



# NEWSLINK

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

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Key figures in the story of the Anglican Reformation depicted in a window in Trinity College, Cambridge, from left (above): Hugh Latimer, Edward VI, Nicholas Ridley, Elizabeth I; (below): John Wycliffe, Erasmus, William Tyndale and Thomas Cranmer

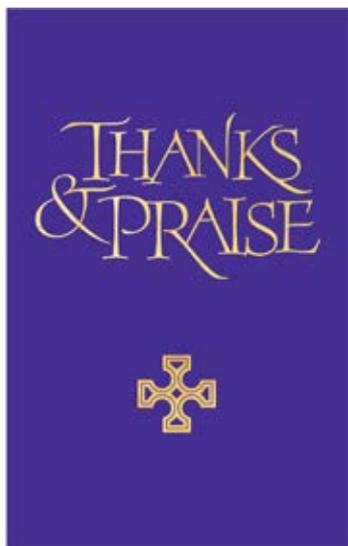


# How can I keep from singing?

by the Rev. Canon Liz Beasley



*'My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing;  
it finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?'*



This is the first verse and chorus of hymn 103 in the Church of Ireland's new hymnal, Thanks & Praise. It is also one of the hymns that the new Singing Group in the Adare Group of Parishes has taken up practicing. The Singing Group started at the instigation of Adare member Janet Bray, who convinced my husband, Kirk Beasley, to create a group to boost the singing in our congregations.

The Singing Group is not a choir. Choirs stand together at the front or the back of an assembled congregation. Choirs do lead congregational singing, but they

also sing musical pieces in which the congregation takes no part. The members of the Singing Group are scattered throughout the congregation, among our four parishes. They serve as strong voices who know each week's hymns and lead the singing from within the congregation. Auditions are not necessary. We welcome anyone who wants to come sing on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Rectory. Kirk, who grew up in the Nashville music business, does offer some instruction in singing as we go along. But the primary lesson, which he heard from his mother, is, "Make your mistakes boldly." In other words, sing out instead of holding back.

We started the group for several reasons. In addition to developing singing leaders in the parishes, I had noticed that these parishes like to sing. Several times we have had a "songs of praise" type of service. I decided to reinforce a practice that is already part of our identity.

Also, we wanted to try out pieces from the new hymnal, Thanks & Praise, and familiarize some people with its hymns before singing new music on a Sunday morning.

Finally, we wanted to sing some familiar hymns in different ways. For example, we have learned to sing hymn 78 in the red hymnal, "This is the day that the Lord has made," as a call-and-response song. We sang this at a recent joint worship service with the male voices singing the first lines of each phrase and the female voices answering them. It was a lot of fun.

Since starting the Singing Group last autumn, we have found that the singing in our parishes has, in fact, improved. We have also

discovered that singing together at the Rectory has benefits beyond the merely practical ones of learning new hymns. We all feel better after spending just an hour singing together. Singing lifts our spirits. We have joined with one another in lifting our voices to God. In truth, singing builds faith. Former music and liturgy professor Don Saliers has written an essay called "Singing Our Lives." He writes that singing shapes how we view ourselves, our neighbours, and God; singing shapes our outlook on the world. It matters what we sing.

This is the point made by Keith Getty in a blog post called "Why what your church sings THIS SUNDAY matters." Keith Getty, along with Stuart Townend, wrote the popular new hymn "In Christ alone," which is hymn 64 in the new hymnal. Keith Getty and his wife, Kristyn, have initiated an effort to boost congregational singing. Getty writes that congregational singing, while not dead, "receives less attention and adulation than it should." The trend in churches is toward praise bands or choirs, depending on the type of church; in either case, "the 'performance' of music approximates the professional." The congregation becomes more passive, watching and listening instead of participating and singing.

But congregational singing, Getty says, strengthens us as individuals and as a community. As individuals, when we sing, we are lifting not only our voices but also our hearts, minds, and souls to God. Our whole being – physical, mental, and spiritual – is engaged in worship. The effect on us as individuals "ripples outward toward those around us," to others in our churches and our communities. And singing, Getty says, is a testimony of faith to others. "An onlooking world that doesn't believe" sees a group of people, who might be very different from one another, nevertheless singing together "the unique melody of the good news." As part of the Gettys' effort to boost congregational singing, they have put together a conference called "Sing!" to be held in Nashville in September. Kirk and I will be attending. We hope to bring back knowledge and practical tips that could be useful not only to our parishes but also to the Diocese as a whole.

Congregational singing is a holy act, and as I organize my thoughts, I hear my old pastor, Alistair Begg, reminding me that in our song worship, we have to be spiritually alive (dead people don't sing), spiritually assisted (through the enabling of the Holy Spirit), and spiritually active (committed to daily walking with the Lord).

Keith Getty

# Bishop Kenneth writes

## - Could you serve as a diocesan lay reader?

One of the central components of parish life in this and all other dioceses is the ministry of diocesan lay readers. The Church of Ireland was the first church in the Anglican Communion to pioneer this special form of lay ministry, and the first lay readers were commissioned in 1909. Since then the ministry has grown to be an indispensable part of parish ministry.

So could you become part of this ministry? There are three stages to this process – selection, training, and licensing. We have two Wardens of Readers – Archdeacon Wayne Carney for Killaloe and Clonfert, and Canon Liz Beasley for Limerick and Ardfert, and they are responsible for selection, which will involve an interview by a small panel and you will normally be expected to have the support of your own rector. The purpose of the interview is to help you discern whether this ministry is for you, and whether your gifts are such that the diocese can use them at this time. It is not like applying for a job! Candidates are not "rejected"; the panel will be seeking to establish what your gifts are and whether they are best used as a diocesan lay reader.

For training our diocese joins with the dioceses of Cashel and Ossory and Cork. The course begins each September and participation in teaching sessions will involve some travel and writing essays and sermons. The course is a demanding one (as it should be) as any recently licensed reader will tell you, and you will need to be ready for some hard study!

Diocesan lay readers are licensed by the bishop after satisfactorily completing the training programme. A diocesan reader is normally licensed to a parish, and that's where the primary focus of his/her ministry. On occasion a reader may be asked to assist in another parish (e.g. during holiday time or a vacancy).



Behind all of this is the crucial question "is God calling me to this office in the church?" That is a question for yourself and you should discuss this with your family and your rector. The second part of this question is – "does the church confirm this calling?" – which is the role of the selection panel.

So ministry as a diocesan lay reader – not for everyone, but a crucial ministry in today's church.

Kind regards

+ Kenneth

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## Diocesan Calendar

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

**Sun 2nd July, 2pm** Aghancon Fete & Dog Show, Community Hall, Aghancon

**Sat 8th July, 2–5pm** Garden Party in aid of Lockeen Church repairs, Bourney Old Rectory, Roscrea

**Sat 15th July, 5pm** Borrisnafarney Annual Sale, Moneygall Hall

**Sun 16th – Fri 21st July** UDYC Junior Summer Camp (10–13), Muckcross, Killarney

**Sun 16th July, 2pm** Dunkerrin Parish Fete & Dog Show

**Sun 30th July, 4pm** Clonmacnoise Open Air Service. Preacher: Bishop Kenneth Kearon. Choir members welcome.

**Mon 31st July, 7.30pm** "A Night to Remember" Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

**Sun 20th – Fri 25th August** UDYC Senior Summer Camp (2nd level +) Lissadell, Co Sligo

**Sat 9th September** UDYC Fundraising Car Treasure Hunt & BBQ (Disco from 5.30pm), Cloughjordan Hall (all ages)

**Tues 19th September, 7.30pm** Service of Praise & Thanksgiving for 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland, St John's Church, Ballinasloe

**Sat 23rd September** GFS Fun Day, Nenagh

**Sat 30th September** UDYC Multi Activity Day (3rd–6th class NS), UL Activity Centre & St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe, Co Clare



## Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

**Wednesday 5th July**

Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn

**Monday 10th July**

Choir of the Sacred Heart Academy, Kentucky, U.S.

