



NEWSLINK

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

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Advent carols by candlelight in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival

This has become a regular feature of Nenagh town's Christmas festivities and we believe it is a joyful addition to the season, ending with the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, for which St Mary's Church was packed. We had all sizes and styles of trees, proving once again the creativity and imagination of local people. In addition to Parish funds, the charity we supported this year with a €2000 cheque was St Cronan's Association (Nenagh Branch), providing high quality support to more than 120 people and their families living with disability.

All attendees had the chance to vote for their favourite trees and these were the winners:

- Business or Retail (kindly sponsored by the Nenagh Chamber of Commerce) - 'Peppermill Garlands' by the Peppermill Restaurant, Nenagh;
- Individual - 'Jingle Bells' by Michael Doran;
- Organisation - 'The Invisible Christmas Tree' by St Cronan's Services.



The invisible Tree, by St Cronan's Services



Jingle Bells, by Michael Doran



Peppermill Garlands, by Peppermill Restaurant, Nenagh

Bandon Grammar School
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Bishop Kenneth writes – A Lent Challenge

Last year for Lent many people took up the "Bishop's Challenge" to read a form of Daily Prayer each day during Lent, and I'm giving you the same challenge this year. A form of Daily Prayer, together with the Collects and readings for each day is enclosed in this issue of Newslink.

Most of the readings this year come from the Epistles, which are very different types of reading from the Gospels. There aren't the same stories and parables with which we are so familiar – instead the epistles are letters written to the various church communities around the Mediterranean, often addressing issues or problems they were facing at the time.

The epistle to the Philippians is addressed to the church at Philippi in Macedonia, which was the first church St Paul established in Europe (see Acts 16. V 11-15), and he kept in touch with them over the years. In the readings it is clear he remembers a number of individuals there, and he has a warm affection for that church.

St Paul also founded the church in Corinth which was one of the most important cities in Greece, (see Acts 18. V 1-11). Setting the church up there had been a difficult task, and St Paul was fearful at times. The church thrived afterwards, but in St Paul's first letter to Corinth it is clear there are tensions and difficulties. That's very helpful for us as it reveals St Paul's attitudes and opinions on a wide range of subjects.

If you are looking for more readings I can do no better than recommend to you Canon Cecil Hyland's new book *Journeying in Faith*. Many of you met Canon Hyland when he visited a number of parishes as part of a diocesan review a couple of years ago.

The book faces many of the questions and issues in faith today as honestly and openly as possible. He admits the difficulties that

many of us have with some aspects of faith. Building on his long experience of pastoral ministry he sees faith as a journey and encourages us to travel with our questions, confident in the knowledge that God is with us and that everything rests with him.



I can do no better than to quote Revd Ted Woods who writes in the Foreword:

"Journeying in Faith will have many uses. It is an accessible introduction to the Christian faith for new members of the Church. It is an ideal refresher for the individual who wants to think more deeply about his or her faith. Clergy who are looking for material for an adult confirmation group or a parish discussion programme, or indeed a teaching sermon, need look no further. Journeying in Faith deserves a wide readership. It is a balanced and well-reasoned presentation of the Christian faith and I warmly commend it to those inside and outside the Church."

The book is available from the Church of Ireland on-line bookshop – <https://store.ireland.anglican.org>. Price €12.50.

With all good wishes
+ Kenneth

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Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at joc_sanders@iol.ie.

Mon 12th February, 11am–3pm CME – Interfaith Day (meeting Jews & Muslims), Limerick City (venue to be advised)

Thu 22nd February Finance Committee 4pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm

Thu 1st March, 8pm GFS Diocesan Council, The Rectory, Birr

Sat 10th March Council for Mission Conference – Ministry to Children

Mon 12th March CME – Living & sustaining a life of prayer (venue to be advised)

Tue 13th March, 7.30pm Mission Evening on Church Planting, Rev Adrian McCartney, South Court Hotel, Limerick

Sat 24th March GFS Diocesan Service & Craft Day, Birr

Thu 26th April MU Diocesan Council

Tue 8th May, 7.30pm Finance Committee

Thu 10th – Sat 12th May General Synod, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh

Thu 17th May Joint Property Committee & Glebes Committees 6.45pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm

See also the diocesan website www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar.



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."

Editorial – Love in Lent

This year Ash Wednesday is also St Valentine's Day, 14th February. This is quite unusual – I've checked – it hasn't happened before in my lifetime. Although it will again in 2024 and 2029, thereafter it will not happen in the 21st century.

This happy coincidence invites us to think about Lent through the lens of love. Because at its heart Lent is surely all about love. About the love God shows us by taking on human flesh as Jesus Christ to show us how to overcome sin and death. About the love Jesus shows for his Heavenly Father as he is tempted in the wilderness. About the love Jesus shows for his disciples as they travel to Jerusalem, to his passion and crucifixion. If we practice penitence and self-denial as we travel with Jesus toward Good Friday, we should do so with the joy that comes with growing knowledge of the love of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Greek, that subtle language, distinguishes between four different human loves: familial love (storge); friendship (philia); romantic love (eros); and spiritual love (agape). Surely it is our human experience of all these loves which gives us a bare inkling of what God's incomprehensible love for us is like. And that includes the passionate, romantic love which we celebrate on St Valentine's Day.

That great Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich tells us:

*What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing?
Know it well, love was his meaning.
Who reveals it to you? Love.
What did he reveal to you? Love.
Why does he reveal it to you? For Love.*

Ardfallen Grove Sheltered Housing

Seeks to appoint a **Part-time Manager** (20 hours per week)

Ardfallen Grove has been providing independent living facilities for the older person for 25 years. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment and nurture a friendly community. We wish to appoint a part-time manager. The successful applicant will have a passion for meeting the needs of the Older person.

Essential Requirements:

- Appropriate 3rd level qualification in Social/Community care or equivalent.
- Driving Licence and use of car
- Effective people management and conflict resolution skills
- Good communication skills
- Strong administration expertise including proficiency in IT
- Knowledge of relevant regulations, policies and legislation relevant to the social housing sector
- Significant expertise in caring for the older person
- Satisfactory Gardai vetting clearance

For a job specification, further information and an application form please email

karen.spence@irishmethodist.org

Closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 12th February 2018

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe Et Ardferd, 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.

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - February 2018

Each Sunday in February

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Clogher and Bishop John McDowell.

4th February, 2nd Sunday before Lent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi and Most Revd Martin Nyaboho, Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba.
Diocese: For those who work with children and young people in schools, colleges, churches and sports clubs, that their work may be blessed.

11th February, Last Sunday before Lent (Transfiguration Sunday), White or Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Canada and Most Revd Frederick Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.
Diocese: For those who enrich our parish worship through reading scripture, making music, cleaning churches and washing linen, that their loving service may receive the recognition it deserves.

18th February, 1st Sunday of Lent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Central Africa and Most Revd Albert Chama, Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia.
Diocese: For those who proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom to others.

25th February, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America and Most Revd Sturdie Downs, Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Nicaragua.
Diocese: For those who teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

4th March, 3rd Sunday of Lent, Violet

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Derry & Raphoe and Bishop Ken Good.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo and Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda, Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu.
Diocese: For those who respond to human need by loving service.

A Prayer for Strength during Lent

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank you for the example Jesus gave us
when he was in the wilderness,
the desert where he was tempted by the enemy of all that is good.
Lord, when we are tempted to give in to temptation,
whatever form it may take,
help us to remember that Jesus was tempted too,
in the same ways that we are.
But he looked to you for help and strength;
he looked to your word and trustworthiness.
Help us to know your help and strength too.
Help us to resist temptations by trusting you through Jesus.
Help us to be good examples to others
who may be struggling with life issues
and to lead them also to you.
Lord, please help us, as only you can.
We ask in Jesus name, Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

An Evening Prayer

Dear God, when I am lonely and perhaps I feel Despair,
Let not my ailing heart forget that you hear every prayer.
Remind me that no matter what I do, or fail to do,
There still is hope for me as long as I have faith in You.
Let not my eyes be blinded by some folly I commit;
But help me to regret my wrong and make amends for it
Inspire me to put my fears upon a hidden shelf,
And in the future never to be sorry for myself.
Give me the restful sleep I need before another dawn,
And bless me in the morning with the courage to go on.

The Collect of Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made,
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This beautiful collect by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer is traditionally used after the Collect of the day throughout Lent until Easter eve.



Did you know...

Archdeacon Wayne Carney seeks to correct some common misconceptions.

- The last book of the New Testament can be called the Book of Revelation, the Revelation to St John the Divine, or the Apocalypse. It is never called the Book of Revelations, in spite of that title appearing frequently in popular culture.
- The forty days of Lent span the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Eve. A careful count reveals a total of 46 days. The reason is that Sundays are not included. Lent is a season of fasting, but all Sundays are celebrations of the Resurrection, and therefore feast days. So, unless you're especially diligent, those things you give up in Lent are just for Monday to Saturday!
- The proper form for addressing a clergyperson is never "Reverend". That word is an adjective, not a noun. Even worse is to say something like "the Reverend's sermon was great today (or boring, or too long, or whatever)". Call them by whatever titles they hold (Rector, Doctor, Canon, Archdeacon, Dean, Bishop, etc., or just Mr or Mrs or Miss or Ms. Or just call them by their first name (if they aren't offended by that) – that's the name that God knows them as.
- Many people think that any pronouns referring to God must be capitalised (Let us all pray to Him who created us), or (I want to thank Thee for Thy saving grace). Sometimes, well-meaning people capitalise some pronouns, and miss others (Holy God, we want to bless You for your loving-kindness and Your saving grace). Though there is of course nothing wrong with this, it is not part of our Anglican heritage. Even a casual look at the Book of Common Prayer (old or new), the Church Hymnal (old or new) or any of the versions of the Bible authorised in the Church of Ireland will show that such pronouns are NEVER capitalised. It seems to be a 19th century American practice that gradually spread over here, and many folks seem to think that we dishonour God if we don't do it. I very much doubt if God minds very much either way, but if we are to be consistent with over 400 years of Anglican ways of writing, we won't do it.

Changes to Methodist District Structure

by Rev Dr Heather Morris

Editor: Rev Dr Heather Morris is General Secretary of the Home Mission Department of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and served as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland in 2013–14. She has kindly provided to Newlink this overview of proposed changes to the structure of Methodist Districts (analogous to Church of Ireland Dioceses) and the reasons for them. Her article is relevant not just to Methodists but to us in the Church of Ireland, at a time when our dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe and Tuam, Killala & Achonry are holding conversations about possible future structural change.



"There is widespread concern that the Methodist Church in Ireland is not effectively or fully aligned with God's mission in Ireland. Yet increasingly we are seeking to respond to God's gracious invitation to participate in His transformative mission to gather all humankind and all of creation into communion under the Lordship of Jesus Christ" (God's Mission our Mission: Methodist Church in Ireland)

One of the joys of being co-Chair (with Bishop Alan Abernethy) of the Covenant Council is hearing about the life of the Church of Ireland. Again and again, and at every level, in Dioceses and Districts, circuits and parishes we are brought face to face with the fact that we face similar challenges and opportunities. One of those common issues is our structure. Separately, at General Synod and at the Methodist Conference we have been asking essentially the same question, "Could we be organising ourselves better, particularly in a way that releases resources locally and which helps us respond to the challenges and opportunities of this time?"

THE METHODIST CONTEXT

Within the Methodist tradition we have been responding to that question in a variety of ways. First, and under the wise leadership of the Secretary of Conference, Rev Dr John Stephens, we have been honest about our statistics. God is at work in and through the Methodist Church in Ireland. We see that in the faithful witness of congregations in villages, towns and cities across this island. And we are getting older and in many places numbers are declining. Those honest conversations about our context, have, in the grace of God opened up the conversation of what faithful witness to God looks like now.

The second part of our response is prayer. Not even the finest structural change imagined or imaginable will meet the challenges or solve the problems of this time. We recognise that we cannot re-structure ourselves out of decline. Structural change may be part of the future into which God is leading us, but it is but one aspect of that future. Essentially God is calling God's people to faithful discipleship, lived out in cities, towns and townlands, the role of church structure is to support that life of discipleship. Thus the Methodist Conference, when it met in June last year called the Methodist Church in Ireland to sustained prayer, for renewal, for spiritual and numerical growth and that we would be a blessing in the communities in which we are placed.

The third aspect of response is structural change. Currently the Methodist Church in Ireland is made up of eight Districts, each with a District Superintendent, who, alongside their Circuit responsibilities offers a ministry of oversight and support.

Our structures had served us well and held within them principles which we wanted to preserve:

- We are a Connexion, which means that we support each other.
- We make our decisions together so, under God, Conference is our authority and the place where final decisions are made.
- Local congregations are the focus of mission, and structures exist to resource those local congregations.

However those structures were also creaking. The structures demanded lay and ordained people attend many, many meetings. Some District Superintendents reported feeling frustrated - at times they felt that they were serving neither their Circuit nor the District adequately due to the demands of both roles. The Connexion also wanted District Superintendents to offer a more active role both in Stationing and the accountability and support of ordained ministers. A process of consultation and conversation began, and a range of opinions on the best way forward was expressed as the proposals developed.

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

The proposals which came to Conference in June 2017 are that we will have three Districts, Southern, North Eastern and North Western, each of which will be served by a full-time District Superintendent. The current District administrative layer has also been re-defined to reflect contemporary practice and make it fit for purpose. A "Connexional Team" will also be created to enable more effective collaboration, alignment of our priorities across the Connexion and efficient decision making across the Connexion. It is proposed that this will comprise of various Connexional roles (lay and ordained) along with the District Superintendents, working collaboratively, accountable to each other, and to the General Committee and Conference.

