the tourist season is again upon us. We have been discussing ways of increasing our presence to the many visitors that come to Adare during the summer. The church has just received two grants from the Heritage Council: one for a survey of the stained glass windows, to determine what needs to be done to repair them, and one for repair and waterproofing of the roof of the cloisters, which are leaking badly. Many thanks to member John Bradley for his hard work in securing these grants.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 - 414967
FAX: 061 - 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

Ardfert Diocese

And coming up on Sunday, 3 July, is the "second annual" barbecue at the Rectory in celebration of the Fourth of July (or American Independence Day, the Rectory and her husband being Americans). Really, it is just a way to enjoy getting together outside for a barbecue and fellowship with one another – and we pray for good weather!

And the other thing that is coming up, to our sadness, is that Barbara Bingham will be retiring and leaving Ireland. She has been a Parish Reader, and then a Diocesan Reader, for many years. On most Sundays she is at Croom Church, but she has also been very reliable in her service to all our parishes and throughout the Diocese. We will be having a celebration for her and her husband, Philip, but by the time the next issue of Newslink comes out in September, she will have left. So we take this opportunity to say here in this issue, Thank you, Barbara, and Godspeed to you both.



Diocesan Reader Barbara Bingham

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

June has been a quiet month, with Rev'd Keith away for the Sundays. July, however will be a little bit busier. We are looking forward to the wedding of William Langford and Karen O'Rourke and the baptism of baby Jack Kealy – all on the weekend of 9th and 10th July. We will also have a celebration an agape meal at the Rectory on Sunday 24th July at 11:00 a.m. and there will not be any other service on that Sunday. Services on the 5th Sunday of July – 31st July – will be at Morning Prayer Castletown at 09:45, and Eucharist at Rathkeale 11:15 a.m. Please make a note of those two events

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Rector: Vacant

Teach an tSolais, Ashe St, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

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 Piers 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.

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 was be Archdeacon Sue's final service. There will be a full report in the September issue.

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

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

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PHEW! DONE & DUSTED:

Visitors to St Mary's will be delighted to know that they will be getting much closer to the Eadie family than they're used to up-to-now. Let me explain... Yvonne and Andy Eadie are the latest generation of Eadies to own and run the world renowned Kerry Woollen Mills and they have been busy during the last month fabricating covers for the new pew cushions which we've installed throughout the church. The work was completed in time for Lisa and Mark Blennerhassett's wedding – congratulations to them – and looks great. In fact, we've had complaints already that the seats are so comfortable now that parishioners no longer want to kneel when Rev. Simon is conducting a sermon!



NEW HORIZONS:

While we're on the subject of Eadies, and cloth and Kerry Woollen Mills, Yvonne and Andy are opening another outlet across the Shannon on July 4th in Bunratty, Co Clare and we wish them the best of luck in this endeavour. Newslink readers please note that anybody quoting "NEWSLINK" on opening day is entitled to haggle for a special discount on any of their extensive and exclusive range, so don't forget to rush down there with your copy!

TOURISM OUTREACH:

As the Concert season is well under way, we've been working on enhancing the provision we make for interpretive material and publicity. We have already produced new Concert Posters and Souvenir Programmes and these look really well. A budget has been approved for the procurement of various new banners, leaflets and display stands and, in due course, "for sale" items which will inform the visitor about the significance and history behind various aspects of the church and its decoration. These will all enhance our ability

to grow the donation income we receive from the visitor, with which to help fund further restoration work.

SUMMER CHURCH HAPPENINGS:

Along with the usual events and services conducted year round in St Mary's, we have begun the Sunday Visitors' Communion Service at 9:30 am and the Saturday free Windows Visitor Tours commencing at 10 and 11 am – all welcome. The former is very important as it gives visitors a chance to worship before heading off on one of the many day tours from Killarney, while the latter provides not just an insight into the biblical stories behind the stained glass windows; and both serve the important task of associating "a face with the place".