An eclectic mix of Kentucky folk and sacred church music

**Wednesday 26th July**

Eve Stafford & Ellen Collins (sopranos), Peter Barley (piano)

Music by Spohr and Brahms

**Wednesday 30th August**

Zoe Stedje (cello), Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn

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

*Sincere thanks to all our concert patrons and music-loving supporters  
over this past spring and summer season.*

# Editorial - Bringing Hope

Jesus calls us to bring good news to the poor, the weak and the vulnerable in our society. They need to hear our message of hope. Church of Ireland people respond wonderfully to Jesus's call as individuals by supporting charities, as our parishes do too - to the extent funds allow. But we can surely do more.

This is what Salters Sterling is saying to us about homelessness in his View from the Pew columns (see page 6, and the June issue). And it is also what churches in Liverpool are saying about social services through their Hope Charter, which I reproduce below - thought provoking isn't it?

Although we are a small minority, we can be very influential if we work with those who will join us from other traditions and none to set the agenda for government. It will cost very little, but will need leadership and engagement. Let us get to work in these united dioceses!

God bless, Joc Sanders, Newslink Editor

## The Hope Charter

*Church leaders across Merseyside and beyond are backing a faith led campaign to put the protection of services to the vulnerable at the heart of politics. The Hope Charter, a document that affirms social care as a basic human right, calls for the protection of services to the vulnerable. Born out of conversations in Liverpool, the Hope Charter movement is gathering support across the UK, with church leaders from Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions pledging support for its aims and values. Organisers want this to be a grassroots movement that builds support for the charter's five main principles to influence government.*

**1. We believe that the protection and provision of services to those who are vulnerable in our society, is a key expression of who we are.**

Where they are unable to provide this for themselves, we recognise this as a shared responsibility, both as human beings and responsible citizens.

**2. We affirm social care as a basic human right, essential to human dignity and an expression of civilised community.**

As such we call for a government that takes overall responsibility for maintaining a level of social care, across our nation that properly reflects these core values.

**3. We declare any regional or economic discrepancy that disproportionately affects vulnerable people as unacceptable.**

We call for a new agreement between central and local governments to end this injustice.

**4. We recognise that for a variety of reasons, social care needs and costs will continue to rise.**

This problem is not going to go away. We call for an effective long-term approach to funding and taxation that places human well-being and dignity above political expediency.

**5. We believe that the work of carers is undervalued.**

This results in low pay and increasingly poor conditions which in turn affects the ability of some of our most valuable workers to provide the service to which they are committed. We call for steps to be taken to upgrade the profession through guaranteed minimum wages, increased training opportunities and dignified working conditions. Unacceptable practices such as no pay for travel between clients should be made illegal.

# Newslink

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

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

## Editor

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

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

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## Deadlines

As usual the Newslink team will be taking a break during July. The next issue will be for September 2017, published for Sunday 3rd September.

**All material must reach the Editor by Friday 18th August 2017 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.**

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

## NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2017

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,  
Email: [peterschutz@gmail.com](mailto:peterschutz@gmail.com))

## NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2017

(UNCHANGED from 2016, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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

# Prayer Corner

## Partners in Prayer - July 2017

### Each Sunday in July

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

### 2nd July, 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ogori-Magongo, Nigeria and Rt Revd Festus Davies, Bishop of Ogori-Magongo & The Diocese of Ohaji/Egbema, Nigeria and Rt Revd Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku, Bishop of Ohaji/Egbema.

Diocese: For Limerick City Parish as they seek to appoint a new Dean and Rector, that they may receive a faithful pastor.

### 9th July, 4th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Okinawa, Japan and Rt Revd David Eisho Uehara, Bishop of Okinawa.

Diocese: For the Kilcolman Union of Parishes, as they enter a period of vacancy, and for all who maintain ministry there during the vacancy.

### 16th July, 5th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ontario, Canada), Rt Revd George Lindsey Russell Bruce, Bishop of Ontario and Coadjutor Bishop Rt Revd Michael Oulton.

Diocese: For our young people attending the UDYC Junior Summer Camp in Muckcross this week.

### 23rd July, 6th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Osun North East, Ibadan, Nigeria and Rt Revd Humphery Olumakaiye, Bishop of Osun North East.

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

### 30th July, 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Pennsylvania, USA and Rt Revd Daniel Gutierrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania & the Diocese of Pittsburgh, USA and Rt Revd Dorsey W M McConnell, Bishop of Pittsburgh.

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

## Partners in Prayer - August 2017

### Each Sunday in August

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

### 6th August, 8th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Puerto Rico and Rt Revd Wilfrido Ramos Orench, Bishop of Puerto Rico.

Diocese: For Summer visitors to our parishes, that they may feel welcomed and enjoy their time among us.

### 13th August, 9th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Remo, Lagos, Nigeria and Rt Revd Michael Fape, Bishop of Remo.

Diocese: For those who work and play on our seas and lakes, and those who strive to keep them safe, in particular in the RNLI, the Coast Guard, Civil Defence, Air-Sea Rescue and Water Safety Ireland.

### 20th August, 10th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Rochester, USA and Rt Revd Prince Singh, Bishop of Rochester & the Diocese of Rochester, England and Rt Revd James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester.

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

### 27th August, 11th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ruvuma, Tanzania and Rt Revd Maternus Kapinga, Bishop of Ruvuma.

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

### 3rd September, 12th Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of San Diego, California, USA and Rt Revd James Mathes, Bishop of San Diego & the Diocese of San Joaquin, California, USA and Rt Revd David Rice, Provisional Bishop of San Joaquin.

Diocese: On this first Sunday of Creation Time we give thanks for the beauty, the bounty and the wonder of this living earth, and pray that we may be inspired to care for it.

## St James the Apostle

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'. Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

All our understanding of human behaviour tells us that this is not how people normally respond to such a peremptory invitation: no questions, no explanation. Take it or leave it. Just 'Follow me'. That however is a superficial reading of the text. In fact, because we have four Gospels rather than just three, we know from John that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out to them as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'. Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant 'conversion' described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For many of us on the journey of faith the experience of James and John - and the other two, Peter and Andrew - mirrors our own experience. First we know about Jesus, perhaps as children at Sunday school, or later as adults. Then we begin to ask questions and look for answers. Finally there may come a time when we hear His voice, as it were, calling us to accompany Him on a life of love, service and commitment.

For James this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD. His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church. For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises!

### The Collect for the Feast of St James the Apostle (25th July)

Merciful God,  
whose holy apostle Saint James,  
leaving his father and all that he had,  
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ  
and followed him even to death:  
Help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,  
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling – Homelessness must be the core priority



Since I wrote the last View from the Pew I have worshiped in a number of different places including Birr, the Corrugated Iron 1862 Flat Pack Church Building in Lurganboy, Co. Leitrim and the very modern and very beautiful Chapel of the Mount St. Anne's Retreat Centre at Killenard in Co. Laois. Physically there has been no consistent view from the pew but the very different style of worship between places has been most refreshing. Indeed, it is a very good exercise in spiritual growth to worship in different traditions when away from home. Maybe to do so

would be a good summer holiday resolution for you!

Another good summer holiday resolution could also be to reflect on where we are as a society in Ireland. Because of the busyness of our lives we get such little time to do any real reflection and the circumstances of Ireland have changed quite radically in the last month. At home we have a new Taoiseach and several new Ministers. In Northern Ireland we have a more polarised representation of the population in Westminster. In Westminster, itself, we have a minority Government and in our EU partner, France, we have had a seismic shift in politics of President and Parliament. So there is much to think about and no doubt there will be more surprises as the BREXIT discussions get underway.

However, it is not about any of this that I would be suggesting that we concentrate our reflecting energies. When I wrote about homelessness last month I had not intended to return to the issue, at least not immediately, but four reports issued in the last month to do with the rising cost of house purchase, the rising cost of renting,

the speed of house building delivery which means that homelessness will not be eradicated for forty years, so that there is a landscape of core inequality stretching into the very distant future. That is a profoundly disturbing prospect for those of us who try to live our lives as the Friends of Jesus. Yes indeed, Jesus did say at the time of his anointing "the poor ye have always with you", but his followers in the apostolic Church followed the principle of equality in the holding of all things in common as they organised the first generation of Christian living. It might be possible to argue that that refers to life within the Christian community but to do so is to advocate a stance of "I'm alright Jack" within the Church. I don't think Jesus would approve.