The legislation will come for a second reading to this Conference and the name which will be brought for designation as District Superintendent for the Southern District from July 2019 is Rev Andrew Dougherty.

The primary role of the District Superintendent is to be a mission enabler. They will know their District well, support local Circuits and enable co-operation across Circuits and indeed with partners from other Churches. Moreover the District Superintendent will be able to represent the hopes, and needs of the District to and within the wider Church family.

Thus our hope and prayer is that this structure will support local churches in implementing vision and managing change, provide support when difficulties arise and consistent leadership and encourage the outward-looking mission, witness and evangelism focus, which we believe continues to be God's direction.

Bishop Kenneth's Lent Challenge 2018

Weeks 1, 2 and 3

The Challenge is to use a form of daily prayer every weekday during Lent. An Order for Daily Prayer, together with daily Readings and Collects is provided. Find a quiet time each day in a comfortable chair to pray and to read a Bible reading, either alone or with someone else. It should take about 15 minutes. You will need a Bible.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY PRAYER

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4.24).

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 95.1-5

O come let us sing out to the Lord;
Let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his face with thanksgiving
And cry out to him joyfully in psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
And a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth
And the peaks of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his and he made it,
His hands moulded dry land.

A Bible Reading (see Daily Readings)

Pause for Reflection on the reading.

Canticle (p 126. Part 2)

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
The eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free,
You humbly chose the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints
To glory everlasting.

Prayers: For Family and Friends

For the Church

For the World

For those who are sick or in need

Collect of the Day (See Collects)

The Lord's Prayer

The Ending: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

WEEK 1 (Collect)

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings:

Wednesday 14th Feb	Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21
Thursday 15th Feb	Philippians 3: 13 -21
Friday 16th Feb	Philippians 4: 1 - 9
Saturday 17th Feb	Philippians 4: 10 - 20

WEEK 2 (Collect)

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
Give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings:

Monday 19th Feb	1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 19
Tuesday 20th Feb	1 Corinthians 1: 20 - 31
Wednesday 21st Feb	1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 13
Thursday 22nd Feb	1 Corinthians 2: 14 - 3: 15
Friday 23rd Feb	1 Corinthians 3: 16 - 23
Saturday 24th Feb	1 Corinthians 4: 1 - 7

WEEK 3 (Collect)

Almighty God
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
Grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things
as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings:

Monday 26th Feb	Corinthians 4: 8 - 21
Tuesday 27th Feb	1 Corinthians 5: 1 - 8
Weds 28th Feb	1 Corinthians 5: 9 - 6: 8
Thursday 1st Mar	1 Corinthians 6: 9 - 20
Friday 2nd Mar	1 Corinthians 7: 1 - 9
Saturday 3rd Mar	1 Corinthians 7: 10 - 24

(More Collects and Readings in next month's Newslink)

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

– The Joshua/Jesus story continued



We know almost nothing about Joshua's early life except for one hugely important glimpse on the threshold of his teenage years, which for a Jewish boy was the beginning of adulthood. Joshua with his parents had paid the customary annual Passover visit to Jerusalem. On the return journey to Nazareth his mother and father discovered that he wasn't with the travelling party. In consternation they return to Jerusalem and find Joshua in the Temple precincts listening to the doctors of the Law and asking them questions.

And these Scholars of Israel and all who heard him 'were astounded at his intelligence and his replies'. That they were impressed did not placate the anxiety of his parents as is obvious from his mother's interrogation. 'Why have you done this to us?' and her elaboration, 'see how worried your father and I have been, looking for you'. Joshua's response cannot have been any kind of balm to their angst. 'Why were you looking for me?'. 'Do you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?'. The almost disregard for his parents' anxiety is so typical of the response of many teenagers that the ring of human truth is clarion. Likewise, on the other hand, is the Father-focussed concern a signal of God-presence.

In this story we have a paradigm, an example of how we are to treat all the material that relates to Joshua. Listening and questioning with a Father focus is the way Joshua lives and works and dies, and he applies that to himself as well as to others. He even applies it to God. The wilderness experience about which I wrote last time is an example of Jesus listening to himself, questioning himself, and testing both by what he knows of the mind and the will of

the Father. Amongst the words from the Cross so many of which so excellently exemplify his concern for others the shriek of 'My God, My God why have you forsaken me?' is the public example of his questioning of the Father. Almost without exception his conversational engagements as recorded in the four gospels follow the pattern, as do the conversations with his closest friends. When his words and actions combine, the effect of the question that profoundly challenges is startling, and most of those who resisted the challenge could nevertheless not resist becoming engaged in debate with him.

Many things about Joshua kept the attention of the crowds who came to meet up with him. His capacity to heal gave him an immediate relevance in a world of limited medical knowledge. His courage to confront the powerful with the truth restored in his compatriots a sense that their great prophetic tradition was still alive. His willingness to live outside the box brought a sense of adventure to a subjugated nation. His ingenious reinterpretation of the Law while alienating some gave new life to others. His openness to rank outsiders was an eye opener to the respectable. His capacity to ordain the most ordinary with exalted purpose and entrancing meaning was an enriching experience for those who had ears to hear and eyes to see. His courage to be both self-contained and self-aware in the face of the cowardice of his companions is a revelation of the potential of all our beings. He handled a very public dying of terrifying agony, while at the same time both providing for his mother and the beloved John, and forgiving his torturing executioners. How he did so was and is a manifestation of a mystery of the greatest degree. Little wonder then, when his friends had got over their cowardice and fear, their story had at its heart a very simple message... 'God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that.' 'This do in remembrance of me'.

Letter to the Editor - Making a difference from John St George, Limerick City Parish

My name is John St George and I have been attending weekly services in St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick since December 2014 after being on a sabbatical for approx. 25 years. Coming back to church is one of the best decisions I have made in my 46 years, attending a couple of meetings and winding up on five committees is not, but that's for another day. There has been a lot of pressure on all churches over the past 25 years, none have come away unscathed with significant reductions in attendance, and you need only look around on a Sunday to see there is a lost generation.

I attended a "how to be a welcoming church" conference in Adare on 4 November last year, where we discussed and debated how we thought we could make the church more welcoming for existing, transient and potential new members. If I had a free hand for the next five years I would do the following:

- I would work hard to open the church to the real issues affecting our society. Every year hundreds of people commit suicide in Ireland, 5,363 from 2006 to 2016 (data from the CSO), and the church is not doing enough to tackle this crisis. I would propose

we open all churches to welcome in anyone doing the Darkness into light walk and offer them a hot beverage, sausage roll, and somewhere to take a moment to reflect/pray/just sit and be sad.

- I would seek to acquire the site opposite St. Mary's Cathedral on Bridge street and build a centre of excellence for Wellness. The function of the centre would be to provide a place where people could go for support at no charge, but it would also be a place to educate people on depression, anxiety, to host support groups, counselling, and modern therapy techniques. I would link it to the cathedral so anyone who wanted spiritual support/guidance could attend services and open nights in one of the side chapels, specifically tailored to help people who are struggling with the increasing pressures of modern life.
- The church needs to do more not only to welcome members of the LGBT community, but to encourage them to use our churches for their worship, weddings, christenings, and funerals. Abington church is one of the most beautiful gothic churches we have and would be an ideal location for LGBT weddings.

- During the most recent storm there was an outcry from the public for community halls to be opened to accommodate the homeless. Two things strike me as odd here. First is that not one person looked for help from the churches; and second no support was offered by any church opening its doors to shelter vulnerable members of our society.

What is my church doing to address the needs of our community? How do I as an individual make a difference? What if we open the cathedral and invite in everyone who participates in the darkness into light walk in Limerick and just say, 'hello, we're here if you need anything! What if we look at ways of making the church more

welcoming by running different events raising awareness of who we are, where we are, and how we can help?

I strongly believe that people are looking for some spiritual guidance and the church can achieve this by being more welcoming, embracing diversity and inclusion, conducting all affairs with integrity, embracing change, and finally going out to be more of a presence in the community.

These views are of course my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Limerick City Parish as a whole.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN NENAGH

Once again GFS presented a magnificent tree. The Diocesan tree was voted second favourite in the Organisation section. Girls created the 'Sweet' decorations for the tree at the Christmas Craft Day. Well done to everyone involved in a beautiful creation but special thanks to Diane Dagg for leading the group. Thanks to everyone who visited the Festival and voted for the GFS tree.



Candyland Christmas Tree

CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY

This was a very enjoyable event on 2nd December in Birr, where girls made a variety of crafts including a floral Christmas basket, Christmas trees, cards, gift bags and decorations. As always it

was a great opportunity to renew friendships with other branches. Many thanks to Birr Leaders and friends for hosting this event and providing lovely refreshments.



Display of Christmas Crafts

BIRR BRANCH

Citizenship Badge - Before Christmas girls and leaders brought in Christmas gifts for the homeless and wrapped them as part of their badge work. Gifts were then donated to the Offaly branch of The Simon Communities. The branch finished up with some Candy Cane games and learned the meaning of the Candy Cane which originated over 250 years ago in Germany:

Look at the Candy Cane
 What do you see?
 Stripes that are red
 Like the blood shed for me
 White is for my Saviour
 Who's sinless and pure!
 "J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!
 Turn it around
 And a staff you will see
 Jesus my shepherd
 Was born for Me!

Since Christmas the branch has continued working on their Crafts and Bible Study in preparation for the Diocesan competition in March.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

On 6th December the Branch enjoyed an afternoon of fun at their Christmas party. There was plenty of delicious food, music, singing and a visit from Santa. Everybody had a great time.

Since their return on 10th January girls are busy with their crafts and Bible Study for competition.

Cloughjordan Branch run a weekly Mini-Market which reopened on 17th January - they welcome contributions to the stall from parents and friends of Branch. They are very appreciative of all contributions

and support. Proceeds from the Mini-Market go towards the GFS Missions and World Project.

The Branch is extremely grateful to Tipperary ETB for the grant money received which will be spent on equipment. This grant will greatly support work in the branch.

CloughJordan Enrolment Service took place on Sunday, 26th November in St. Kieran's Church at 11.30am. The Diocesan President was present for the occasion.

NENAGH BRANCH

The branch is extremely grateful to Tipperary ETB for an Equipment Grant of €5,000 which was received in December. This money has been used to buy essential equipment which would not otherwise be possible. The Local Youth Club Equipment Scheme (LYCES) supports volunteer-led youth club/group activities at a local level. Funding for the Scheme is provided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and is administered locally by Education and Training Boards (ETBs) on behalf of DCYA.

Cinderella – Girls and leaders went to the Panto in University Concert Hall, Limerick on 6th January. Everyone had a wonderful time and some even met Cinderella – Oh yes they did!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Diocesan Council Office Holders 2018 – 2021

Nominations papers have been distributed to all Council Members. Nominations must be returned to Diocesan President by 2nd February. Results of voting will be announced at next Diocesan Council Meeting.

Diocesan Council Meeting

Thursday 1st March at 8pm in the Rectory, Birr.

Craft Judging will take place on Friday 9th March at 7pm in CloughJordan Methodist Hall. If anyone needs further information or assistance please contact Michelle Armitage, Diocesan Secretary.

Diocesan Prizeday & Service 2018 is on 24th March in Birr. This service will also include the commissioning of the newly elected officers for the Diocese.

Diocesan Camp

Camp is organised for weekend of June 16 – 18 in Durrow Faith Centre. Save the date, don't book anything else and look forward to an action packed fun weekend. There will be more details after Council Meeting.

Boys' Brigade



1ST NENAGH CO.

Nenagh Boys' Brigade wanted to pay tribute to the late Dennis Croft at the 2017 Christmas Tree Festival and we could see no better way to do this than by demonstrating a learned life skill, which is one of the important things we try to achieve in Boys' Brigade. Dennis was a keen supporter of what we were aiming for as a group and had been a scout himself. Rae had given us several books on knots and these were extremely useful. Our tree was festooned with knots of all kinds, and labelled with their names and diagrams. Dennis was of course also key in the creation of the school's Croft Hall, which is where we enjoy all our BB sessions. Consequently he was also always the one we called on when in trouble! We hope he would have enjoyed our tree.



The Croft Knot Tree

We have a busy year ahead, with some new activities that have been made possible by extra resources. Our financial gains have been in the form of our ETB grant, but this year the government has donated generous sports equipment grants to all types of youth clubs. We and the boys (and the school!) will have great fun with our purchases! We also have an amazing human resource on our side who has put her intelligence, perception, energy and caring to our good use and fortune, so thank you Marty, we appreciate your help!

1ST ROSCREA CO.

Roscrea Boys' Brigade will meet in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall on Friday 9th February for our Enrolment Service and on 23rd February. For more information, please contact Alison Hayes at 086 6030225.

Mothers' Union

I hope you are all settling well into 2018 and looking forward to what a New Year brings.

As you know in December Mothers' Union joined with other organisations to call for an end to pension inequality for women and this Diocese along with all the other Dioceses in Ireland came together to sign a petition for Pension Equality for Women to call on Government to act without delay. Altogether approx 1,000 signatures were received through Mothers' Union to be put together with signatures from other organisations and, hopefully, this will have a real impact for change. A huge Thank You to all those who went to the trouble of signing our petition!

Why has this inequality happened? Successive governments have failed to recognise the enormous contribution women make to society and the economy when they provide unpaid care and, as a result, when it comes to pension time their work goes unrecognised and unpaid. Mothers' Union along with many other organisations

feel strongly that it is deeply unjust to punish women for the care they have provided. Please keep an eye on the situation and what happens next!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

April 11th – Diocesan Trustees Meeting (venue to be decided)
April 14th – All Ireland Council Meeting, Christ Church Dublin
April 26th – Diocesan Council Meeting (venue to be decided)

ST. JOHN'S BALLINASLOE BRANCH

Christmas came early for the St. John's Branch of the Mothers' Union in Ballinasloe. Members and friends were entertained by Penny and Jackie who demonstrated several ideas for the festive season. Many homemade crafted table decorations were displayed which Penny & Jackie had made using jars and glasses purchased from the local charity shops and then adorned them with baubles, lights, beads and other Christmas ornaments.