OUR FONDEST FAREWELL:

Finally, the diocese is losing one of one of the most sincere, compassionate and spiritual people one could ever meet once Archdeacon Susan Watterson leaves our shores. Since 1999 Sue has served the Church of Ireland in Youghal, Killarney, Cork and Tralee and has left her mark in each of these places. In the time since I first got to know her, Sue has become a very close friend and amongst her many outstanding qualities it is her honesty that has endeared her to me. Sue was never going to go down the populace route: her integrity ensured the route she took was always going to be the one based on dignity and fairness and that which was right. We know that her time spent in St Mary's will always be treasured by Sue, as it is also by us. Sue leaves many friends behind her in this parish who wish her well in her new life back in Old Blighty and we sincerely hope that she keeps in touch. Stay safe Sue and may God bless you for all of your days!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

WEDDING:

Cole Stephens and Fiona O Mahony were married in Ballyseedy Church on Saturday the 28th May. Rev Jim Stephens, uncle of the Groom and Fr Denis O Mahony uncle of the bride, officiated at the service. They were blessed with a beautiful day in a beautiful place. The service was followed by a wonderful meal and celebration in the Ballyseedy Castle Hotel. Cole and Fiona will reside in Cork where they both work.



Cole and Fiona with Rev Jim

BAPTISM:

Jerry Elliot O Neill was welcomed into the Christian community at the morning service in Kiltallagh on the bank holiday week in June, Jerry is the second son of David and Katie O Neill and little brother to Charlie of killeenifinane Castlemaine.



David, Katie and Charlie O'Neill pictured with Jerry together with his Godparents, Elizabeth O'Connor and Richard O'Neill..

KILTALLAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL:

The end of term service for Kiltallagh National school was held on Thursday the 16th June at 12 noon. Bishop Kenneth presided and preached. The school said farewell to its largest class for a number of years, The group included, Avril Murphy, Clara Wharton, Charlotte Orme, Natasha Griffin, Sarah Flaherty, Kate Moroney and Cyan Loughlin. Congratulations to Paula Ni Bhriain the Principal and to the staff and students for such a lovely service which was so well prepared.

The service was followed by a presentation to the sixth class students and a Bar-b-que in the school grounds afterwards. Well done to all.

SYMPATHY:

To Tania and Herbert Poff and their family on the death of Tania's Mother Kathleen Foley.

Kathleen was originally from Athea and will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

To Martha Flynn and Nigel Moynan on the death of Nigel's Father Robert Moynan in Stradbally in Co Laois.

To Patrice Boyle and Alan Sheehy and their families on the death of their uncle William O Reilly, I have good memories of William as he was my geography teacher in the Presentation School in Miltown.

DIOCESAN REVIEW:

The Ven Gordon Linney visited the parish on the weekend of the 26th June as part of his work with Canon Cecil Hyland. They are charged by Bishop Kenneth to conduct a review of the Diocese. Archdeacon Linney preached in both Churches and met with the vestry and parishioners on the Sunday. He was shown the geography and the buildings on the following Monday.

GARDEN FETE:

The Garden Fete is planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend in St Michael's Church.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Charlotte Orme who won a scholarship to cover her education in Bandon Grammar School for the next five years. Congratulations also to her proud parents John and Ciara and to her teacher Bean Ni Bhriain in Kiltallagh.

REV SUE:

The Rev Sue Watterson retires as Rector of the Tralee and Dingle group at the end of June. We wish every blessing in her retirement in the Isle of Mann and we thank her being a good neighbour to our parish over the years.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE:

A Service to mark the end of the Sunday School term was held in St Michaels Church on the 19th June at which books were presented to the children. Bibles and Certificates were presented to those who were confirmed on the same day.

Many thanks to those who lead the Sunday School for their time and commitment. Linda Spillane, Shauna Moroney, Pam Byrne, Nicole Boyle, Matilda Poff, Suzy Doherty and John Orme.



Confirmation candidates - Avril, Ciara, Charlotte, Clara, Kate and Isabel

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

St Patrick's Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Mob: 085 853 3173

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

Editor: Rev Michael Cavanagh says that he is continuing to improve following his accident, but has been advised by his doctors to take things very easy. There are no notes again this month, but he hopes normal service will resume in September. We hold him in our thoughts and pray that he will indeed take it easy and be back to full health very soon



"...and then the Rector realised the bellringer- shortage and the problem of providing crèche facilities could be solved in one go!"