If you sense that that is the case then the exercise of reflecting on how to effect change becomes a hugely important and urgent exercise of our Christian responsibilities. Urgent because there will almost certainly be an election within the next eighteen months and we would need to organise now to make a difference when election time comes. What I am saying is that every party and every candidate needs to know that it is the expectation of the Christian community that the solving of the issue of homelessness is the core priority of all future governmental focus until it is achieved. This is the message that our Friend Jesus requires us to deliver. He who was born in a stable, and who experienced the condition of refugee status when he lived with his parents in Egypt, requires this as the least of our commitment to him. I am moved to see this as an essential part of our desire to move Forward Together, as part of our response to the Report which our Bishop commissioned about our future as a United Diocese and which we are meant to be implementing. To be concerned about homelessness is to be witnesses and missionaries for the Love of God and for our understanding that all of us and each of us within the totality of humanity is made in the Image of God.

Enjoy July and August. There will be more for Newslink in September.

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## Archbishop Donald Caird

**The former Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe from 1970 to 1976, died on 1st June 2017.**



*Archbishop Donald Caird*

BISHOP KENNETH KEARON WRITES: 'The passing of Archbishop Donald Caird brings fond memories of a kind and gentle bishop who did so much to shape the Church of Ireland in the twentieth century, especially in the Republic. A Dubliner in origin, after a brilliant academic career in Trinity he served a curacy in Belfast and as a school chaplain at Portora before working as a lecturer in Philosophy at St David's Lampeter in Wales. After an incumbency in Dublin he

became Dean of Ossory before becoming Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe in 1970, then Bishop of Meath and Kildare in 1976, and then Archbishop of Dublin 1985-96.

'His time as a philosophy lecturer fostered his love of ideas, and in meetings or in conversation he could be distracted joyfully from administrative procedures to pursue an important philosophical

point, often drawing the listener to the writings of Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher on whom he was quite an expert.

'He had a passion for the Irish language, nurtured during his frequent family holidays in Kerry and visits to the Gaeltacht there, and spoke Irish with a most wonderful 'blas' (accent). He was quite an expert on the life of Douglas Hyde, first President of Ireland and another Gaeligeoir, on whom Donald often lectured.

'Above all, he will be remembered as a kind and caring priest and bishop. His wit and disarming charm belied a pastor and churchman with a clear vision for the Church of Ireland and its place, role and potential contribution to the shaping of modern Ireland. He was never more clear or animated than when he spoke of church and society and the essential interrelationship between the two.

'Here in Limerick we thank God on every remembrance of him as our former bishop, and pray for his wife Nancy, and their children Anne, John and Helen, and their families.'

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis."

# Diocesan Organisations

## Girls Friendly Society

### BIRR BRANCH

Since Easter girls have been working very hard on two badges: the Dance Badge and the Health & Hygiene Badge. They had great fun learning new dances, an Irish dance with Norma Jean Carney and American Line dancing with Yvonne Shaw. For their Health & Hygiene Badge they had two First Responders to visit the Branch, Ross Manson and David McEvoy. They taught the girls First Aid, the Recovery Position and how to deal with someone when they are choking. They all got presented with Basic First Aid Training Certificates.



*Birr GFS girls and leaders*

The branch finished their 2016/17 meetings on the 6th June with a lovely afternoon of a display of the girls' crafts and presentation of their badges. Their parents/grandparents were present and we all enjoyed a cup of tea and buns. The branch says goodbye to Isabel Alexander and Kelly Ross and wish them all the best as they start Secondary School in September.

### CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Branch held their Parents' Night on Friday, 26th May. It was an opportunity to celebrate not only this past year in the branch, but also to celebrate the past 50 years in Cloughjordan branch. Diocesan President, Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney, presented the badges. There were presentations for All Ireland Bible Study and Craft competitions - Laoise Gaffney - 3rd ; Ruby Lewis - 3rd, Laoise Gaffney - 3rd, and Mrs Grace Healy - 1st. Branch competitions winners were also presented with their prizes.



*Cloughjordan Branch at the GFS party*

Rev Terry Mitchell, Mrs Norma-Jean Carney, Mrs Ivy Dann, Mrs Rose Langley, Mrs Carol Talbot and past leaders were invited guests. Guests, leaders and girls were presented with pottery dishes specially designed for the occasion. After speeches and photographs it was time to cut the celebratory cake made by Mrs Valerie Lewis and beautifully decorated by her daughter, Charlotte. Mrs Ivy Dann cut the cake which was served later at our tea party. Girls provided entertainment by singing (two hymns), recitation (two rhymes), and information on badges, GFS alphabet and history of GFS in the branch. Everyone enjoyed a delicious tea and the evening ended with a raffle.

A big thank you to everybody involved in the evening especially all the leaders and thanks to Ivor Hayes for playing the music.

### NENAGH BRANCH

Branch closed with a presentation of badges (Floral Art and Safety), prizes from All Ireland and a party. Girls received lovely pottery to celebrate 50 years in the Diocese and Presentation Cards to celebrate 140 years of GFS in Ireland.

### ROSCREA BRANCH

All girls completed the Homemaker Badge in Corbally Hall. Thanks to Caroline Dudley, Head of Housekeeping at Dromoland Castle, Co Clare for demonstrating how to dress a bed the 'Dromoland way'. For two weeks girls kept a chart on keeping their room tidy, making their bed, setting and clearing the table. The branch finished the year in St. Cronan's School with presentation of badges and certificates and a surprise visit from the Ice Cream van!



*Roscrea GFS girls*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Safeguarding Trust Training Course will take place in September - date and venue to be confirmed. Anyone wishing to update their training or start a course should contact their Branch Leader.  
GFS Regional Training 23rd September - venue to be finalised.  
Fun Day - 23rd September in Nenagh  
Diocesan Day & Service - 24th March 2018 in Birr

At the time of writing girls and leaders are preparing for Camp on 23rd June in Bandon.

We wish you all a lovely summer.



# Boys' Brigade



## 1ST NENAGH COMPANY

This year we have tried out some new life skills, "knots" being the first. This was aided by Denis and Rae Croft's gift of some knots books. We are grateful to Rae and remember Denis very fondly.

Other life skills we have been learning are woodwork with our local Men's Shed and first aid with Nenagh's Irish Red Cross.

The biggest recent event for us was to host the Midlands Region Activity Day. Thank you to all, and especially Revd Rod for the perfectly pitched service he ran for us. Activities included, soccer, high jump, races, art/craft and bouncy castles

The last meeting of the year was great fun - the playground became a battleground as the boys launched into combat with their nerf guns. We finished with the annual BBQ and cake and presentations: David Hayes received a BB mug for 100 % attendance for the year and Shea Drummond received his "Looking Back at the National School Days of Boys' Brigade" photo montage - as has become the tradition.



*The Fun Train*



*Shea with his photo montage .... and happy supporters!*

Our summer tour to Tearaways Pet Farm and Activity Centre was as big a success as we could ever have hoped! There was so much to do - something for all the boys from the youngest to the oldest. They had great fun and were so incredibly well-behaved. We were very proud of their conduct and enjoyed their company all day. It has been a great year, our fifth, really interesting with new challenges, different activities and always the pleasure of seeing the growth of our young members. Here's to the sixth! We wish all our members and their families, our leaders and our friends an enjoyable summer.

## 1ST TRALEE COMPANY

On May 26th the members of The 1st Tralee Company held a display evening for family and friends. On the evening the members did a variety of games, routines, poems, dance and songs. A number of awards were given out and The William Fitzell Cup was awarded to Anchor Section member Nicholas Rusk and the Pam Cooke Cup was awarded to Junior Section member Michael Maritz



*Collette and Michael  
with the Pam Cooke Cup*



*Collette and Nicholas  
with the William Fitzell Cup*

# Mothers' Union Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

## ROSCREA BRANCH

Roscrea Branch hosted the area meeting - Vintage Tea Party - in June. We were honoured to have Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh, with us. She showed a video of MU work in Ireland and gave a Power Point presentation on MU Overseas work. These gave us all plenty to think about. We are so fortunate. Canon Jane, Diocesan Chaplain, had a Bible Quiz to test our Biblical Knowledge. Jordan and Julie, young parishioners, entertained us to lovely music and we had some hymn singing. The young women in the parish prepared a wonderful afternoon tea. The Vintage creations were judged by Adrian Hewson. Eleanor Wakefield, Vivienne Wallace and Jean Talbot were the prizewinners.