Ballinasloe Mothers' Union Craft Evening

Penny & Jackie showed the large group how to make novel a Christmas card, a fun gift tag, a lolly stick crib and a hanging snowman light. Great fun was had by all when they got the opportunity to try out these crafts themselves.

The evening ended with a cup of tea and Christmas refreshments. We all celebrated the 18th birthday of Leona Kelly who had joined us for the evening.

On 20th February the branch is looking forward to an evening entitled "Bygone Days" with local historian Gerry Devlin who will show a series of photographs of Ballinasloe in the '70s.

United Diocesan Youth Council

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

A great crowd of people gathered together for a night of glamour, dinner and dancing on Saturday 25th November at Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel in Adare to start off the Christmas season. The food was excellent as usual and after a short break our DJ started the disco, giving everyone a chance to get up and dance. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended and it was a superb reunion event.

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS DRAW

Very many thanks to the many people that assisted by selling and buying tickets for UDYC fundraising draw. The draw was once again a successful fundraising venture for Youth Council. The winners

were as follows: 1st Prize €150 – Vera Powell Harris (Kilmallock, Co. Limerick), 2nd Prize €100 – Virginia Daugirdaite (Limerick City) and 3rd Prize €50 – Ger Fox (Terryglass, Co. Tipperary).

PRE-CHRISTMAS OVERNIGHT TRIP

Our numbers for our Pre-Christmas Overnight Trip to Dublin held on 9th & 10th December were small but we joined with a large group from Cork Diocese. After a number of hours shopping at Dundrum Shopping Centre the group headed for Clontarf for CIYD Christmas Worship Service & Party with Disco. It was a very well attended event and enjoyed by everyone. Steve Grasham CIYD was the preacher at the service. The Cork, Limerick and Clontarf group stayed overnight at the parish centre in Clontarf and after a cooked breakfast joined the parishioners for their Sunday service. After Sunday service it was time to head home in the snow!

MEGA CHRISTMAS DAY TRIP

A very large group (67 in total) of young people headed to Dublin on Thursday 28th December for an action packed splendid day that included I-SKATE on Ice @ R.D.S., Funderland @ R.D.S., Jumpzone Indoor Trampoline Park @ Stillorgan Industrial Park, Fast Food @ McDonald's Kylemore, Karting @ Kylemore Karting. It was really great to have everyone on the trip with many new faces and of course the UDYC regulars. We hope to see everyone again real soon.



Ice Skating & Funderland at RDS, Dublin



Mega Group at Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin



Happy faces!

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

We look forward to providing a full report on National Youth Forum organised by Church next month which took place at City North Hotel in Julianstown, Co. Meath on Saturday 20th January. The delegates from Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe were Adam Gardiner (Askeaton), Robyn Cleary (Nenagh) and James Larkin (Ennis). All three are 5th year students at Villiers School and are regular attenders at UDYC events.

FUTURE EVENTS

The committee met recently to bring together plans for 2018 programme of events and we look forward to sharing plans in the very near future but at the time of Newslink deadline we were not in a position to confirm for definite our plans.

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

Until next month,

Oscar

Mobile: 086 2476327

Diocesan Council for Mission

MISSION SUNDAY 2017 PROJECTS:

In partnership with USPG, the agreed projects to receive financial support were for the funding of water tanks and training in hygiene for some of the primary schools in Swaziland.

The treasurer reports that donations continue to arrive from parishes. It would be really appreciated if all outstanding donations could be returned to Edward Hardy, Boolinarrig, Birr, Co. Offaly as soon as possible please. Please note that all cheques should be made payable to 'Limerick & Killaloe Diocesan Board of Mission'.

It is hoped to continue with fundraising for this project in partnership with primary schools throughout the Diocese as part of schools Lenten programmes. The proposal is to link up individual schools throughout our United Diocese with schools in Swaziland. The current project for water tanks and training in hygiene looks like it's going to be at least a two year project, but it is better to do the job properly, than not at all!

MINISTRY TO CHILDREN:

A Conference will take place at Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel in Adare, Co. Limerick on Saturday 10th March from 10 am to 4.30 pm. The conference will focus on programmes, training, ideas and resources for development of Children's Ministry in local parishes. The Diocesan Council for Mission would particularly welcome participation from all those involved in the provision of Children's Ministry. The cost for the day is €20 which includes tea/coffee and scones on arrival and lunch. Booking is essential for this event no later than Tuesday 6th March to Edward Hardy by e-mail (edhardy70@gmail.com), calling or texting (087/2907553).

MISSION EVENINGS:

It is proposed to hold the first Mission Evening for 2017 in the South Court Hotel, Limerick on Tuesday 13th. March 2018 commencing at 7.30pm with tea/coffee (presentation to commence at 7.45 pm. This would be a combined event with our Methodist colleagues, on the topic of 'church planting' and the speaker will be the Rev Adrian McCartney, brother of the new rector of Clonfert Group Rev. Charles McCartney. The event is free and no booking is required.

CHARITY EVENTS

In order to raise funds for other Mission projects, which the DCM hopes to support, we intend running at least one charity event in May /June 2018 centred around the river Shannon. Hopefully this will involve members of the Youth Council and any other young people from within the United Diocese, who want an enjoyable day of fellowship and activity, all for a good cause!

If anyone requires further information in relation to the activities of Diocesan Council for Mission please do not hesitate to contact either Canon Bob Hanna at 086 2167040 (e mail bobhanna@eircom.net) or David Frizelle at 087 6855251, (davidfrizelle@eircom.net).

David Frizelle (Hon Secretary)

Canon Bob Hanna (Communications)

Children's Ministry Network

CHILD IN THE MIDST

The latest edition of Child in the Midst is available at Mary Hawes, Child in the Midst, Church of England via

mailchi.mp/d981f360e965/news-and-resources-for-ministry-with-by-and-among-children

Read articles on preparing for Lent, including the popular Godventure latest offering - children found the Christmas edition very stimulating, the Lent edition looks very promising. Or download information on 'not shielding children from darkness,' or the latest research into children and church: the importance of early years for long term growing faith.

www.cm.ireland.anglican.org may not be completely bang up to date but there are plenty of resources and sites with which to link.



MESSY CHURCH HOLY COMMUNION

Rejoice you Anglicans! The long awaited Messy Church Holy Communion is here! The Liturgical Commission of the Church of England together with BRF is delighted to bring this very useful and free resource for planning a Eucharist.

Mark Earey has written a clear introduction to the 29 page booklet - the list near the end contains a set of Biblical themes with a variety of rich stories through which to explore the sacrament. The booklet is downloadable from the Messy Church website.



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The final week before Christmas was a hive of activity in school. The pupils, parents and staff travelled to the Crescent Shopping Centre for some carol singing where we entertained the shoppers one Saturday afternoon. We also performed at Adare Live Crib. For the first time this was held in the Village Hall which brought some welcome shelter from the wind and rain! This is always a beautiful event. That evening the pupils sang the 'Zither Carol' at the Carol Service in St. Nicholas' Church.

The Christmas party is a much-loved event in school when all three classrooms entertain parents, grandparents and friends with a selection of plays and musicals. This year the junior room performed 'Have you seen my Little Lamb', followed by the middle room with their version of 'Beauty and the Beast'. The afternoon finished off with 'Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum' by the senior pupils. As always the audience were delighted with the performances. This was followed by refreshments supplied by the Parents' Association and a visit from Santa. This year he arrived in his raincoat and wellington boots!



Some fun on stage in St. Nicholas' N.S.

We are delighted to have Valerie Walker, a past pupil, on teaching practice in the school at present. She will teach in the senior classroom and then move into the middle room. Ms Walker has taken on the task of creating a new sensory garden in the school grounds. Our garden club meets after school on Wednesdays and we have already begun to clear away the old and plan for the new. What a wonderful project for Spring!



Christmas shoeboxes from Adare

Sewing classes have begun with Nora after school on Tuesdays and chess club will start at the beginning of February.

The senior pupils will travel to Villiers for the Limerick/Clare spikeball finals at the end of January. This year four mixed teams have entered.

Three teams will also take part in the Credit Union Schools' Quiz in Rathkeale at the end of the month.

St. Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

While the weather was cold there was a warm welcome to all our students after the break. We hope that you enjoyed the Christmas celebrations.

We are delighted to have Mrs Smyth for music lessons again this term. We'd like to thank her for the wonderful job she did in preparation for our Christmas pageant. French continues weekly for our senior classes. The Dance strand of the Physical Education curriculum kicked off this week with Ms Claire Nealon as Dance Coach.

Many thanks are due to our Parents' Association who organised the Christmas raffle. Our parents and guardians were great to support the fundraiser which raised €775. Go raibh mile maith agaibh don tacaíocht.

We'd like to wish Mrs Slattery and Mrs Cavanagh the best as they commence their maternity leave. We look forward to hearing the good news in the spring. We welcome Ms Sally Morrissey and Ms Michelle Burke who have joined the teaching team.

Continuous Professional Development days continue nationally for teachers to implement the new Primary Language Curriculum. St Mary's No. 2 N.S. has been allocated March 8th for staff training. School will remain closed for pupils on that day.

We wish all of our pupils, parents, staff and our community a wonderful and Happy 2018!

St Michael's National School, Limerick

Rosalind Stevenson retired from teaching on August 31st as Principal of St Michael's NS, having been Principal for the past nineteen years. There were two very special occasions at which her retirement was acknowledged and celebrated. First was dinner with present and past staff in the Castletroy Park hotel, followed by an INTO evening of recognition for retiring members of the teaching union. We wish her a long and healthy retirement to enjoy life a little more leisurely than is possible for a teaching principal.



INTO Evening of Recognition Former Principal Rosalind Stevenson with former teacher Deirdre Wheeler

Each new year launches the beginning of more sporting events in which we in St Michael's NS enjoy participating; most especially as we are now the proud recipients of an Active School flag. Much to our delight, having had an inspection at the end of November, to see if we met the criteria, we were awarded the flag. We are hoping to celebrate this special occasion of hoisting our new flag on February 14th. On the same day, we are looking forward to the launch of the school's new website. Thanks to our new Principal, Miriam Smyth, who has worked tirelessly with school parents to get this up and running, we now hope to join many other schools by having all kinds of school-related information easily accessible – even enrolment!

Fifth and Sixth Classes have been busy preparing for the Spikeball season. Our annual visit to Villiers school, host of the tournament, has taken place. Spikeball is a junior version of volleyball, which is very inclusive to play.

Second Class had the privilege of visiting Atlantic Airventure in Shannon, Co Clare, in January to learn all about planes and flight. Having an opportunity to experience a flight simulator was very exciting, as was seeing several planes up close.



Exploring a plane in Shannon

Cloughjordan No.1 National School

Thank you very much to everybody who supported our "Christmas" fundraising quiz. Once again, we are very grateful to Mrs. Miriam Henderson for setting the quiz.

Well done to everybody who participated in our school Carol Service. The children were wonderful! It was tremendous to see a packed church on the night and to have so many present with us at this special event. The collection on the night amounted to €720 and was donated to the Billy Goulding Fund (€360) and Richmond ICU at Beaumont Hospital in loving memory of Neville Atkinson (€360).

Well done to Katy Williamson who won a prize in the Art Competition organized by Borrisokane Community College as part of their Christmas Concert. Thank you to Borrisokane Community College, once again, for the kind invitation to their wonderful Christmas Concert which our 3rd – 6th class pupils and their teachers, really enjoyed.

Well done to Cormac Malone, Ella Dann, and Megan Kennedy who won prizes in the Borrisokane Credit Union 2017 "Set Your Imagination Free" Poster Competition. Thank you very much to Borrisokane Credit Union for the very generous prizes awarded, and for the treats which were greatly enjoyed by all pupils!

We welcome RK Sports to teach gymnastics and tin whistle to all classes this term. Pupils are thoroughly enjoying these activities while also acquiring new skills. We also welcome back Paddy Fitzpatrick from the IRFU to teach tag rugby to our Third – Sixth Class pupils

Thank you very much to Declan Gaffney who is very kindly working with all classes each week showing them how to grow and care for polyanthus plants in our garden tunnel.

Enrolment application forms for September 2018 enrolment in Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. are now available from the school. If you would like an application form please contact the school on 0505 42318 or email principal.cloughjordan.no1.ns@gmail.com

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

Bliain nua fé sheán is fé mhaise díbh go léir ó Scoil Cill Tullaigh All in Kiltallagh National School would like to wish our Newslink readers a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

KILTALLAGH N.S. CELEBRATING 80 YEARS.

Kiltallagh National School is a small rural co-educational Church of Ireland Primary School located in the heart of Castlemaine Village, Co. Kerry.

Our school first opened its doors to the community on September 6th 1938 with Rev. R.H. Thompson as its first manager.

Two extensions were later built, one in 1965 and the other in 1976. Kiltallagh National School is one of only two schools in Kerry under the Church of Ireland management and while not all pupils are of the Church of Ireland faith, all are welcome in our school as they are in God's house.

School life in Kiltallagh is extremely vibrant- offering all the children under our care a warm, caring, happy, safe and supportive environment which helps us

*'Nurture minds to think
Hands to create and
Hearts to love'*

Our vision for each and every child ultimately, is to celebrate their uniqueness and enable them to flourish to become the very best that they can be, as we guide them on each step of their journey through primary school.

September next marks the 80th anniversary of the enrolment of the first pupils in Kiltallagh National School and we believe there is indeed much to celebrate in both the last 80 years and the present healthy state of the school.