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Vacant

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

Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Ruth Watt,
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road,
Adare, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 396236

Email: ruth.watt@irishmethodist.org

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Ruth Watt as our minister from 1 July, and we trust she will be happy among us. Our thanks to the ministers and local preachers who came to take services each week since last September to Rev. Shannon DeLaureal and Rev. Denis Maguire for their oversight.

SERVICES FOR JULY:

3 July Rev. Ruth Watt United circuit service in Ballingrane at 11a.m.

3 July Rev. Denis Maguire, District Superintendent Service of Welcome and Induction for Rev. Ruth Watt at 7.30 p.m. in Adare

10 July Rev. Ruth Watt Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

17 July Rev. Ruth Watt Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

24 July Rev. Ruth Watt Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

31 July Rev. Ruth Watt Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

SERVICES FOR AUGUST

7 August Rev. Ruth Watt Adare - service with Holy Communion 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane - service with Holy Communion 11.45 a.m.

14 August Rev. Denis Sandes United circuit service in Ballingrane at 11.00 a.m.

21 August Siobhan Wheeler Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

28 August Rev. Ruth Watt Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.

Christ Church Limerick, united Presbyterian & Methodist and Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We were blessed to celebrate the baptisms of four of our young people followed by seven confirmations and a reception into membership for one of our older brothers. It was a very special service and with almost two hundred people the church was full to overflowing. Yes, it did all take quite a long time and our stewards were very busy but it is wonderful to welcome people and be able to practice the hospitality we so often preach – even if we were a bit squashed! The celebrations went on after the service and I'm sure it was a very memorable day for all the families and friends involved. We continue to pray for all our young people as they begin to find their particular roles in our community.

We're on the last lap of recruiting for our new Youth, Children's and Family Worker and should be able to announce who will be in that ministry very soon. We are very grateful to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for funding this position. Some of you will remember Rev Peter McDowell who was the minister of Christ Church a few years ago. Peter is currently Mission Support Officer for PCI and has been very helpfully offering his support to us during our search. We will of course miss Anna-Victoria who has been our Youth Worker for the last couple of years but we offer her our prayers and blessings as she heads off to Galway to begin her MA in Film Production and Direction.



CB1 transformed into Music Cafe

We were delighted to welcome the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music and Dance to CB1 during those wonderful hot days of early summer. We had an amazing lunchtime of music and really joyful spontaneous dancing from lots of different traditions as CB1 was transformed into a music cafe and O'Connell Street buzzed with rhythm and song. It was great fun! So we'll be doing it again in September, then once a month. If you like singing and dancing and enjoying yourself do come along. We'll advertise the date on Facebook.

INSTALLATION OF REV BILL MULLALY AS PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND FOR 2016 – 17

Rev Bill Mullaly was installed at this year's Conference in Portadown. His presidential theme is Renewing the Mind (Romans 12). Bill encouraged us to be a people of renewed minds saying 'Let's be a people who think differently to how the world thinks. Let's be a people of the inside-out, upside-down awesome message of love that can come only from minds transformed by God! He built on previous themes asking us to 'share our experience of Christ as our loving Saviour, not only through our words but also through our warm hearts, tough hands and wet feet....God's Mission is our Mission. We are, and God calls us to be, a warm-hearted people who rejoice in the gospel of love, whose faith expresses itself through love. We are, and God calls us to be, committed disciples labouring in his vineyard with tough hands, to help one another and build God's kingdom. We are, and God calls us to be, a people with wet feet, who take risks to serve the God of Mission as he leads us together into new and exciting times.

We look forward to Bill's presidential year and pray for Rev Laurence Graham as he begins his preparations to take over from Bill next year.



Bill and Val Mullaly



Bill Mullaly Presidential Address

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.

June 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 May on Inch beach as they tidied up and told a bible story in the great surroundings. In June the group has a party in the church which was enjoyed by all who came.

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. On the 12th July it is hoped to have a prayer walk around the town and all welcome to come.

Rev Bill Mullaly was installed as President of the Methodist church in Ireland during the recent annual conference held in Portadown, Co Armagh.