Heather Evans - Social Policy Contact

Florence Reid - Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator



*Winners of the Vintage Dress competition*



*Jean Talbot, Florence Reid, Heather Evans, Bertha Hastings, Ina Blackwell,  
Lucy Kavanagh and Mary Graham.*



*Killaloe Diocese MU members at the MU Pilgrim's Way Service in Old Leighlin Cathedral*

#### BALINASLOE BRANCH

St John's Ballinasloe Mothers' Union will commence the new season on Tuesday 19th September at 7.30pm in St John's Church with a service of Praise and Thanksgiving for 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland. The service will be led by the Rev'd John Godfrey and we will welcome our Diocesan President Mrs Lucy Kavanagh who will give the address. We extend a warm invitation to Mothers' Union members and friends throughout the Diocese to join in this celebration.

Light refreshments will follow the service in Gullanes's Hotel.

## United Diocesan Youth Council

#### DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Confirmation Weekend this year was a joint event with Diocese of Tuam, Killaloe & Achonry which attracted confirmation candidates from both Dioceses. It was great to have Simon Henry (National Youth Officer- Church of Ireland Youth Department) as our worship speaker for the weekend. Throughout the weekend Simon preached to us about how Confirmation is a time to take up the responsibility to live our lives for God. This was done through various worship sessions about "Who We Are," "Prayer," "The Bible" and "Faith in Action." The Venerable Wayne Carney visited the event on the Saturday evening and celebrated Eucharist with excellent explanations on the main parts of the Eucharist.



*Confirmation Group with Simon Henry - National Youth Officer Church of Ireland Youth Department*

It was also nice to have Stevie Brickenden (Tuam Diocesan Youth Officer) lead our closing worship on the Monday. Stevie talked about mission and how his journey of faith has really inspired him to go on mission work. As usual the weekend involved a good variety of off-site activities such as water activities at Baysports Watersports Centre Athlone, bowling & quasar at The Planet Athlone, karting

at Galway City Karting and Swimming at Leisureland. And a big thank you to the team of leaders that weekend who prepared on-site activities for the participants including a table quiz, disco and charades and also for cooking and feeding everyone during the weekend.

On behalf of the leaders it was a pleasure to meet an enthusiastic and friendly group of young people that weekend. Our prayers continue to be with those confirmed or yet to be confirmed this year.



*The Final time of teaching with Stevie Brickenden (Tuam Diocesan Youth Officer)*

#### SUMMER MADNESS

At the time of writing these notes we are making preparations for this year's Summer Madness. It seems like it will be a superb event as usual and we look forward to another great year.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Summer Camp- Sunday 16th July – Friday 21st July 2017  
Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry for all 10- 13 year olds.

Senior Summer Camp- Sunday 20th August – Friday 25th August 2017 at Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo for all those attending secondary School and upwards.

Both summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don't delay!!!! Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 7th July and for Senior Summer Camp is Friday 11th August. Our action packed programmes on both camps include the following: Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Water fights, Charades, Variety Show, Table Quiz, Man-hunt, Discos. In addition the Junior camp will include a wide range of activities in places such as Ballyhass Lakes Adventure Centre to include

wipe out style aquapark, kayaking, zipline, leap of faith, gladiator challenge, archery, bouldering and wakeboarding, Outdoor activities at Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre to include rock climbing, abseiling and kayaking. High Ropes Adventure and Splatmaster Paintball at Killarney Adventure Centre, Hiking to Torc Waterfall and through Muckross House & Gardens. Swimming at Aquadome and Bowling at Bowling Buddies Tralee.

And for the Senior camp the programme will include outdoor activities at Donegal Adventure Centre, Bundoran such as Surfing, Torioch Adventure Challenge, Kayaking and High Ropes Course. Day trip to Lough Key Forest and Adventure Park to include Zip it Forest Adventure Course and a unique challenge of Boda Borg. Bubble Soccer and Laser Combat at Sligo Adventure Centre. Trip to Bundoran for swimming, bowling, fast food and cinema.

The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee for each participant will be €220 for the full week. SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family. Non-refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs.

Return Transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall & Roscrea for all events, Adare and Newcastlewest for Junior Summer camp and Birr for Senior Summer Camp

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

Until next month,  
Oscar  
Mobile: 086 2476327

## Diocesan Board of Mission

MISSION EVENING REPORT by Joc Sanders

At the last Mission Evening of the season held on 15th June in the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Salters Sterling and Michael Hanna gave an illustrated talk on their first impressions of Modern China, following their recent trip.

Michael set the scene for the trip, which took in Beijing and Shenyang (formerly Moukden) in Manchuria, showing fascinating photos including Tienanmen Square with Mao's mausoleum, the Great Wall, wide boulevards with high-rise buildings and high-speed trains. Particularly striking, he said was the scale of everything.

Salters then spoke of the recent history of Christianity in China. There are three main strands. The one they visited is the state registered United Protestant Church (formed in 1923), now with around 10 million adherents (more than the Communist Party) and doubling every 10 years. There is also the state registered Catholic Church, somewhat smaller. And there are the unregistered, technically illegal underground churches, mostly Pentecostal. Under the People's Republic evangelisation is illegal, and all clergy must also have another job!

They were made extremely welcome by the Christians they met. Academic historians and sociologists were interested in the archival material available in Dublin and Belfast on the history of Christianity in China in the 19th century. We saw photos of several churches, all with prominent large crosses on the gables, among them the

Memorial Church in Faku for martyrs of the Boxer Rebellion, and the East Gate Church in Shenyang, and also of the North East Theological Seminary. The latter was started in 1894, and is now housed in a large modern campus with schools, a restaurant, a gigantic church, a room for 24/7 prayer (continuous for 66 years), and accommodation for 500 ordinands.

Salters was greatly encouraged by the vibrancy and growth of the churches in China, such a contrast to the falling numbers and staleness in Europe. Why are Christian numbers doubling every 10 years? The answer, said Salters, is the way Christians live.

## Children's Ministry Network – Focus on Toddlers

*The following notes are gleaned from various sources and make no attempt to be original, credits are given where known, or have a chat with CMN diocesan representative Revd. Jane Galbraith [galbraithjane@gmail.com](mailto:galbraithjane@gmail.com)*



Do we have too low expectations of our young children? Do we expect children to be able to be inspired by God and to have something worthwhile to say, even if they are only 3? If we don't create space for children to share what they are learning and what God is saying with the wider church... then we all miss out!

### FROM THE METHODISTS

'Traditional provision for children in the church has viewed Christian spirituality as part of a more mature faith, inaccessible at a young age until one has been grounded in significant instruction and experience. But maybe this is all the wrong way around? Maybe we should start with a child's innate spirituality from as early a time as possible, and build on that through the experiences we offer her/him, so that the faith, which we hope will develop, will grow out of that and be constantly be inter-connected with it. And maybe, just maybe, there is much in a young child's innate spirituality that can enhance the spiritual lives of adults if only we have eyes to see and hearts that are open enough.'  
Creating Space for Children and Young People to Think, Talk, and be Disciples' A Methodist Church Resource 28pp <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/children-and-youth>.



## FROM THE BAPTISTS

In one church, time was spent on examining values. The children were listening ...This is what a 5-year-old came up with... He drew a picture of a bird on a nest. He couldn't explain why he had drawn the picture, but it was a helpful illustration of 'everyone matters'. (We had spoken about how we welcome people and show love to one another and this was very much evident in his drawing.) Another one of the children (she is 5) wrote a list to explain our values rather than to draw something.