We wish to extend a warm invitation to you all, including past and present pupils, teachers, principals, parents, Board of Management members, clergy, parishioners and the many friends of Kiltallagh, to our Service of Celebration in Kiltallagh Church, Castlemaine with Bishop Kenneth Kearon on Friday September 21st at 11.30 a.m. followed by a reception afterwards at our school.

We hope you can all share in our special Day of Commemoration. Bigi ann, Bigi linn.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Congratulations to the children from each classroom for their hard work and excellent performances for our concert. As our hall isn't large enough the Infants' play and 3rd & 4th class shows were on the 19th and 1st & 2nd and 5th & 6th class shows were on 20th December. Thanks to Andrea Eades for her fabulous face painting for the junior classes; and a special word of thanks to Mrs. Hodgins for stepping in at the eleventh hour and producing a very good play for the 1st & 2nd class.

Congratulations to Ms. Elaine Carter on the birth of her baby daughter Emily. Welcome to Ms. Sarah Dooley who is covering maternity leave and is teaching 1st & 2nd class in Elaine's absence. Our quiz teams are making preparations for the credit Union quiz on 29th January.

St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

The Junior class enjoyed a visit to Siamsa Tíre to see the Ugly Duckling and all the children enjoyed our "Trick or Treat" party raising funds for Temple Street Children's Hospital.

The Senior classes helped the "Brambles" cleaning group to clean Ashe Street. However, the weather wasn't very kind so the clean-up had to be cut short and we hope to be able to do another clean up in the New Year.

Well done to three of our senior class girls who cut their hair during the mid-term break and donated the hair to the Rapunzel Foundation, a charity that makes natural hair wigs for children suffering from hair loss.

The School went Christmas carol singing in Tralee town centre and Manor West Shopping Centre raising funds for the School and St. Vincent de Paul. A Christmas Jumper Day also raised funds for Enable Ireland. Many thanks to all the parents and pupils for preparing beautiful shoe boxes for the Team Hope Shoebox appeal. They will be a lovely surprise for the children who get them at Christmas – well done everyone!

The Christmas Nativity in St. John's Church was a wonderful success. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas party in Teach an tSolais afterwards where the children got to visit Santa's Grotto. Thanks to the Parents Association for organising this and a very successful bag packing fund raiser.

Our 2018 School Calendar is available should anyone wish to purchase a copy.

Rathkeale No.2 National School

The first term drew to a close last December following a very enjoyable school performance of "Superstars", a Christmas musical which was held in Holy Trinity Church. We were also delighted to welcome Santa afterwards and true to form he had a gift for each child.

Our school had a Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) inspection during December and we were delighted to get positive feedback from the inspector, we await her written report.

We're delighted to see that work has begun on the new pedestrian crossing in Church Street near the school. Thank you to everyone who made a submission to Limerick City and County Council on our behalf. A special word of thanks to past pupil and county councillor, Adam Teskey for his help and support.

SCIENCE FAIR

We entered the RDS Primary Science Fair held in Limerick on Friday 19th January with our investigation "Does whitening toothpaste work?"



Pupils at the Science Fair

**YOUR SMALL
CHANGE CAN MAKE
A BIG DIFFERENCE
THIS LENT**
christianaid.ie

Dimma from Kenya, who received support from a Christian Aid agriculture project.

More than 40 million people have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge within their own countries, due to violence, conflict and disasters. These forgotten people often don't have the same rights as refugees and must depend on the goodwill of others.

This Lent, Christian Aid will walk alongside these forgotten people.

Download our 'Count Your Blessings' resource on christianaid.ie or order a Lenten collection box by calling 01 496 7040 (Republic of Ireland) or 028 9064 8133 (Northern Ireland).



Following the investigation we did discover that the best toothpaste we tested in removing stains and whitening was in fact a whitening toothpaste. We also discovered that it was the only toothpaste we tested to have sodium bicarbonate in it so we concluded that sodium bicarbonate is useful at whitening. For anyone interested in white teeth, the toothpaste we discovered to be the best at whitening is Colgate Max White. The following is the text of the judge's feedback:-

"This project was a very impressive study, asking a very clear and simple question. Children were articulate and enthusiastic in their delivery. The results of their experiments were well recorded and displayed. Very interesting to see that bicarbonate soda made such a difference to the results!

Children, you created an excellent project and it was a pleasure to discuss your project with you! Keep up the great work and continue to have a great time in the area of science in the future."

The pupils from 3rd to 6th class carried out the investigation and attended the science fair. We all had a great day out, manning our stand, visiting other stands and attending workshops/demonstrations.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the untimely death of Kathy Casey, daughter of Pat and Daphne Casey. We extend our sympathy to the Casey family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Villiers School

See page 19



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Pastoral and Spiritual Care of those with Dementia

The 3rd in a series of 4 articles by Rev Rod Smyth, Rector of Nenagh

In this, the 3rd of 4 articles on the subject, Rev Rod Smyth, Rector of Nenagh discusses the importance of liturgy, symbol and ritual in providing memory cues to people with dementia.

Many writers stress the essential spiritual side to the pastoral care of those with Dementia. Sapp believes that 'as the things of this world, which the modern world has come to rely upon for meaning, necessarily diminish in importance and begin to disappear, if carers for persons with dementia are to maintain hope and a sense of the meaningfulness of life ... the source of that hope and meaning must increasingly be that which transcends the earthly dimension, namely, the things of the spirit.'

One of the great advantages of the sacramental tradition is that it does not just accommodate the cognitive elements of Christian faith, the words which, for the Dementia sufferer, become less and less a means of communication. It also accommodates the affective elements of Christian faith, very often relational, which can be very powerful in triggering memory of God.

The left side of the brain deals with that which is intrinsically cerebral, the more rational ways of thinking, including the use of words. The right side of the brain, the intuitive side, deals with how we experience things, the beauty of nature, art, music and, Hilary Wakeman would suggest, God.

This has powerful implications for those whose rational powers have been impaired and find communication with words difficult. Robert Davis, diagnosed in his early fifties writes; 'I can no longer be spiritually fed by the sermon ... it sends my mind whirling in a jumble of twisted unconnected ideas'



Memory is important in the Christian faith, but, unfortunately much of it is bound up with words and our rational intellect. However, the Incarnation was about The Word becoming flesh. Words in themselves are only a finite estimate of that to which they point.


NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Good pastoral care, therefore, will need to make use of much non-verbal communication in caring for those with Dementia. The literature suggests that one of the most effective ways of reaching the person behind the symptoms of Dementia is the use of ritual and liturgy. The job of clergy and carers is to nourish the relationship with God. The use of liturgy and ritual is really about providing

memory cues for the person with Dementia. Many writers highlight the importance of the liturgy as a way of resonating with the past; with the patient's long-term memory of church. Thus, providing familiar memory cues of past church experience the person with Dementia can 'be set free from thinking about what to say or do next in order to pray the liturgy and allow themselves to be absorbed by it.' The Dementia sufferer can do so because the liturgy is deeply embedded in the long-term memory. For example, when cued into the Lord's Prayer, many of those with Dementia can recite alongside the priest. Ramshaw argues that 'The familiarity of ritual may offset even severe impairments of memory.'



L I M E R I C K



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Other writers stress the importance of the use of symbols such as crosses, candles, and the use of robes and clerical collar by clergy as a means by which the person may cue into past memories of church and spiritual lives. Stevenson believes that, 'Symbols can express not only faith but also wistful memories of lost faith'. Thiselton argues that 'not to use symbols ... in liturgy ... is to fight with one hand tied behind one's back'. A Church of England report, states, 'Candles, incense, the kiss of peace, the feel of the cross, the taste of bread and wine, familiar word patterns in prayer and music, become more significant than the words of the liturgy or sermon.'

PRESENCE

The mystery of the ministry of presence is of exceptional importance for both carer and priest, especially in the final stages of the disease when communication has almost completely ceased.

Zeisel expresses with great clarity the idea that, 'In the same way that lovers are present to one another, being present to a person living with Alzheimer's expresses tenderness, caring, and love. The person sensing these emotions, relaxes with less agitation, anxiety, and aggression'.

We cannot know what simply sitting with a patient, perhaps holding a hand will convey to that person in the moment, but we must believe that we can make a difference, give hope by representing the faith community and Christ himself.

BEST PRACTICE

Best practice in pastoral care also puts forward for consideration the use of reminiscence as a method for memory cueing, especially when it makes use of a memory box. This is a box containing things which cue memories from the past such as photographs, but also items such as perfume or other items which involve the sense of smell which can be one of the most provocative of all our memory cues. It is ideal if a memory box can be put together by the person themselves before they lose cognition and communication, possibly with family or friends, so that it reflects all aspects of their past life. Labelling each item is also good practice so that, in future, the pastoral visitor can provide the necessary cues for remembering. In recent years, much work has been done on reminiscence therapy using music, art, drama, and the introduction of animals into Dementia units in order to enhance the lives of those with Dementia.

The question must be, how are our churches responding to this huge pastoral task? Pastoral care in this situation cannot be seen as the sole prerogative of the parish priest; we are all involved as part of the body of Christ. The question must be how do we train clergy and laity in this task and what steps is the Church taking to educate its members?

Shining a light on gender based violence

In November 2017 Mothers' Union stood in solidarity with women across the world in support of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign' in St Cronan's Church, Roscrea, led by Canon Jane Galbraith. Our Prayer Vigil is an awareness raising initiative which highlights and calls for an end to violence against women locally, nationally and internationally. It was wonderful to see so many members attend as it was an exceptionally cold day. It was also wonderful to welcome Bishop Kenneth and Jennifer to the Prayer Vigil.

Our speaker was Ms. Miriam Duffey from Rape Crisis Mid West which is a free and confidential service for survivors for rape, sexual violence and abuse and operates in Limerick, Nenagh and Ennis. Miriam spoke about the many aspects of the work that they do including Crisis Counselling, Long Term Counselling, Court Accompaniment, Initial Support with the Gardai and Group Support. Miriam spoke very movingly about her work: "When someone is shocked and grieving over what has happened to them the anger, loss and pain can be overwhelming. A hand to hold and someone to talk to that won't judge but just listen is vitally important."

In Limerick & Killaloe Diocese our focus this year is with Adapt House, Limerick and Esker House, Athlone, women and children's refuges. Mothers' Union prepare care packages for families who are about to leave the refuge to set up on their own. These include toiletries, food, pyjamas, and toys and our members have been exceptionally generous in their giving once again. Also on the day of our vigil we

displayed items knitted by our members which will go to Limerick Regional Maternity Hospital for premature or stillborn babies and also some knitted teddies which will support the ambulance and fire service in dealing with children experiencing a trauma.

I would like especially to thank Rev Jane Galbraith, our Diocesan Chaplain, Florence Reid and Heather Evans who put so much work into preparing the Vigil and all those who arranged a very welcome cup of tea and supper following our vigil.

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President



In St Cronan's Church, Roscrea for the Vigil against gender based violence

Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

850th Anniversary Programme

A programme of events to mark the 850th anniversary of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick was launched by Bishop Kenneth Kearon on Tuesday 30th January. Saint Mary's was gifted to the Church by Donal Mor O'Brien, the last King of Thomond. It has been a site of Christian worship since 1168 and is one of the oldest buildings in Limerick City.



St Mary's Cathedral is at the heart of Limerick City

The year's festivities will celebrate and promote the Cathedral's roles in city life including - community, civic, cultural, educational, ecumenical, musical, sporting and tourism. Highlights of the year include a visit from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge and a special Service of Thanksgiving. Each month the Cathedral will highlight a figure associated with Saint Mary's and there will also be a tangible dimension to the celebrations as each month will focus on a charity or cause based in or around Limerick.



St Mary's Cathedral opens its doors to all

Speaking of the year, the Dean, the Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane says 'Saint Mary's holds a very special place for the City of Limerick and its citizens. It has been a royal palace - no doubt, a place of story-telling, feasting and celebrations. Over the succeeding centuries it has witnessed unique events, welcomed countless people through its doors and marked key moments in the lives of Limerick people. Today, as it continues to be a place of pilgrimage and prayer, it has a unique role to play within all aspects of city and diocesan life. The central theme of our celebrations in 2018 will be opening our doors to all and forging links with Limerick and beyond so that we may echo the Christian message of faith, love and witness. I invite you to join us as we celebrate this historic occasion and give thanks for Saint Mary's Cathedral!'

Villiers School

SPORTS

The return to Villiers after Christmas has been extremely busy. Since the start of the new term there has been highs and lows, victories and defeats. In basketball, both the senior and 1st year girls had very convincing wins against Thomond College. The seniors were in action again very quickly and once again came away with the victory against Askeaton. The boy's basket-ball squad are now in training for their upcoming matches. Villiers are very excited to be playing their first badminton tournament with the initial match against Kilfinnan. Good luck to the team and the coaches, Miss O Leary and Miss Antonio.



The senior girl's hockey team, although did themselves and the school really proud, unfortunately were defeated against Crescent Comp in the semi-final of the Senior Girls Cup.

Congratulations to the under 14's boy's rugby who had a very resounding victory against Glenstal winning 34 -19.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Villiers is also very excited to announce the arrival of the International Baccalaureate Programme which is an internationally recognized qualification for entry into higher education worldwide. The focus is on inquiry based learning where students are encouraged to direct their own learning. If anyone would like further information please contact the school.

NOTES FROM VILLIERS SANCTUARY

The pace of life leading up to our Carol Service and all the rush and busyness of Christmas is now a memory. Everyone has finally settled back unto the rhythm of school life here in Villiers. I am always aware of a sense of expectation and anticipation at this time of year as the dreaded mock exams are almost upon us. 6th form can almost see the end and of course 3rd form is on the brink of a transition from junior into senior cycle. There will be a lot of stress and pressure in the coming months, so the Sanctuary will be busy as it continues to offer a place of stillness and peace to all.