The members of the Lighthouse in Millstreet hold a weekly Sunday school in Drishane castle in the town. This reaches out to the children of asylum seekers who reside in Drishane. A party for the children was held on 19th June.

During July and August we will have FAB Fridays in Killarney at 11am each Friday. These fun mornings will be an interactive bible study, songs, crafts and lunch for all people, if you're in Killarney why not call in?!

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

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

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

Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet Methodist Churches
(part of the Cork South and Kerry Circuit)

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

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

Thought for July & August:

St Francis of Assisi once said:

"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."
This Summer time, may we be the sunbeams that brighten the darkest corners of life, and bring peace happiness and contentment to those who need it most.

Let us shine our light , The Light of Jesus Christ, for all the world to see.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Sale to benefit the Red Cross (Refugee Crisis) – Come to Cloughjordan Methodist Church hall (10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.) for coffee/tea and buns on Saturday 16th July and leave with a bargain of clothes, toys, bric-a-brac and plants. All donations of saleable items gratefully accepted. Any questions, please contact Susan Polden at 0872729239

Karen Gillespie is hosting a Community Walk in Aid of Methodist World Development and Relief Partners in South Africa. The Community Walk will begin at the Methodist Church Hall in Cloughjordan on Sunday July 10th at 2pm with light refreshments afterwards. There are two routes available 2km or 6km - catering for all ages and abilities. It promises to be a fun day out for all the family. Karen is travelling to South Africa in August to work with a number of organisations, one of which offers both respite and palliative care, community empowerment and job creation for all those, young and old, impacted by HIV/AIDS. All donations are welcome.



The Story behind the Hymn

*Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

The joy and serenity of this hymn are staggering, when you learn the circumstances in which it was written. Martin Rinkart was a pastor at Eilenberg, Saxony, during the terrible Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

As a walled city, Eilenberg offered some protection to the inhabitants. No wonder that political and military refugees of all sorts poured into the city, making it dangerously overcrowded. Soon the water supply was fouled, the sanitation overwhelmed, and the food ran out – leaving people famished and diseased. In 1637 a terrible pestilence swept through the city, killing some 8,000 people,

including Rinkart's beloved wife. By that time Rinkart was the only minister left in Eilenberg, because the others had either died or fled for their lives. Rinkart alone conducted the burial services for 4480 people, sometimes taking as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day!

Eilenberg was besieged and overrun three times – once by the Austrian army and twice by the Swedes. When a Swedish general demanded the town pay him 30,000 thalers. Martin Rinkart pleaded that the impoverished city could never meet such a levy, but the general scorned him. At that, Rinkart turned to his companions and said: 'Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God!' On his knees there and then, Rinkart led his friends in a fervent prayer and in the singing of a hymn. The Swedish commander was so moved that he decided that the levy be not 30,000 thalers, but instead 1,350 thalers.

Somehow, out of the hell of the Thirty Years War came this lovely hymn of peace and total trust in God. Martin Rinkart had had to dig deep into his faith to survive, and the result was utter, serene dependence on God – despite chaos and destruction all around.

Miscellaneous observations

If you can't shine, at least twinkle! - Alistair Begg

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere. - Anon

People who cannot bear to be alone are the worst company. - A Guinon

You are only what you are when no one is looking. - R C Edwards

You must not always expect the wind to be at your back all the way to heaven. - William Tiptaft

Age: the only thing that comes to us without effort. - Anon

If you will be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young. - John Lyly

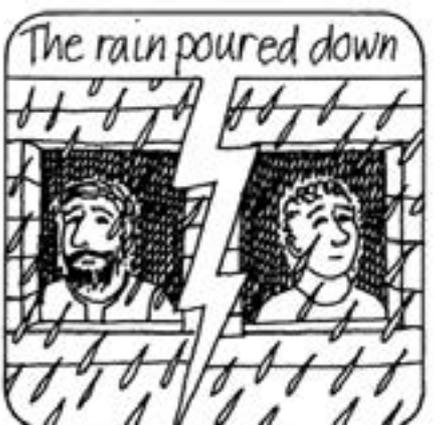


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 7:24-26 and Luke 4:7-49

Jesus explained the difference between
just listening to what he taught, and
actually doing it, by using this story...



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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.

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

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