She said: New people need to know what we are doing (our values talk about being us being accessible). They need to be welcomed. You need to share (part of how you welcome people). Need to be relaxed (another one of our values talks about us being informal and relaxed). Give them nice compliments (part of how you welcome people). They need to know how to understand things about Jesus (another one of our values is being honest about our faith).

Children often have some great insight because they do not allow the cares and experiences of this world to change their simple faith. God can use anyone to touch lives and bring His message through.



## FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England has done a fabulous piece of research on Toddler Groups. The following are some of the gleanings. The Top Tips sheet is at [http://www.going4growth.com/growth\\_in\\_faith\\_and\\_worship/early\\_years](http://www.going4growth.com/growth_in_faith_and_worship/early_years).

Toddler groups have been part of the provision of churches for many years. Usually led by volunteers and run on a small budget, they have been a life-line for new parents and helped build community amongst those with young children in their care.

In contrast to childcare which offers supervision of children away from their parents, toddler groups keep adults and children together as they take part in a range of play, story and craft activities.

Many church based toddler groups are closely connected with the church, having been established by church members and continuing to be run as part of the church's regular activities.

However not all groups are confident about their Christian distinctiveness or about the missional opportunities of Toddler Groups can offer. Often the well intentioned first generation of helpers have gone on to other things and the impetus to maintain a Christian group has all but disappeared. Fear not, read on....

Christian distinctiveness was SEEN through: -Clergy being obviously present from time to time; group leaders and helpers engaging in Christian activity such as prayer; written information such as welcome packs which included information on church or faith.

Christian distinctiveness was HEARD through: Mentions of church and faith, including invitations; Christian music and songs; informal conversations; Christian storytelling.

Christian distinctiveness was EXPERIENCED through activities at toddler groups such as: celebrations of Christian seasons, singing Christian songs, praying, faith related craft, church services.

While it is important to have motivated toddler group leaders, they need to be well supported if groups are to progress towards meeting their mission potential. Such support should come from Clergy and other church leaders; the wider church community; People with relevant experience (e.g. leading toddler groups, early years teaching, health visiting).

Support for leaders means SUPPORT! It includes a pastoral approach: being valued and encouraged, knowing that what they do is an important for the future of the church; having their confidence built; having their faith nurtured and strengthened; knowing that people are praying for them and their toddler group. It includes a practical approach: being adequately resourced; having enough helpers for the group to operate effectively; having easy access to a wide range of ideas and further resources and training, being networked with other people provide ideas and support.



RESOURCES that can be viewed at St Cronan's Rectory, Roscrea contact Jane at [galbraithjane@gmail.com](mailto:galbraithjane@gmail.com).

- Godly Play Training Manuals
- 'The Big Book Storybook Timeline' ([www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)) will brighten up the wall of the Sunday Club
- 'The Jesus Bible Storybook' ([www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)) full colour for very young readers
- 'Bubbles for Children' ([www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)) comes in three monthly editions for 5-and-unders, Bible based sessions leader's manual and children's manual.
- 'Go Teach God's Word to 3s-4s' ([www.goteach.org.uk](http://www.goteach.org.uk)) 16 Bible based sessions, leader's manual and children's manual.
- 'Little books for Little hands' ([www.lionhudson.com](http://www.lionhudson.com)) series of Bible Stories 12pp.
- 'Candle Little Lambs' series 2s-4s, MU Bookstalls.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

### ADARE FETE

Well done to everyone involved in the successful Adare Fete which took place on 11th June in the grounds of the school and church. Despite the heavy showers there was a great turnout on the day. The proceeds will be given to local charities, churches and primary schools.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aedin Would on winning a scholarship to Villiers, a wonderful achievement and well done to all the sixth-class pupils on their excellent results in the scholarship exams.

## SCHOOL TOURS

The younger pupils in school had a very enjoyable day in Ballymorris Pottery near Cratloe, Co. Clare. I am reliably informed that pupils created some 'amazing' pots and bowls!

Afterwards everyone headed off to the playground at Cratloe Woods where they had great fun and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

The senior classes are looking forward to their trip to Dublin before the end of term.

## CHESS NEWS

Well done to all our chess teams who competed in the Limerick Chess League. Congratulations to our under 10s team on coming second in their league, and to the novice team on coming third. Well done to Lami, Eoin, Olivia and Emma in the under 10s and to Heinrich, Orran, Aaron and Tadhg in the novices.

## FAREWELL

We said farewell and thank you to Ms Lisa Anglim at the beginning of June and welcome back to Ms Tanya Brown following her maternity leave.

## GAELIC FOOTBALL BLITZ

Very well done to the senior girls who took part in a Schools' Football Blitz on June 15th. They played very well with some great wins on the day. Thank you to Ms Brown and Mr Ryan who accompanied the girls.



*Senior girls Gaelic Football squad in Adare*

## RAISE THE FLAG!

We have invited George Stackpoole, chairperson of Adare Tidy Towns, to raise the school's sixth green flag. The student members of our Green Schools' Committee welcomed everyone to the event after Sports Day on the 23rd June. Afterwards guests and pupils were treated to a slice of "green" cake and refreshments in the school.

## SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Day was held on Friday 23rd June. The emphasis was on participation and fun with a mixture of sprint and long-distance races and the "fun" races which included the spud and spoon, a teddy bear race, the three-legged and the sack race along with some field events such as the long jump, javelin and shot put.

## GOODBYE TO 6TH CLASS

School closed on Wednesday 28th June with a service of thanksgiving in St. Nicholas' Church when we said farewell to our sixth-class pupils, David, Olivia, Emma, Greg, Ronan and Aedin. We thank them for their contribution to school life in St. Nicks and wish them every success as they move on to secondary school.

School re-opens for the new school year on 31st August 2017 and we hope all our pupils, parents and staff have a happy Summer break.



*6th class pupils in St. Nicholas' N.S. Adare*

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

The days are getting longer as we approach mid-June, yet time seems to speed up as we close out the school year. Our standardised tests and other assessments are behind us now for another year. The copies and workbooks are full and the walls display the artistic expression and progression of our students this year. On 9th June we invited parents and family of our pupils to come and see the beautiful works created by their loved ones over the year. Parents were invited to visit the classrooms and look through the books and projects.

It is a busy time for the staff as we mark and collate results. We try our best to capture and communicate the triumphs and challenges of a whole year in a few words, remembering always that the holistic development of our pupils is not all about grades and tests.

We have had a packed schedule of events in June. We welcomed our new Junior Infants to school for an Induction morning on Wednesday 14th June.

The School Tour for classes First to Sixth took place on 15th June. The children visited the Aerospace facility in Shannon, explored the woods in Cratloe and threw pots in Ballymorris Pottery.

Sports Day was held on Friday 23rd June. Many thanks to our dedicated parent volunteers. Without them there would be no celebratory barbeque each Sports Day.

Every year we say goodbye to our Sixth Class with mixed feelings. We shall, of course, be sad to see them go after the eight-year journey together through Primary School. There is also excitement for their futures and pride in their accomplishments. Our Graduation Service took place on Wednesday 28th June in the Croft Hall. We welcomed parents, grandparents and siblings of Sixth Class pupils to help us to celebrate their day. Farewell and good luck wishes to Ciara Drummond, Chelsea Rohan, Colin Walsh, Laura Davey, Mary Gill, Danielle O'Brien, Oliwier Wojcik, Seamus Carroll and Shea Drummond.

May everyone in our school, church and wider community enjoy a warm and restful summer break.

Le gach dea-ghuí!

## Oxmantown National School, Birr

### LUNCH TIME CYCLE

4th, 5th and 6th class pupils with helmets, safe bicycles and high-viz jackets can participate in a lunchtime cycle on 14th June with students from other schools and teachers around the area.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Cailin Keaveny and Alan Hoare have agreed to run the Homework Club again next term, if enough children want to avail of it.