This week is Christian Unity week and I am delighted to be bringing students to Holy Rosary church. Alongside Ard Scoil, JFK and Salesians, we will be taking part in a service with the theme 'One Body, One Bread'. Once again I had the wonderful pleasure of bringing the Community Group to the Cycle Against Suicide Student Leader Congress. The Congress this year was held in the Zarena and focused on raising awareness of the message 'It's OK not to feel OK; and it's absolutely OK to ask for help', and promoting help-seeking behaviour in young people. The theme for this year was 'Empower Your Voice' and the group was delighted to be invited on stage to perform their showcase project in front of 7000 others. The Congress demonstrates in an incredibly special way the value to students of appreciating their mental well-being and highlights the importance of reaching out and asking for help. A truly worthwhile endeavour. The Community Group also visited the Zest4kidz offices, meeting charity-founder Stuart Wilson. They heard first-hand about fundraising and where their funds raised will be used. The Group is walking the Camino as a fundraiser for Zest4kidz and I am so proud of everything that they do. Bless your hearts guys!

Blessings and peace, Chaplain Jackie McNair

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

December was all about celebration. On 10 December at St Flannan's Cathedral we had 'A Christmas Celebration' coordinated by Sadie Scanlon. We had singing by Killaloe Male Voice Choir, East Clare Community Choir, Boru Singers and Emma Meskell and Sienna Skelly. Traditional carols as well as beautiful pieces by various choirs. Traditional music by Ceol consisting of Deidre Scanlon, Michael Hackett and Ciara O'Sullivan. Local brothers Michael and Austin Durak did their own compositions of poetry reading and music. There was of course time for the audience to participate in carol singing. Our MC, Dan Minchin, coordinated the evening for us. Our thanks to all and the community who filled the place with the retiring collection going to local charities.



Clonlara's Christmas Tree

14 December in Clonlara was another great community event of lessons and carols with singing led by the local Kiltananlae Voices. This local choir, who practice in the church each week, has grown from strength to strength under the capable direction of Rhonwen Hayes. A huge Christmas tree was arranged by David and Sarah and with the church beautifully decorated it was a wonderful night of celebration. Everyone went across to Stritches afterward where they laid on mince pies and mulled wine. A huge thank you to all involved.



Braving the elements!

Lessons and carols took place in Mountshannon on 17 December and the local school joined in the service. The school choir sang beautifully and we had an encore of 'a ray of hope'. Teacher Shannon did a fine job. Local community attendance is always wonderful to behold at such events. Thanks to church wardens and helper for teas and treats after. We had some snowfall at Mountshannon and in spite of really terrible conditions the locals made the Advent Carol Service.



Snow covered Mountshannon Church

On the 24th December we had the last of lessons and carols at Castleconnell and Killaloe. The Sunday school did their rendition of Little Donkey. They had put in much time preparing for the day and well done to them and parents who helped. Our thanks go to Hazel for the musical accompaniment. At both services in Stradbally and Killaloe, mulled wine and mince pies were laid on by Sean and Iris in the respective churches, our thanks to all.

Christmas Eucharist services took place at Mountshannon, Castleconnell and Killaloe and as usual they were all well attended. This time of the year it is always such a pleasure to welcome visitors and visiting family members to be part of our liturgical celebrations. Bishop Kenneth was the celebrant and preacher at St Flannan's Cathedral.

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

PRAYERS

It's good to see James Coburn and David Frizelle up and around again after their stays in hospital, and we're delighted as well to have Whitten Gill home again. We continue to remember Holly Dagg, Tom Dagg, Betty Eades, Pamela Edge, Edwin Harding, Tom Hayes, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse in our prayers.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Many thanks to all who contributed in the Christmas services by decorating, reading, singing, and helping in so many ways. Special thanks to Deirdre, Maureen, and Peter for playing so many hymns at so many services! Thanks, too, to Charlotte, Henry, and Paul, our readers at our Christmas Eve Family Service in Lockeen Church,

along with our talented duet Charlene and Zara, who sang 'O Holy Night' so beautifully.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Roy and Claire Gill on the birth of their daughter Cara, a sister for Ruby and granddaughter for Henry and Anne of Rosse House, Rathcabbin, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

"BRING YOUR CHANGE TO MAKE A CHANGE"

At this writing we are nearly at the front of Birr Church with a row of coins for "Bring Your Change to Make a Change". The proceeds will be given to the Midlands Simon Community when we get all the way to the front. Many thanks to all who have been contributing, and to our young people who have been arranging the coins each Sunday after the service.

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday will be on the 14th of February this year (Happy St Valentine's Day to you as well!) There will be a service of Holy Eucharist in Birr Church at 8:00 pm. We are once again planning a series of celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday evenings in the homes of parishioners during Lent. If you would like to host one of these, please indicate which Wednesdays would be best for you, on the sign-up sheets in the churches. The service can take place in a sitting room, with just a small table for the celebration, or a dining room around a large table. Coffee and tea afterwards would be appreciated, but no sweets or biscuits (it will be in Lent, after all), and no sandwiches or savouries – we want to keep it simple. The dates for the services will be the 21st and 28th of February, and the 7th, 14th, and 21st of March.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth has advised us that the Confirmation Service will be held in Birr on Sunday, 24th June in the afternoon (time to be decided). Any young people of at least 12 years old who want to confirm their Baptismal vows and make a sincere commitment to follow Jesus should contact the Archdeacon. Time and place for Confirmation classes will be announced soon. It is hoped that candidates would also be prepared to attend the Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, to be held on the 1st to the 4th of June.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

St Burchin's Church Bourney, Christ Church Corbally, St Molua's Church Kyle, with St. Cronan's Church Roscrea

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Christ Church Corbally 9.30,

St Cronan's 10.45,

St Burchin's Bourney 12 noon,

St Molua's Kyle 12 noon (1st and 3rd only)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Deepest condolences are offered to Eva Harvey on the death of her sister Florrie Fahy. Florrie lived a long and energetic life, and after a service in Ballinasloe was buried in the Sheppard Grave, Glenahaun.

The death of George Wallace, brother of the late Bert and Adam Wallace, took place in Alberta, Canada, where he is survived by his wife Rubie of 55 years, son Gregg and daughter-in-law Tracy. George was born in Roscrea, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1960. He

retired from a successful business career in 1988 with Rothmans of Canada and subsidiary Beamish Breweries in Ireland. George and Rubie settled in Red Deer 'close to the golf club' in retirement. George was an accomplished golfer, winning many prestigious senior golf tournaments throughout Alberta in his retirement years. He will be fondly remembered by the many friends he loved to golf with.

Henry (Harry) Hodgins was our oldest parishioner died in his 96th year, a loyal and well respected churchman in the town and beyond. Our sympathies rest with Fan and her family and especially James and Madeleine and their children Phoebe and Stuart. Harry's funeral took place in St. Cronan's Church Roscrea and thence to Dungar Cemetery.

HOLY BAPTISM

Maggie Bea Connor - St.Cronan's Church Roscrea, baby daughter of Kate and Andrew Connor and sister to Rebecca and Harry grandson of Ken and Margaret Connor.

Isabel Marion Lewis - baby daughter of Michelle and Mervyn Lewis in St.Burchin's Church Bourney, a sister for Jack and Megan. Grandson of Roy and Betty Lewis.

'Baptingles' made their appearance in the baptismal services. This is an aid to help small children learn all about baptism. It is similar to the Christingle idea, and can stand alone as a single creation or as happened at Maggie's baptism...everyone had opportunity to make one.



Mervyn and son Adam holding baby Isabel with Michelle holding Megan at the Font St.Burchin's Church, Bourney.



Kate and Andrew Connor with baby Maggie and god-parents in St.Cronan's Church, Roscrea

PARISH LUNCH 2018

This popular get-together for our whole group of parishes is scheduled to take place on Sunday February 11th. at 1.00pm in Racket Hall. Three course lunch for €20.00 is available. If you haven't managed to make it before now, this year provides a great opportunity to give it a go and also to experience the 'Evan's wizardry'. For more enquiries please contact Heather Evans 086-8253206...sooner rather than later.

LENTEN ARRANGEMENTS to be announced.

Also we are invited to join our Methodist friends for Lenten Bible exploration - see page 33 for details under North Tipperary Methodist Circuit and Rev. Shannon DeLaureal.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479

Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st February St Brigid

11am St Mary's Eucharist order 1 with intercessions for the sick

Friday 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas

11am St Mary's Eucharist

Sunday 4th The Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am Templederry Eucharist

11am St Mary's Eucharist

Sunday 11th The Sunday before Lent

9.30am Templederry Eucharist

11am St Mary's Morning Prayer

12.15pm Killodiernan Morning Prayer

Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday

7.30pm St Mary's The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes

Sunday 18th The First Sunday of Lent

11am St Mary's Family Eucharist

Sunday 25th The Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am Templederry Morning Prayer

11am St Mary's Eucharist

12.15pm Killodiernan Eucharist

The Christmas services seem a long time ago now, but it is heartening to note that the number attending all of our Christmas services was up on the previous year. In particular, the community carol service, which brought the Christmas Tree Festival to an end had standing room only. At the end of the service the large congregation enjoyed seasonal refreshments, and the awards for the Christmas Tree entries were presented. A cheque for €2,000 was also presented to our partner charity, the St Cronan's Association, Nenagh.

On Wednesday 20th December, St Mary's No 2 National School presented their carol service and nativity play in St Mary's Parish Church, Nenagh. The large and appreciative congregation were treated to an absolute delight as the children presented the traditional Christmas story in narrative, songs and carols. Everyone in the school was involved and the children looked fabulous in their costumes, including Roman guards, shepherds and any number of angels.

On Sunday 7th January at both services in Templederry and St Mary's Nenagh, the congregations took part in a renewal of baptismal vows as we marked the Baptism of our Lord on the first Sunday after the Epiphany.

At the Family service on 21st January, the readings were read by sisters Heather and April Hayes, the hymns were related to 'the call' of Andrew and Peter and the rector's talk was all about the question, what happens when you make an emergency call? Children now receive a personal invitation to the family service and this has resulted in an increase in numbers!

The death has taken place of Mrs Greta Hodgins on 16th January 2018. Her funeral service was held in St Mary's Parish Church, Nenagh on Friday 19th January, followed by the committal in Ballinacloyh Cemetery. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her sons David and Duncan, and to the wider family circle.

The Nenagh Union was visited by tragedy on Tuesday 16th January when John and Betty Powell were involved in a road traffic incident on the M7 motorway close to Birdhill. John died at the scene and Betty is in intensive care in Limerick Hospital. 'Each man's death diminishes me,' wrote John Donne, but in truth, it is the death of those we admire and love the most which diminishes us the most, and John was greatly loved by his family and by all of us in the Nenagh Union. As we go to print no arrangements have been made for John's funeral but these will be widely publicised when available. We continue to hold his children Brian, Elaine, Barry, his sisters Joan and Barbera, his sister in law Olive and the wider family circle in our prayers.

Editor: We have just heard that Betty Powell has also died. For many years she has faithfully served the Nenagh Union as Pew-Distributor for Newslink. We express our gratitude for her service, and extend our sympathy to her and John's family and friends.

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Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 42183

Mob: 087 203 9333

Email: terrym438@gmail.com

Earlier on in the year, in a conversation with Father Tom Halloran, the parish priest of Borrisokane, we spoke on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and he mentioned a book written by P Fintan Lyons O.S.B. of Glenstal Abbey. In this book, 'Martin Luther His Challenges Then And Now', Lyons presents a number of challenges to the Church in the light of Luther's teachings.

He considers Luther's doctrine of justification, as being at the heart of his theology and questions in a modern, secular world can it still be relevant, where 'justification' for one's existence is found in areas outside of the Church and where the concept of sin has largely disappeared.

Lyons writes on page 213 how Luther came to find God, not through his own efforts but "by grace alone." It is God who takes the initiative and awakens the response, as through his mercy we are justified. Luther's faith embodied a whole range of human emotions, "ranging originally from hatred of God whose justice he could not satisfy to the joy akin to rebirth on recognising the God of mercy (p. 216)."

It was this experience and understanding of God, of his justification by faith and not by works, which Luther sought to communicate to the world. In our parishes and in our churches let us hold out the hope we have, that our justification is to be found through faith in Christ.

St Paul too, writes of this and adds the important proviso that the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love, (Galatians 5:6b). May God bless our hopes and dreams, our endeavours and aspirations for 2018, as we seek to live to His praise and glory.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (On sick leave)

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill
KKilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 HT20
Phone: 05791 35341: email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day, the 14th February and there will be one service in Shinrone at 8 p.m.

"The Offaly Good Variety Show" which was held on the 25th November in St. Mary's Church, lived up to its name and sincere thanks to Alan Algeo and David Meredith and all those who made it such an enjoyable and successful evening. Particular thanks to those who came and performed on the night: to Stuart Andrew, The Kinsellas, Sandra Lefroy, Jordan Lewis, Tadhg Maher, The Mellow Tones, Nicole Robinson, Virtuoso and Eddie Whelan.

Although Christmas festivities are becoming a distant memory, it would be a pity not to remember that it was, once again, a good time for people to come together in celebration. It was lovely to see the

churches so beautifully decorated. What can a mother do when her son asks if we can have a Christmas party? This happened Mrs. Hilda Mooney when Evan came up with the idea and with friends and family arranged a great party for children in Cloughmoyle School on the 15th December. They made decorations and created handcraft items. This was all followed by games and refreshments and then on to decorate the Christmas tree in the church. The United carol service was held in Dunkerrin on the 31st December when members from the four churches took part. Well done to Zoe and Kyle who sang "Away in a Manger" so beautifully.