## GARDENING CLUB

Rebekah Keaveny will run the gardening club in September as the landscaping and polytunnel are not complete yet (we could use volunteers to help with setting-up the tunnel). We are so grateful to Jonathan and June Pyle for donating the tunnel to the school. Water day raised €116 as well as raising awareness of water conservation. We plan to apply for our new green flag in March 2018. Thanks to Glen Fletcher who has been serving on the Green School Committee and is moving to secondary school in September.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

We celebrated the diversity of cultures attending the school on International Day. Children from Poland, England Scotland, Latvia, Lithuania, Brazil, India, Australia and Ireland shared their food, cultures and traditions with each other. Their parents, friends and the Bishop of Limerick Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon. The children sang and danced in their traditional costumes, and the children from 3rd and 4th presented a drama entitled "If the world were a village of a hundred people" (see page 33). Thanks to the children and parents who contributed to making it a wonderful celebration of diversity in our school.



*Enjoying Polish food on International Day*

## SPORTS DAY

We are holding our annual Sports Day on 21st June (weather permitting) at 11am. The Parents are invited to come enjoy a burger/hot-dog which will be arranged by the Parents Association after the races. The food will be sold to cover costs (volunteers with barbecuing skills are welcome). Children can wear suitable sports clothing.



*Pupils of Oxmantown National School, Birr*

## END OF YEAR SERVICE

We will bring the children to St. Brendan's Church, Birr for our closing ceremony at 11am on Friday 23rd June. The children should be in full uniform and can be collected to go home afterwards. Parents are invited to attend the service.

We wish our 6th class students every good wish as they take their next step to secondary school

We welcome 12 new Junior Infants when the school reopens on Wednesday 30th August.

## Rathkeale No 2 National School

This year we had separate tours for our junior pupils and our senior pupils. Both tours took place on Friday 2nd June. The pupils from junior infants to first class went to Dreamland in Limerick. Dreamland is an all-inclusive play centre designed to reflect a child's idea of a magical place. It is the brainchild of Share-a-Dream. Before returning to Rathkeale the bus diverted to the playground in Adare where the fun continued.

The pupils from second to sixth class travelled to Cobh in Co. Cork. The first stop was the Titanic Experience where we expanded our knowledge on the Titanic. We then took a short boat ride across Cork Harbour to Spike Island. Here we got a tour of the island and learned about a little of the island's history and also some stories of people linked to the island's or prison's past. Following a short break for lunch the children were occupied first with an archaeological dig, where they experienced the work of an archaeologist and then a series of relay races. All too soon we had to make our way back to the pier for the return boat to Cobh.

Our school sports day took place on Friday 16th June in St Mary's Park, Rathkeale. Thanks to the parents who helped prepare and serve our barbecue lunch and a special thanks to Seamus Hogan for organising the burgers and buns.

Our end of year service will take place at 11:30am on Tuesday 27th June. We look forward to Bishop Kenneth being with us. Congratulations to all the pupils who will receive a prize during the service. Following the service we will adjourn to the school and we hope Bishop Kenneth will raise our fifth green flag for us.

We wish our sixth-class pupils, Ella and Braydan well as they leave us and begin the next stage in their education. Ella will attend Villiers and Braydan will attend Desmond College, Newcastle West.

## Villiers School



### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

In April 2016 global leaders in aviation finance gathered to launch Europe's first Masters in Aviation Finance in Dublin. Industry and Education together. What was noticeable in reports of this event, however, was how these executives bemoaned the absence of an international education system in Ireland as part of an ecosystem which would make Ireland more attractive for business, workers and their families. The International Baccalaureate, which many of those executives in Dublin referred to, will now be offered in Villiers on the North Circular Road. Villiers is Ireland's second school to be authorised and is Ireland's only boarding school to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme was established in Geneva in 1968 to provide students with a balanced education, to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility and to develop international understanding. Since then, this challenging programme has developed to become a byword for academic excellence as top universities across the globe increasingly recognise its merits.

Villiers' authorisation as an IBDP school is the outcome of a process which has taken over 5 years since its initiation and is seen by those

involved as a very natural progression for what has traditionally been one of Limerick's most "International" schools. The school's history began in 1819 when a wealthy Presbyterian native of the city named Hannah Villiers "left bequests to several charities in the city and county of Limerick". In her will she founded Villiers School and Widows' Home (opened in 1821). The home was intended as an asylum for Protestant or Presbyterian Widows and their children, while within this premises on Nicholas Street were "two schools", one for males and one for females.

The school's evolution, as one would expect over almost 200 years, has involved both subtle and significant changes as it developed on its course, moving first to Henry Street and finally to the North Circular Road in 1953 as it established itself as a co-educational secondary school on the west of the city. Talk (and threats) of amalgamations and closures in the 1960s did not prevent the school from growing firm roots in its new location. Throughout this period Villiers did not forget its tradition, ethos and heritage which meant that it was, as a former Dean once described it, "more than an academic institution." It is this ethos and philosophy which was identified as reflecting so much of what is at the heart of an IB education, and which set Villiers on its path toward candidacy in 2015 and authorisation as an IB World School in 2017.

Under the headmastership of Mr. John Ruddock, Villiers grew in the 1960s and 1970s from just 90 students to 220, while his successor, Mr. Thomas Hardy not only grew the school's intake but also developed the school's footprint on its North Circular Road site as the school passed the 500 pupil mark for the first time. 2013 saw the school acquire the two acre Derravoher site under the school's current headmistress Ms. Jill Storey as the process to become authorised as an IB school began. The flagship building in Derravoher, open since September 2016, now houses a new library and international section in preparation for the school's first cohort to take the IB Diploma Programme.

Having welcomed visits from IB consultants, teachers and administrators from locations such as Kenya, Holland and Denmark, Villiers is delighted to have successfully come through the rigorous process of authorisation, a process which reinforced what the 620 students from almost 30 countries already knew - Villiers is truly an International School. Authorisation as an IBDP school now means that students (both local and international) will have the opportunity to be part of a programme which, until now, has not been available in the South or West of Ireland.

Further information is available on the school website [www.villiers-school.com](http://www.villiers-school.com) and from 061 451447.

## 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](mailto:abbeydean2@gmail.com)

On 22 May Bryan Brislane arranged a visit of a group of us from Killaloe to St Mary's Cathedral Limerick where we met by Kieran Brislane. Peter Barley demonstrated the wonderful organ and

explained its working to the group. We were treated to two pieces of music and we were appreciative of his great ability to make the instrument come to life. It was onto the bell tower with the bell ringers with a demonstration and explanation which was very educational and the skill of the bell ringers just has to be admired. It was also a privilege to see Bryan and Kieran ring bells together as father and son. It was onto the roof of the bell tower to take in the wonderful view of Limerick city. The visit and welcome was greatly appreciated by all us and big thank you to all in Limerick.



*Bryan and Kieran Brislane with the Bells of St Mary's!*

The Killaloe Chamber Music Festival took place at St Flannan's Cathedral 26 to 28 May. This year's festival was opened by the German Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Matthias Höpfner. This year we were delighted with the exhibit in St Flannan's of the work of Irish artists David Lilburn and Lorraine Wallas - the art exhibitions have now become an integral part of the festival. The theme of Stories took centre stage in this year's Festival. As usual the musicians were excellent and we wish Daphne Henderson well as she steps down from the role as chair of the committee as Trish Taylor Thompson takes up the position. We all look forward to next year and long may it continue.

A fundraising concert was arranged by Vera Jamieson at Mountshannon on 4th of May. It was an evening of traditional music with music group Buttons and Bows performing. It had been said of them 'When the McGuire brothers pick up their fiddles, the rest is pure bliss; close your eyes and this dreadful world seems bearable' (Cathal Mac Coille). A big thank you to the community who supported this event and to the organiser.

Josephine Barkman has passed away peacefully in Limerick Regional Hospital. After falling and breaking a hip she never fully recovered. Her funeral took place in St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe on Wednesday 7th June. A full church as family, friends and neighbours came to say goodbye to Joss. Roy Benson gave fitting tribute as he reflected on her life. The burial took place in the old Adare Cemetery on the golf course where she was laid to rest beside her husband Stan. 95 years spent on this earth and left it with full mental capacity but the physical body could not continue any longer. We give thanks for her life and to all who came to support the family in their grief.