Children's Christmas crafts



Enjoyment at Shinrone's Children's Christmas Party

Thank you to those who supported the Christmas Whist Drives in Shinrone and Aghancon and who gave prizes and supplied the refreshments.

MOTHERS' UNION

Members of the Mothers' Union joined residents in Ealga Lodge for Carol singing on the 7th December and many thanks to those who contributed to the Lions collection which was safely delivered to Roscrea afterwards. Every Thursday, John Armitage attends the Holy Communion service in Ealga Lodge and plays a selection of hymns. It is a ministry which is deeply appreciated.

MEN'S LUNCH

The Men's Lunch was held in Aghancon Community Hall on the 12th January and again, it was a good opportunity for people to get together for a very tasty meal and lively entertainment afterwards.

PASTORAL

We continue to remember those who are ill and those who care for them. We also pray for those who are bereaved and mourn the passing of a loved one.

FASHION SHOW IN GLOSTER HOUSE

It's some years since Shinrone church was last painted. In order to make a start on how this may be done it's necessary to raise funds to begin the work. With this in mind, a fashion show is in the process of being organised for Thursday, 12th April 2018. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Tom Alexander for giving permission for this to be held in Gloster House, as it will be a wonderful venue. There will be more details in next month's Newslink.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, 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

Kilnasoolagh Church held its annual Christmas Sunday Lunch 2017 in the changed location of Bunratty Castle Hotel and a good time was had by all 32 participants, including children. The latter coterie as ever met Santa—thanks to the diplomatic efforts of churchwarden Pascal Sage! – profuse thanks indeed Pascal – and to main organisers Edwin and Frances Bailey. A feature of this popular long-established gathering is that Drumcliffe parishioners often join the fellowship with the Rector.

A warm welcome was extended at the dinner and at the Christmas Eve Eucharist in Kilnasoolagh to Gail, mother of Julie Dickerson who joined her daughter and son-in-law Clinton for Christmas from South Africa. Gail's experience was all the richer for hearing her granddaughter Nicola sing enchanting solo at the candlelit service alongside flautist and pianist Fina Wurm.

Music plays a key role over the festive period and Drumcliffe had in Christmas week 'The Magic Of Christmas', a classical programme of sacred and seasonal music with soprano Helen Houlihan, tenor Owen Gilhooley, cellist Peter Sebasteyn and pianist and accompanist Richard McGrath.

An excellent turnout and mulled wine with mince pies completed a cheery and substantial start to Christmas for many.



Eckhart Wurm, Clinton Dickerson, Lesley Hamilton & Julie Dickerson at the Kilnasoolagh Christmas Lunch 2017

Up at 11th century St Fachnan's Cathedral, the ecumenical-Christingle on Christmas Eve drew good numbers from area families despite the truly appalling weather, with the peat fire blazing and Fr Ned Crosby's little musical group leading the carols. Thanks to Edwin Bailey and Lawson Kirkpatrick for leading worship at the New Year.

Bishop Kenneth joined his counterpart, Bishop Fintan in Ennis Friary at the beginning of Christmas week for the Ennis Town Carol Service and plans to visit the Group Parishes before Easter.



St Nicholas aka Santa joined in the fun

Christmas marked the retirement from active ministry of Fr Seanie McMahon, Parish Priest of Miltown Malbay, because of failing health. Our Kilfarboy Church community over the past years have reason to be grateful for Fr Seanie's kindness and support, not least during fund-raising programmes for Christ Church, and we wish him much blessing.

Recent rough weather took its toll a little in Ennis, where loosened slates on the church roof, pot holes from excess rain and one fallen tree in the Rectory grounds means unplanned expenditure.

Mrs Adeline McEvoy from Drumcliffe Parish, Ennis, has returned home after a spell in Limerick and Ennis General hospitals and is recuperating. We wish her a speedy strengthening.

Baby Rowan Wilkinson, son of Henry and Michelle from Kildysart, was baptised in St Columba's on Sunday December 3.

The Rector presided at the funeral rite at Shannon Crematorium of Howard David Baker, aged 88, formerly from England and resident in recent times with his son Noel and family near Mullagh, West Clare, on December 15th.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

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

FUNERALS

A funeral Eucharist was held in St John's Church Ballinasloe on December 17th for George Bruce, with a burial afterwards in Creagh Cemetery. The preacher was Father Sean Neylon of Taughmaconnell parish and the music was led by the Ballinasloe Folk Choir and Valerie Seale. Our deepest sympathies are with George's wife Mary and their children Jennifer, Danny, Ethan, Georgina, Catherine and

Rachel. A memorial service was held in George's honour on January 14th in St John's Church, where he had served on the Select vestry for many years.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Florence Fahy, who died on December 18th, especially her husband Joe, her children Harriett, Richard, Florence, Eddie and Arthur. A funeral Eucharist was held for Florence on December 20th in St John's Church, with a burial afterwards in Glan Church. Father Gerard Geraghty helped to lead the funeral and we were joined once more by the Ballinasloe Folk Choir.

A memorial service was held in Ardrahan Church on December 3rd to mark the seventh anniversary of the death of Bob Chapple.

BAPTISMS

Penelope Weily was baptized in St John's Church, Ballinasloe during the United Carol service on Christmas Eve. Congratulations to her parents Ashley and Sarah and to her sister Poppy.

Baby Alex Cobbin was baptized in St John's Church on January 13th. Congratulations to his parents John and Ciara.

PARISH UPDATE

Sincere thanks go to all who worked so hard to make our Christmas services and events so special. (Christmas is such a special time for coming together as a faith community together with returning family members and also to welcome friends and neighbours to our community events and services.) We remain indebted to Claire Besnyoe for the vision of hosting an annual ecumenical Advent Eucharist in Balydugan House, which was led this year by Father Imor Daniels and the Rector.

It was joyful to see St Catherine's Church, Ahascragh, packed to capacity for the annual community Christmas concert, at which the musical talents of so many friends and neighbours were so generously offered.

The ecumenical blessing of the crib in Aughrim on December 8th was an uplifting occasion for the village. On December 13th the children of Aughrim's two schools came together to greet the Liam McCarthy Cup. Children of The Glebe National School melted hearts and raised spirits with their renditions of The Tiptoe Nativity and the school panto, Cinderella on December 20th.

The carol service in Ardrahan Church was a wonderful community-building occasion, enriched by the presence of the Father Joseph Roche, the Labane Parish Choir and soloist Maeve Carney.

St John's Church hosted a united carol service on Christmas Eve, complete with the baptism of Penelope Weily and a presentation of gifts to Esker House Women's Refuge in Athlone.

The birth of the Christ child was ushered in with Christmas Eve communion services in Ardrahan and Glan churches, before a joyful family Eucharist in Aughrim on Christmas Day. In a beautiful artistic touch, the altar of Holy Trinity Church was transformed into the Bethlehem stable, housing a wonderful new nativity set crafted for us by churchwarden and secretary Vera Harte.

We are most grateful to Reverend Patrick Towers who led the united service in St Catherine's Church Ahascragh on New Year's Eve and covered the parish whilst the rector was away over the New Year. During the family service on January 14th, the altar cross from St Brendan's Church, Loughrea was presented to the children of the parish by former Loughrea parishioners Claire Besnyoe and Vera Harte.

On January 22nd the rector preached at a special Christian Unity service, hosted by the Carmelite Sisters of Loughrea. The theme of the service was 'That All May Be Free' and it was led by Bishop John Kirby.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney

The Rectory, The Hill, Banagher, Co. Offaly. R42T935

Mob: 087 709 4468

Email: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

After some discussion trial changes to our Church Service times until Easter 2018 have been agreed.

Portumna - Saturdays 7.00pm Holy Communion 3rd Saturday (17th Feb).

Eyrecourt - Sundays 10.00am Holy Communion 2nd Sunday (11th Feb).

Banagher - Sundays 12.00noon Holy Communion 1st Sunday (4th Feb).

Clonfert Cathedral - 5th Sunday Joint Service 11.00am (29th April)

Thank you for your good wishes and gifts at Christmas. Thank you to all who helped in the preparation for our Christmas Services and in the great times of food and fellowship. Bishop Kenneth also sends his good wishes and enjoyed meeting us all in Eyrecourt for the parish Carol Service. We enjoyed good congregations over Christmas and should be an encouragement for us to build on these occasions. Thank you also for the clearing away and returning our buildings to normal.

With the trial change of service times also encourages an opportunity to spread our wings a little. We would like to investigate the possibility of Sunday Schools (using the traditional name). Banagher has jumped in very quickly and is looking at the possibility of Sunday School, initially on one Sunday in the month @ 11.00am in the Church. We also have 3 volunteer helpers, it would be great to encourage a few more. Charles will be working with Safe Guarding Trust and other preparations.

We are very open for more thoughts and ideas around the Parish.

We opened the process of the Review of the Register of General Vestry Members on Sunday 7th January 2018. The registers remain open for one calendar month and an opportunity/encouragement for new membership. Each Church has a notice on the main door and registration forms readily available from the Church Wardens. The Select Vestries will conduct the Review process and will take place - Eyrecourt Thursday 8th February @ 8.00pm in the Church Hall (Library), followed with normal Select Vestry meeting.

Banagher Friday 9th February @ 8.00pm in the Church, followed with the normal Select Vestry meeting.

Portumna Saturday 10th February @ 8.00pm in the Church (after service), followed with the normal Select Vestry meeting.

In closing this legal section please encourage all members of our Churches over 18 to register as it is from this register we will elect our new Select Vestry.

LENT 2018

Ash Wednesday arrives a little early this year on the 14th February. We will have our traditional Service for Ash Wednesday in Banagher Church @ 8.00pm.

Each Thursday from the 22nd February @ 8.00pm we will have our Lenten Bible Study in the Rectory. Please come along to the Rectory during Lent as we prepare for Holy Week, Good Friday and again the celebration of the great Easter Event.

We plan to move around the Churches during Holy Week evenings details next month.

Again Thank you for your support.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Very Rev Niall Sloane

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061 310 293

Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org

Website – www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

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FROM THE DEAN

2018 marks a significant milestone in the life of St Mary's Cathedral. Gifted to the Church in 1168 by King Donal Mor O'Brien, we are now in our 850th year. To mark this, we are running a series of events to celebrate the life & witness of St Mary's.

As a diocesan family I invite every member of the Diocese to come and visit St Mary's in 2018 – you may wish to do this as a family, parish or individual. If we can help in facilitating this – please contact the Cathedral office.

A Happy New Year to all readers!

DEAN'S CLINIC

I am creating a 'Dean's Clinic' from Tuesday 13th February 2018. Whilst I am always available to answer or deal with matters, I feel the surgery is a way for parishioners (especially those in full-time employment out-side the home) to see me and arrange baptisms, sign passport forms, etc. I shall be at the Cathedral Office every Tuesday from 7-8 pm should you wish to come and see me.

I would remind all of you to contact me or another member of the clergy team with any pastoral matter (no matter how small) and we will be happy to offer prayer and support.

SUNDAY CLUB

Will next meet in St Michael's Church on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.

SELECT VESTRY

The Vestry will meet at 8.00pm in St Michael's Hall on Thursday 15th February.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

What will 2018 hold for our monthly magazine? Watch this space

as there are changes a foot!! To prepare for this there will be NO magazine in January and February but our new magazine will be launched in March 2018. We do need a few more helpers though. Would you like to Help? Please speak to Dean Niall. We will need helpers for the following portfolios: Co-ordinator, Distribution, Photographs, Advertising and Production

MOTHERS' UNION

Please contact Branch Chair, Margaret Schutz for further details. New members always welcome.

ST MICHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

The School ended the term before Christmas with a service in St Michael's Church. The morning included a performance of two nativity plays and some festive carol singing. Well done to all concerned.

The Dean has taken over as Chairman of the Board of Management. Sincere thanks to Jennifer O'Leary who has chaired the Board during the interregnum.

Please see pg13 for news from our Parish School.

WHIST DRIVES

Christmas 2017

There were six tables on the night. Many thanks to John, Sheelagh, Susi, Val & Noreen for the home bakes and to everyone who donated prizes. The Raffle winners were – Luxury Hamper (kindly donated by Niall Johnston) – Stephen Fairbrother, 2nd – Noreen Johnston, 3rd – Mona Lawless; 4th – Tim Keehan and 5th – Frank Sheahan.

Activities continue in 2018

3rd February 2018 – St Michael's

17th February 2018 – Villiers Square

3rd March 2018 – Raffle – St Michael's

10th March 2018 – Villiers Square.

All start at 7.30pm sharp and €6 to include supper.

CHRISTMAS IN LIMERICK

As I write the last of the decorations are being packed away. From carol services to flower decorating and charitable donations to social events – to all involved thank you! No matter how small your contribution – every little helps make Christmas what it is in Limerick.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to everybody who helped make this year's Fair such a success – €7,917 is the profit from same – To those who were part of the planning process, sold raffle tickets, took responsibility for stalls, donated goods (and goodies!) for sale, rolled up their sleeves on the day and helped to 'man' the stalls and all the people who supported by attending and buying. Congrats to the many raffle prize winners – 1st Prize Castlerosse Hotel voucher – Pat Moynihan

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

(St Michael's Whist); 2nd – Original Painting by Clare Hartigan – Rachel Clayton; 3rd – Trailer of logs – Christy Pratt (Bellringer St Mary's); 4th – Voucher Albert Swanton Fuels – Patrick Rowley Brooke; 5th – Luxury hamper – Sabine Egger (St Michael's School). Special thanks to Villiers School, Jackie McNair and Students who helped setting up and tidying up and finally to Tracey Lyttle and the organising team who make it all possible!

BELL RINGING

The New Year was ushered in by the traditional ringing of the bells of St Mary's. A video of the event was posted on Facebook and to date has reached 78,000 people!

ST MICHAEL'S HALL

For booking enquiries please contact the Hall Manager, Suzi Eckhardt.

NEWSLINK

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and may be paid to Gillian Cheatley. New subscribers are always welcome.

HOSPITAL VISITING

The Clergy would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from them or in the Church porches.

PARISH ARCHIVES

We are looking for any photos, information or historical artefacts relating to any of the churches in Limerick City Parish. If you have any such records, please contact the Dean.

READERS AND INTERCESSORS

If you would be interested in reading at services and/or leading the Prayers of the People at Parish Communion once a month please speak to a member of the clergy.

CHILDREN AND CHURCH

We are grateful to the leaders of our Sunday School who organise a wide range of events and activities. Children who wish to remain in church can avail of the Children's packs at the back of the church and/or follow along in our Parish Communion services with the 'I can join in the Holy Communion Service' booklets.

COELIAC?

Communicants who wish to receive gluten-free bread please inform the Clergy or a Churchwarden

ECO CONGREGATION IRELAND

Keep an eye on the notice board in the Church on news and updates.



Ben Thomas Kavanagh at his Baptism

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

The baptism has taken place of Ben Thomas, the baby son of David and Deirdre Kavanagh in the Church of the Assumption Rosbercon, New Ross by Fr Dan Cavanagh. Ben is the grandson of Joe and Lucy Kavanagh

FUNERAL

30th November (in St Mary's Cathedral) – Tom Cusack, North Circular Road, Limerick

Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved, in particular:

- Gillian Cheatley and Val Beck on the death of the brother-in-law, Geoff Robson (Scotland)
- Mary, Hilary and the Redden family on the death of her brother, Fred Oakley (Cork)
- Terry, Sheila and the Cusack family on the death of their son, Tom.
- Adrienne, Mike and the Baron family on the death her mother, Elma.
- The Griffin family on the death of Marianne Griffin.

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

January has come upon us, as of this writing, with lots of wintry storms and lots of flu going around. We pray that all stay warm and get or stay healthy!

SPECIAL EVENTS

We have had both a baptism and a wedding in the Adare Church in the past month. On Sunday, 31 December, Charlotte Rose Doherty was baptised. Charlotte Rose is the daughter of Roland and Susan Doherty; her grandparents James and Miriam Doherty are also members of St. Nicholas Church. We celebrate with all the family!



Charlotte Rose with her parents and grandparents Roland and Susan Doherty and James and Miriam Doherty following her baptism

On Friday, 12 January, St. Nicholas was the site of the wedding of Henry Spiller, from England, and Niamh Flynn, from Galway. The reception was held afterwards at the Dunraven Arms. Congratulations to Henry and Niamh!

CHRISTMAS

Our parishes have a number of annual traditions during Advent and Christmas. We observed them all this year, though the timing was adjusted because of Christmas being on a Monday (making the

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve being the same day!). They started with the Kilpeacon Sunday School service, complete with a play pointing out that Santa Claus needs Jesus too. We thank all the participants in the Sunday School for playing their roles so well, and the teachers and parents for their help.

The next event was the Mothers' Union party at the Rectory. Sylvia Cooke always comes up with some exciting and challenging games and puzzles to amuse us. We shall leave out the photos of participants being decorated as snowmen!

This year, as one of our Second Friday events, we added an Advent party at the home of Robert and Diana Williams. We had refreshments and conversation and sang Advent carols (yes, only Advent carols!). A resident dog joyfully joined in on one of the carols before being banished from the room.

Kilmallock had a Carol Service on 17 December in which the children read the readings and built the nativity scene as part of the service. This year we had a Christmas dinner afterwards at the Bulgaden Lounge. It was an enjoyable and festive occasion.



Kilmallock Christmas Dinner

We always have two other carol services also: this year in Adare on the evening of 17 December, with the participation of students from St. Nicholas National School, and in Kilpeacon on the First Sunday of Christmas.

And we had the traditional walk in Curraghchase (to walk off the turkey, not to mention all the other Christmas goodies...) on St. Stephen's Day.



St Stephen's Day walk in Curraghchase

OTHER AND UPCOMING EVENTS

In the midst of all the wintry weather, we enjoyed a Game Night at

the home of Myles and Olivia Gardiner in Adare on 12 January, as one of our Second Friday events. More than 20 people showed up, and we sat in different rooms playing a variety of games, such as Jenga, Rummikub, and Articulate. It was a most enjoyable evening!

And now, Lent is coming quickly. For our Lenten class this year, we will be focusing on the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught when his followers asked him to teach them how to pray. It will be six sessions, in the Rectory on Wednesday evenings, focusing on what the Lord's Prayer says to us of God, life, and spirituality.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Mob: 087 663 5116

Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

The Christmas season comes to an end with the feast of Candlemas, which links Christmas with Easter, the incarnation with the crucifixion and the resurrection.

Epiphany was marked in a new way this year, drawing on old traditions, when the lintels of rectory doors were chalked with the traditional Epiphany blessing 20 + C + M + B + 18, representing the numerals of the year, the initials of the Three Wise Men or Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar – who came to visit the Christ Child in his first home, and abbreviating the Latin blessing, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, 'May Christ bless the house.'



The Three Wise men arrive at the crib in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton

As we move from Christmas and Epiphany to Lent and towards Easter, and the chalk blessings fade and are washed away in the rains, these have been weeks of joy and sadness in this group of parishes, with news of marriages and deaths.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Nicky White of Nantenan and Robert Daniel Foley from Cork who recently announced their engagement and who plan to marry in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, during the summer months.

RECENT FUNERALS:

Madame Marianne Griffin (nee Micolod) of Altavilla, Askeaton, died on 10 January in Abbot Close, Askeaton. She was the widow of Ronnie Peter Griffin and the mother of the late Ronnie Francois Griffin. She is survived by her children Rosie, Maude, Gerald and Nicolas, her daughters-in-law Kaye, Marie, Rebecca and Sonya, her

sons-in-law Peter, Eddie and Colin, and a large family. Her funeral and burial took place in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

Roland Neil Fitzell, of Carhoonakilla, Tarbert, Co Kerry, died on 12 January at Kerry University Hospital. He is survived by his wife Marina (West), sons Leslie and Raymond, brother Brian, sister Yvonne, daughters-in-law Christine and Jean, grandchildren Melissa, Rae, Lauren and Ali, and family and friends. His funeral and burial took place in Saint Brendan's Church, Tarbert.

Kathy Casey Byrne died on 16 January after a short illness, at the heart-breakingly-young age of 29. She is sadly missed by her husband Noel (Kiltimagh, Co Mayo), her parents Daphne and Pat, her sisters Melanie and Vanessa, her brother Conor, and her family and friends. Her funeral took place in Saint Molua's Church, Ardagh.

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER:

The canons or chapter members of the Diocesan Cathedrals are being invited to enhance their roles by taking up residence in the cathedrals on a rotating basis. This initiative begins on Sunday February 18, the First Sunday in Lent, when Canon Patrick Comerford takes the services and preaches in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, as the Canon Precentor, and the Dean of Limerick, the Very Revd Niall Sloane visits Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, and Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin.

FEBRUARY SERVICES:

Sunday 4 February 2018, Second Sunday before Lent: 9.30 a.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Tarbert), Morning Prayer.

Sunday 11 February, Sunday before Lent: 9.30 a.m., Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Holy Communion; 11.30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, Morning Prayer.

Wednesday 14 February, Ash Wednesday: 8 p.m., Holy Communion and Ashing, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

Sunday 18 February, Lent I: 9.30 a.m., Askeaton, Morning Prayer; 11.30 a.m., Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion. The Dean of Limerick

Sunday 28 February, Lent II: 9.30 a.m., Castletown, Morning Prayer; 11.30 a.m., Holy Communion, Rathkeale.

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS:

A series of Lenten study groups on Thursday evenings in Lent is open to all. This year, the planned evenings in the Rectory in Askeaton will use the USPG Lenten Study Pack, 'All Things Are Possible', which explores how Anglicans worldwide are supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Other groups that have met in the Rectory in recent weeks include study and training days for clergy and readers on preparing for Advent and Christmas and preparing for Lent and Easter.

SELECT VESTRIES: Rathkeale Select Vestry meets in the Rectory, Askeaton, on 8 February. Other vestry meetings are being arranged for February.

LISTOWEL WORKHOUSE: The Revd Joe Hardy recently took part in the unveiling of a plaque at the entrance to the Chapel in Listowel District Hospital to commemorate the hospital's place as the last remaining link to the workhouse in Listowel. The plaque is an initiative of Listowel Tidy Towns Group.

FEBRUARY TALKS:

Rathkeale Historical Society: Friday 9 February, Canon Patrick Comerford talks about some interesting connections in the Southwell family.

Methodist Women, Adare: Friday 23 February, Canon Patrick Comerford talks about life before ordination.



Chalking the traditional Epiphany blessing above the door at the Rectory in Askeaton

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Jim Stephens,

Teach an Solais, Ashe St., Tralee, Co. Kerry V92 TX59

Tel: 066 712 6200 (Office) Mob: 087 052 9107

Email: stjohns.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Web: www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

CHRISTMAS FAIR.

The Christmas Fair was held on Sat 16th Dec in Teach an tSolais, Ashe St. It was a great success and exceeded all expectations. The parish is blessed to have so many people who gave so generously of their time, energy and talent to make it such a positive and worthwhile event.

Occasions such as these are also important community building events as they bring the parish family together. The wider community were very supportive, with good crowds attending throughout the day.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who supported the day, and we are very appreciative of those who put so much time into the preparations. We are very thankful to all our sponsors and customers and supporters.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

It was a delight to be present at so many lovely services over the Christmas period. It all began with a wonderful Christmas play by the children of St John's on the 10th December during the morning service. The Students and their Teachers can be very proud of what they achieved. This was followed by a lovely time together in Teach an tSolais at which we enjoyed seasonal refreshments that were supplied by the Parents Council of the School. Santa also arrived with a present for all the boys and girls.

The Christmas Carol Service in Tralee went off very well on the 17th December, it was the first time that this was held in the evening, we had over thirty people taking part, leading the readings and in the preparation of the crib.

It was the first outing for our junior choir under the direction of Shirley and Amanda and the boys and girls not only looked well in their white shirts and blouses and neckties, but they also sang very well. The senior choir were also in great voice and they gave a lift to our worship and praise.

The ecumenical Carol Service in Dingle resulted in a full house which was a great boost to the parishioners of Dingle. The children made Christingles, helped by Parish Reader Linda Woods and her daughter Kate, and then all sang Away in a Manger. The collection of €284 was sent to Barnardos, Ireland



Christmas Eve in St James' Dingle

Services were also held in Killiney and Camp.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were well supported throughout the parish with good crowds in all the churches from Ballymac to Dingle.

The Christmas season came to an end with a service for the feast of the Epiphany in Killiney at 6.30pm followed by a meal in Ashe's Bar in Camp.

Many thanks to all those who in so many ways helped to make our Christmas Liturgies so special.

SYMPATHY:

- To Eileen Peevers and her family on the death of her mother Nellie Lynch just before Christmas. Her funeral was held in St John's, Castle Street on the 18th December.
- To Olive Hoffman on the death of her brother in law Richie Tanner in Waterford, His funeral service was held in St. Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore.
- To Vivienne and John Ruane on the death of John's brother Adrian in Tralee, His funeral service was held in St John's Church Castle Street.

BAPTISM:

- Bartholomew O'Neill-Reid, son of Deborah O'Neill-Reid and Bartholomew O'Connor was welcomed into the Christian family at a service of Holy Baptism on the 30th December in St John's Church, Ashe Street.
- Daisy May Scott was welcomed into Christian family at her baptism which took place during the morning service in Ballyseedy Church on the 21st January. Daisy is the daughter of David Scott and Louise O'Connor.



Daisy May Scott pictured with her parents David and Louise in Ballyseedy Church on the 21st January

CONFIRMATION:

The confirmation service will be held on the 6th May in Tralee, Classes will begin with a service in St John's on the 14th January. Classes began on the 24th January in Teach an tSolais.

FAMILY SERVICE.

A family service will be held in St John's on the 4th February.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL AWARD TO TRALEE SOUP KITCHEN.

Four awards were presented in the Council Chamber in Tralee by the Mayor of The Municipal District, Councillor Norma Foley.

One of these awards was presented to the Tralee Soup Kitchen, which is run by volunteers in the Parish Centre attached to St John's Ashe Street. The award was accepted by Collette Price and Dawn Roberts. The soup kitchen is supported by a large cross section of groups and individuals and by the parish which provides the Parish Centre and support facilities.

It provides meals for up to one hundred people on a Saturday morning and a take-away dinner for the following day, hampers are also provided at Christmas time. As well as providing food it also provides friendship and a sense of community for those who avail of its services.



Rev Jim with Soup Kitchen Volunteers and the award.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is also St Valentine's Day, Service will be held in St John's Ashe Street at 11am and in Camp at 7pm.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Rector: Ven Simon J. Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick

The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 086-8703997

Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

THE CRIB AT ST MARY'S:

Rev. Simon, in tandem with the Chamber of Tourism and Commerce, decided the best place for a life-size Christmas crib was to be outside St Mary's to celebrate the nativity and what a decision that turned out to be. Killarney is often described as "Ireland's tourism Mecca" by people who have no concept of what Mecca actually represents to those of the Muslim faith. Muslims do not do the Hajj in Mecca "for the craic". I have a feeling a lot of Irish Christians don't understand the Hindu fixation with Varanasi and their deity Shiva on the banks of the sacred Ganges River either.