Ronan Rigney and Jane Good were married in St Flannan's Cathedral on Friday 16 June with the reception taking place at Annacarriga Estate in Killaloe afterwards. From the County Cork originally, and now living in London. Their family and friends filled the Cathedral. Peter Barley played the organ as only Peter can and the tenor was Ryan Morgan with accompanists Philip Rigney and Mary Finn. A beautiful couple and a wonderful wedding ceremony as every detail was well planned. We wish them a long and happy life together.



Jane Good & Ronan Rigney with Dean Gary Paulsen on their Wedding Day.

## Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

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

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

### PRAYERS

We continue to keep Diane Dagg, Pamela Edge, and baby Saoirse in our prayers, and are remembering Pam Reid as well.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY

On Friday, the 26th of May, Bishop Kenneth came to Oxmantown School for our International Day. Pupils from the variety of countries (including, of course, Ireland!) put on exhibitions of singing and dancing, and, with their parents, brought delicious foods from their

homelands, along with artefacts, maps, displays, and information about their countries. The day culminated with a choral presentation by all the children in the school. Many thanks to the teachers and pupils who put so much work in to the day, with such great results!



Bishop Kenneth at the International Day at Oxmantown School

### PARISH FÊTE

Coming up to the Parish Fete on the 11th of June, we were filled with great trepidation as the forecast was calling for heavy rains, and it looked like we would again be nearly drowned, as we were last year. However, the rain mostly held off, the sun shone (sometimes), and a great time was had by all. There were plenty of activities for the children; a great many assorted things for sale in the various stalls; tea, minerals, sandwiches, cakes, burgers, and sausages to eat; and an opportunity (which doesn't come every day!) to guess the length of the tail of a very large cat (many thanks to David and Joy and the cat for that one). Thanks to so many people from all four parishes who came out to set up on Saturday evening, looked after the events on the day, and stayed to clean up afterwards.

*Birr Group of Parishes continued on pg 21*

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# Weddings are changing

*Methodist Geoffrey Corry reflects on changing marriage customs.*

According to the recent 2016 census results in the Republic, while the number of married people has increased, the percentage of married couples (including same-sex) at 37.6% has remained stable. So that means only one third of the population are married. Yet we know that less than one in three young couples actually get married these days. Marriage is a declining institution and poses significant challenges for all churches and faiths. I reckon that only one third of those who consider marriage think about getting married in church. So church weddings are becoming a rare event.

In the south, many wedding options are available apart from the registry office for people disaffected from the churches. A popular alternative is a humanist service officiated by a registered wedding solemniser with the HSE that usually takes place in the hotel where the wedding reception is held. I recently was at one of these weddings. Surprisingly, there were some scripture readings and hymns and the script was rather familiar. The symbolic moment at the heart of the ritual is when each partner blows out their own 'ego' candle and together light a 'joint' candle to represent their decision to join in marriage. Having been a family mediator for over twenty years, I know from experience that such a symbolic moment has an impact in marking the move from being simply partners to being committed to each other.



*Rev Shannon DeLaureal with the newly married couple, James and Bronagh Shilling*

My own daughter Bronagh, who had lived with her partner James for seven years in London, decided she wanted a church wedding and came back to Ireland to bring everyone together. She chose a lovely wedding venue at Coolbawn Quay on Lough Derg in Co Tipperary to coincide with the May UK public holiday weekend so that all the English side of James' family could make a weekend of it. The nearest Methodist Church was in Cloughjordan, closely associated with the Armitage family and presently ministered by Rev Shannon DeLaureal from Louisiana (USA). Shannon was simply superb with her sense of humour in building a welcoming atmosphere where people felt relaxed. Her warm informal demeanour made everyone feel at home whether they came from far-away places like Australia and Canada or from different traditions. She had done a lot of preparation in getting to know Bronagh and James and this

homework was carefully integrated into the homily. What a huge difference that makes for the couple entering into a new phase of their life together and for their families who are making the journey with them! Particularly in the intimate atmosphere of a small church where a hundred people are packed into a building belonging to several generations of Methodist ancestors.

In our case, the church wedding set the tone for the day through its selection of scripture readings, poems, thoughts and prayers. Everyone sang whole heartedly to rise to the occasion - in the true Methodist tradition. Yet there were hardly seven Methodists present. For myself as Father of the Bride, I instinctively would have loved to have stepped out into the aisle to dance to the chorus of "Dance then wherever you maybe, I am the Lord of the dance, said he." [My head told me not to do it and spoil Bronagh's day!]

I would say that a good twenty young friends of Bronagh and James had never been at a Christian wedding service and it was a moving experience for them. Having a woman minister of the calibre of Rev Shannon DeLaureal was a new experience for all. For one Catholic sister in a religious congregation, it was a beautiful rich experience of what her church could be in today's pluralist world. It may take many more years before the Vatican Curia will adapt despite the papal power of Francis. For another Catholic in the congregation who wrote to us later: "it was time the RC had a look at how the Methodists do things".



*Pieces of bog oak dating back 2,000 years make up the cross at Cloughjordan Methodist Church*

# Mothers' Union 130th Celebration

Report by Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President, photos by Nick Cavanagh.



On 21st May in the beautiful St. Patrick's Church, Kenmare Mothers' Union celebrated 13 decades of Love and Service in Ireland. As part of our 130th celebrations Phyllis Grothier, All Ireland President had visited every diocese in Ireland and began each visit with a short pilgrimage. In Kenmare we were also honoured to be joined by Bishop Andrew Proud, Mothers' Union Central Chaplain.

Our pilgrimage began with a short reflection by Phyllis Grothier who gave thanks for all that we have and all our members who work so tirelessly for Mothers' Union. The sun shone as we began our walk overlooking the beautiful Kenmare Bay and we made our way along a short path through the woods and into St. Patrick's Church.

Rev Michael and Marjorie and the Kenmare & Dromod Mothers' Union branch members had decorated the church with wonderful bunting depicting the 130 years of MU work in Ireland and several arrangements of beautiful flowers. The church was filled with, amongst others, many MU members from all over the diocese and also from our adjoining diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross including their Diocesan President, Patsy Devoy.

At the beginning of the service our MU Branch Banners were brought up to the Chancel and as the newest branch in Ireland, Kenmare & Dromod proudly displayed their new banner which was the brainchild of Suzanne Till-Gray, made with the help of several other members. The service was led by Rev Michael Cavanagh and began with the words "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage". We were delighted to

have Rev Jane Galbraith, our Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain to celebrate the Eucharist, who was so ably helped by Lay Reader, Mrs Snoo Sinclair.

The sermon was preached by Mothers' Union Central Chaplain, Bishop Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading, who was accompanied by his wife Janice. Bishop Andrew's sermon focused on "hospitality" and how hospitality embodies the real essence of Mothers' Union and is at the core, along with prayer, of all that we do. Our own Bishop Kearon, who couldn't be present, wrote a message stating that "It is mothers who sustain and enable families and convey to each member the messages of love, concern, acceptance and often forgiveness – values which are truly Christlike. In supporting mothers through friendship and help, the Mothers' Union is living up to the highest ideal of the Gospel itself."

The celebrations continued with several beautiful hymns, accompanied by the Rosen Choir and during the final hymn, Lord of the Dance, we were treated to a fabulous display of Irish Dancing by two very talented young girls, Anna Rawson and Laura Pototzki – wonderful!

Following the service we all went out into the grounds of the church to plant a beautiful Cherry Tree to commemorate our 13 Decades of Love and Service in Ireland. The weather was kind to us as Phyllis put the finishing touches to the tree planting with a trowel tied with a bow of the MU colours!!

Then followed a delicious lunch in the church prepared by the congregation and MU members. To finish off a wonderful day of celebration we cut a commemorative cake beautifully made by one of the MU members, Heather Kingston.

Finally, our thanks must also go to the Church Wardens who worked so hard to make the day so special. Thanks also to the Park Hotel and Golf Club who were very kind in tidying the path from the hotel to the church in readiness for our footsteps along the way and offering car parking facilities.

What a wonderful place Kenmare is to visit and what a wonderful welcome we received from everyone! We truly came away giving thanks for the previous 130 years and with a renewed enthusiasm and vision for the next 130!