Certainly the Mahabodi Temple adjacent to the Bodhi Tree in the city of Bodhgaya where Siddhartha Guatama sat for 49 days seeking enlightenment before becoming the Buddha would be completely unknown to most of them. As for the Coptic shrines of both St Mark's, in Alexandria and Cairo, I've a feeling that most people probably regard them as "some sort of Roman-built churches".

The point I'm trying to make here is that many Irish Christians are more removed now from their professed faith than ever before. Christmas has become a celebration of western values rather than a celebration of the birth of our Redeemer. Those values are measured in what the credit card will extend to – the sky's the limit when a lot of males tell their mates what they've bought "the missus" for Christmas. Who's to blame? We can go down the usual road of the government, the churches, everyone else except ourselves, or even those whose job is to promote jobs and tourism. But this year in Killarney I've witnessed a phenomenon I didn't think I'd ever again see in my lifetime – Rev. Simon and the Chamber got it right!

Right in the middle of town outside St Mary's, set amongst the flashing neon lights, all-day blaring carol music and street directions for the ice rink, we had the crib constructed with the life-sized drama personae centre stage. And it lifted the spirits of all who came across it. Surprisingly – even though I'm gone from living in town for more than 20 years – it was the people I knew who never attended any church that commented mostly on the crib to me when I met them. One man – who wouldn't walk away from 15 pints or a perceived slur on anyone he knew without responding with physical force – told me that it stopped him in his tracks as he was going home late one night. He asked me why we "did it"? I replied that it was Christmas and that's what we do; celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He said he hadn't been to a church in over 40 years and was ashamed to say that "Jesus Christ" was only an expletive he only ever used when he was trying to get a point across to somebody who wouldn't listen to his point of view, but that night he was "struck" with a different sensation – for the first time in years, a sense of what Christmas should really be all about.

Jokingly I asked him if we'd be seeing him next Sunday and his answer was blunt and straight: "no Mike", he said, "I'm beyond redemption – you know me long enough". Just as I was about to go into proselytising mode I managed to pull myself back and let him do the talking. "I'll tell you one thing though" he said, "ye're the only crowd who know what Christmas should be all about and I hope ye put it [the crib] up again next year". Taking my cue I asked him "If we do will you come in with me next Christmas morning"? "You'd never know" he said, "stranger things have happened". I know that I'll never see my old friend in church, but isn't it great that we are still in a position to influence people in a positive light and that they may become better people for our efforts. When Rev. Simon looks for help next year in constructing the crib outside St Mary's, I'll certainly be the first one in!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

St Michael's, Iveragh Road, Killorglin

Et St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.

Vacant.

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Simon Lumby,

Mob 086 8703997 Et Tel 064 66 31832.

Parish Postal Address: St Michael's Church, Iveragh Road, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

Web: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

SERVICES:-

St Carthage Sunday 9.45am.

St Michael's Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.

During the vacancy:-

Holy Communion 2nd Et 4th Sundays in both churches,

Morning Prayer 1st,3rd Et 5th Sundays.

We have a Sunday School for our Parish Children in St Michael's Hall on 2nd Et 4th Sundays @ 11am.

December was a busy month in the parish and I am delighted to report that all went according to plan. On Sat 16th St Michael's Church in Killorglin was prepared for the Christmas services. We had lots of candles and a very nicely decorated tree. Our first event was our annual carol service on Sunday 17th. We had nine lessons read for us by members of our regular church attenders who have been reading lessons for us since the summer. Archdeacon Lumby was with us for this service and we had the Mens' Social Club Choir in attendance too. The refreshments afterwards were plentiful and was well attended. I always seem to be saying thanks to the helpers but they are an essential part of all our major events, where we are showing what the Church of Ireland can do on those occasions. Apart from our normal services, occasions of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, harvest Et carol services, when visitors from other faiths and none attend, we are given an opportunity to show the strength of the Church of Ireland, when a more personal and friendly attitude prevails.

I lead Morning Prayer in both Churches on Christmas Eve at their usual times and was pleased to find a good attendance at both. It made the preparation of the service worth while.

I assisted the Rev Brian Rogers on Christmas Day in St Carthage's Church in Castlemaine where it too was well prepared and decorated for Christmas, thanks to those who took the trouble to do it. We went on to St Michael's in Killorglin where Barbara joined us on the Sanctuary. Both services were well attended. Everyone wanted to rush away to their families and friends to begin the Christmas activities. So we had no refreshments that day.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The Rev Brian Rogers will be with us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for Holy Communion until Easter and we will have Morning Prayer in both Churches on the other Sundays of the months.

Happy New Year to all our readers and best wishes for the future.

Notes from Eric Champ

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

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

Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

Our Christmas and Epiphany services were again a great opportunity for everybody, irrespective of tradition or worship style, to hear once again the Story of Incarnation, to celebrate the Nativity, and to prepare

for the blessings God has in store for us in the Year to come. Carols, Concerts, a Live Action Crib Service, formal and less formal Eucharists, the annual Blessing of the Plough as the church gathered around a decorated 150 yr. old mouldboard plough, the introduction of this year's scripture theme (Luke 11:1) – all these brought inspiration, thanksgiving and hope.



Snoo

SNOO SINCLAIR

But throughout all the Christmas period, there was a prevailing sense of loss as we felt the absence of Snoo Sinclair, our much-loved Diocesan Reader, who died on the 18th of December at the age of 86. Brought up as a 'daughter of the Manse' in the Glendermott Presbyterian church in Derry, Snoo became a member of the Church of Ireland when she married her husband Fenny, the local GP. The two of them worked tirelessly and courageously through the time of the Troubles, becoming founder members of the Alliance Party, and, unusually for that time, well-respected by all parties of the conflict for their work. When Fenny died suddenly, Snoo – in her own words – 'said goodbye at the graveside, packed her bags, put her horse in the trailer', and drove her Land Rover to the holiday house they had built in Lambs Head, Caherdaniel, where she stayed for the next thirty years. She was in every sense a full part of both Church and village communities, making an unforgettable contribution to both in her own idiosyncratic style – in many ways, her Christian commitment and her Political views fed each other, and she was never scared of making them known. Her sermons often owed as much to the Guardian newspaper as the Gospel (although they never contradicted each other). She died suddenly at home, after having very unusually missed the Sunday Service through feeling (again in her own words) 'a little groggy'. It was additionally poignant that the Carol service in Sneem, which she took full responsibility for planning every year – and had again done so this year – was held on the Monday evening, as we struggled with the shock of her death. She was loved. She will be hugely missed. But she won't be forgotten. And no doubt, when we meet again in Glory, she will let me know what I got wrong at her funeral service.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballygrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Ruth Watt
 Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
 Tel: 061 396 236 Email: watt_ruth@yahoo.ie

The New Year is not so new anymore, and I wonder how many of those New Year resolutions we are still holding onto. It seems that as the year moves on we quickly fall back into the habits of the old year. Those things we had decided to improve in ourselves and our families now seem like too much work, we keep putting off doing them until they become one more failed resolution, one more good habit let fall into disuse. (I write this the week I have joined the local leisure centre and wonder how long will I keep up my good intentions!)

Yet it is not only in the New Year we can make decisions to change for the better. We can use the beginning of this month, or this week, or even this day to start again. And certainly that is the way it is in our relationship with God. It is good if we have evaluated our lives before God as we began this year, but even if we have fallen into bad habits, we can again, in this hour, even this minute, turn to Him and ask for His help where we have failed or fallen once more.

Our God is not just the God of second chances, He will give us all the chances we need, He will willingly pick us up as we lift our arms to Him. Actually it is only when we allow God to pick us up that we will stay on our feet with His help, otherwise we will slip and fall before we know it. My prayer for us all is that we would seek God's help in evaluating our lives, trust in Him as we begin new aspects of our lives, and lean on Him when the going is hard.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY:

4th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Services of Holy Communion
11th	Rev. Ruth Watt	
17th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Sat evening Service in Ballygrane @ 8pm
18th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Sunday morning Service in Adare @ 11am
25th	Rev. Ruth Watt	

Unless otherwise stated services are in Adare @ 10:15am and in Ballygrane @ 11:45am

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

A lovely time was had by all at the Now we're Cooking! Christmas Dinner. Donnah and the crew made a great meal for nearly 50 adults and children from Direct Provision, both the Knockalisheen Centre and Hanratty's Hostel. It's difficult enough to not be able to cook meals on a daily basis while living in Direct Provision but it seems particularly hard at Christmas and other times of celebration not to be able to cook a special meal to share with family and friends. And the programme is continuing with a partnership with Parkville Football Club. Young people are coming over to the kitchen to cook food with a healthy focus as part of the Healthy Ireland framework. Healthy Ireland is a Government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society. The aim is to create an Ireland where health and wellbeing is valued and supported and on everyone's agenda in a meaningful way – www.healthyireland.ie We're hoping by April to be able to invite groups to come along and share meals. If you'd like to participate please get in touch. There will be a nominal cost so that we can continue to support the project but no one would be left out financial grounds.



Sara Cross of Knitters 4 Life

The beginning of the year seems a very good time to thank people. We have a lot to be thankful for both in the church and the community project. So many people give their time and expertise and creativity to make ideas become realities. We would like to thank Sara as our 'player of the year!' Sara has grown the drop-in Knitters 4 Life group so successfully in CB1 -<https://www.facebook.com/Knitters4Life/>. People just keep coming back and bringing others. Also our tutors and administrator Kathleen on the Failte Isteach English language programme are so committed and creative; again a very successful volunteer led initiative. Both of these projects

are very simple ideas – knit, crochet and craft together on one and speak and listen to each other so that migrant members of our community can improve their English skills on the other. There has also been some connection where people have found out about one opportunity while they've been participating in the other. That is of course our 'dream' result – Connecting Community Life.



Knitters 4 Life exercising their skills

Don't forget the World Music Café – February 8th, March 8th and May 12th between 12 noon and 1.30pm. Just drop in and enjoy.

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
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

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

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm
Nimble Fingers Thursday 7.30pm

KILLARNEY
Sunday service 11am
Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am followed by Drop-in lunch 12pm
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
Kids Ministry Club 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

Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

A Last Light service was held in Millstreet and a Watchnight service was held in Killarney as we joined together to welcome in 2018. January means covenant services across the circuit when we renew the covenant with the powerful words of the covenant prayer. Lent approaches fast this year and plans are being made to celebrate St Patrick's day.

The circuit was saddened by the news that Dr Edgar Ritchie and his wife Jean have decided to step down from their ministry but we are grateful to God for them and the wonderfully inspiring lives they have shared with so many in Kerry.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

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

SUNDAY SERVICES:

10:00am – Borrisokane
11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sunday's
10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sunday's
11:45am – Roscrea
7:00pm – Shinrone

On Sunday 21st January, we held a farewell luncheon for a beloved couple (James and Irene Parsons) who's been a part of our circuit for many decades and who are moving to West Cork to be closer to family. James is a life-long member of Roscrea Methodist and Irene Parson has been a member for 45 years. They have embodied a life of love, commitment, and service to Christ in ways that are too numerous to count. James has been a Local Preacher for many years and I consider Irene to be a prayer warrior. Simply put, great is their faithfulness! Our circuit understands their need to be near family, but we will terribly miss them. We thank them for their ministry amongst us. They have blessed us immeasurably and we pray God's blessing upon them as they transition into their new home and community.

The season of Lent begins this month . . . on Valentine's Day, 14th February! So often, we give something up for Lent, like food. But would you consider taking something on, instead? The N. Tipperary Circuit is offering a Lenten Study. This is a video-based study called "Life on the Frontline" by Neil Hudson and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. This study will help us identify that we all have a 'Frontline' (a place where we spend most of our time and interact with folks who may not be active Christians or Christian at all). . . and how God can/will use us on our Frontlines to bring his light to the world. This series' purpose is the following:

To help people recognise where their own Frontlines are;
Talk about the joys and challenges of their Frontlines and be increasingly aware of what God is doing there.
Begin to understand how God might use them on their Frontlines.
Hear new stories of God at work in us and through us.
Be encouraged to pray with real purpose for each other.
Recognise how relevant the Bible is for disciples serving God on their Frontlines.

Please plan to join us at 7pm on Sunday evenings in Shinrone Methodist: 11th February, 18th February, 4th March, 11th March, 18th March, and 25th March.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

BOYS' BRIGADE – Our Company will meet in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall on Friday 9th February for our Enrolment Service and on 23rd February. For more information, please contact Alison Hayes at 086 6030225.

ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB – Our club will resume in February and go to the cinema. Please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 for more details.

ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – will meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in Cloughjordan Methodist Hall at 10:30am. All ladies are welcome as we look at the upcoming Sunday's readings through the practice of Lectio Divina. No prior experience needed. We will meet on the 14th & 28th February.

BORRISOKANE'S ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY – This group meets on Mondays at 7:30pm in the Church Vestry. All are welcome.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 11

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharaoh grew scared and ordered all their new-born boys to be killed.

Moses' mother hid him when he was born, but he grew too big.



She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in the grass by the river Nile.



She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.



Pharaoh's daughter found Moses



Shall I get someone to look after the baby?



So Miriam got her mother.



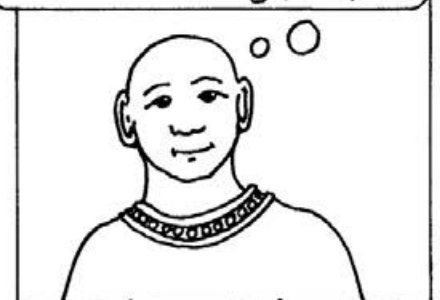
The princess adopted Moses as her son.



When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.



Perhaps I will be the one to save my people.



Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.



Moses checked no-one was looking and...



He hid the body in the sand.



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