Branch Banners on display



The commemorative cake



Front from left: Phyllis Grothier, Marjorie Cavanagh, Lucy Kavanagh, Janice Proud, Bishop Andrew Proud

# “Yesterday, today and forever”

## - 140 Year Celebrations of GFS in Ireland 1877-2017



On Sunday, 21st May GFS members from all over Ireland filled Christ Church, Bray for the 140th anniversary service of Girls Friendly Society in Ireland. A group of 20 leaders and girls from Killaloe represented the diocese.

The church was filled for the service which was celebrated by the All Ireland Chaplain, the Revd Tanya Woods. The wonderful music was led by the Belturbet Praise Band and the preacher was the Revd Janice Aiton. GFS Patrons, the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin, were present and brought greetings to the service. They were joined by the Bishops of Limerick & Killaloe; Derry & Raphoe and Kilmore.

Branch banners from all over the country were paraded through the church at the start of the Service including the original Bray Banner. Killaloe Branch Banners were carried by Florence Reid for Roscrea, Leah Shaw for Birr, Saoirse Barrett for Cloughjordan and Sofia Gladaka for Nenagh. The Killaloe 50 Year Banner was carried by Norma Jean Kearney. Rebecca Reid read one of the prayers and Gemma St. Leger helped with the collection which was for GFS Missions and World Project.



*Killaloe Diocese Branch banners on parade*

Photographs from around Ireland were on display in the church along with the minutes of the first meeting in Bray. Posters and wall hangings from the Craft Syllabus competition depicting 140 years of GFS were on display - including work by Rebecca Reid, Roscrea; Grace Langley, Nenagh and Grace Healy, Cloughjordan.

During the service Sylvia Quinn was commissioned as senior delegate and Tamara McKenzie as junior delegate to the GFS World Council which takes place in Perth, Australia, in July. We wish them every blessing as they represent Ireland.

The Preacher was Revd. Janice Aiton who drew on Luke 15:11-24, Luke 5:17-26 and Hebrews 13:8. The focus was on making choices and highlighted the good and bad choices made by the prodigal son. She used the Jenga game to illustrate the good choices in life and how a second chance can make all the difference by recalling the story of Thomas Edison and the young boy who carried the precious first light bulb - the boy was helping in the lab and was asked to

carry the bulb upstairs to another part of the facility. Disaster struck, he tripped and the light bulb broke. Another 24 hours were spent making a new bulb. Edison gave it to the same young boy to carry up the stairs again because he knew that the boy was devastated by the first incident. He decided to give the boy a second chance. Give everyone a second chance, trust in the Lord, God always keeps his promises and we must trust in Him.



*Girls & Leaders representing Killaloe Diocese at the 140th Anniversary Service*

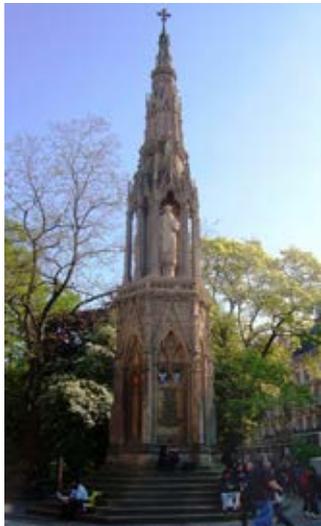
Sylvia Quinn, All Ireland President, thanked everyone involved in preparations for the service and she gave a short appreciation of GFS. The society was founded in London in 1875 by an Irishwoman, Mrs Elizabeth Townsend, to provide support and skills training for girls who came from the country to work in the city. It is the oldest Church of Ireland organisation for girls and women. The first service was in Bray church on 22nd February 1877 and GFS quickly became an important factor in the lives of young girls. Today GFS has a registration of 2,000 members from the north and south of the country. There are challenging times ahead for GFS with the large amount of paper work required - Let us pray that GFS will lead together into the future with friendship and respect. The day was a wonderful celebration for GFS in Ireland - a day to make us proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation.



# The Reformation after 500 years:

## 2. The Anglican Reformation

*In the second of three features on the Reformation, Patrick Comerford asks about the influence of Martin Luther on the Anglican Reformation (photos: Patrick Comerford).*



*The Martyrs' Memorial near Balliol College, Oxford, where Latimer and Ridley were burned at the stake in 1555*

Anglicanism has no one single founding figure, so that there is no single Reforming authority for Anglicans, in the way that Martin Luther has a defining role for Lutherans, or John Calvin for Calvinists and Presbyterians.

Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer are seen as the founding martyrs of Anglicanism; Thomas Cranmer and Matthew Parker are the key figures in drafting the foundational documents of Anglicanism, the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles; and the Elizabethan and Jacobean theologians Richard Hooker, John Jewel and Lancelot Andrewes, and the Caroline Divines, including Bishop Jeremy Taylor, presented

Anglican theology in its first articulate and systematic ways in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Anglican theological position has always been explained in terms of the middle way or *via media*. Richard Hooker's *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* is regarded as the classic depiction of this Anglican *via media*, based on scripture, reason and tradition, although he does not use the actual term *via media* in his works, which stand alongside John Jewel's *Apologia Ecclesiae Anglicanae*.

So, from an Anglican perspective, when did the Reformation begin?

In England, from the mid-14th century, the Lollards were demanding Reform under the leadership of John Wycliffe. He was a contemporary of Julian of Norwich, an early champion of women's voices in the Church. Although she lived and wrote a century before Luther and Calvin, she may be seen as an early forerunner of the Anglican Reformation.

William Tyndale, who worked on an early translation of the Bible, was executed before the Anglican Reformation began. His prominence in Protestant folklore sometimes eclipses the influence of Desiderius Erasmus.

Erasmus remained a Roman Catholic priest, but through his work on the Greek New Testament in Cambridge while he was Professor of Divinity, he made the Bible accessible to the Anglican Reformers and he helped to stimulate an interest in Luther's work.

Cambridge became the nursery of the English Reformation, and the White Horse Inn, on a site that is now part of King's College, became the meeting place of critical scholars, including Thomas

Cranmer, Stephen Gardiner, William Tyndale, John Bale (later Bishop of Ossory) and Hugh Latimer.

The Anglican Reformation found another springboard in the thinking of Henry VIII, not because of his demands for a divorce but in his theological intellect, first expressed in a critique of Luther that earned him Papal recognition as 'Defender of the Faith.' Indeed, the royal request for a divorce was strongly criticised by Luther, and Cranmer found favour with the king by offering an alternative course of action.

For Anglicans, the classical Reformation did not end with the deaths of the martyrs in Oxford in 1555 during the reign of Mary I. By the time the 39 Articles received their final form in 1571, the Puritans were a critical wing on the margins of Anglicanism, so that Calvinism had become a force opposing the *via media* that would define Anglicanism from the 1570s on.

Elizabeth I often defended her Church's catholicity to foreigners and emphasised what it held in common with the rest of the western Catholic Church. A canon of 1571 demands that clergy in their preaching 'see that they never teach ought in a sermon, to be religiously held and believed by the people, except what is agreeable to the Old and New Testaments, and what the Catholic Fathers and ancient bishops have collected from the same doctrine.'

Elizabeth's successor, James I, declared in the early 17th century: 'I will never refuse to embrace any opinion in divinity necessary to salvation which the whole Catholic Church with a unanime [i.e. unanimous] consent have constantly taught and believed ...'

The Cromwellian era (1649-1660) threatened but failed to mark the triumph of Puritanism and the end of the Anglican Reformation, if not Anglicanism itself.

Perhaps the classical Anglican Reformation ends not with the translation of the Authorised Version of the Bible, but in the reign of Charles II, with the Act of Uniformity and Great Ejection of Puritans in 1662, and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, which upholds the



*A plaque at King's College, Cambridge - site of the White Horse Inn*

'established doctrine, or laudable practice ... of the whole Catholick Church of Christ! This gives a Catholic hue to Anglicanism, and so Anglicanism was defined not by Luther, Calvin or Cranmer, but by the Caroline settlement, the Caroline Divines (including Bishop Jeremy Taylor and Archbishop John Bramhall of Armagh) and the rejection of Puritanism.

NEXT: Luther and ecumenism today.



*Thomas Cranmer's memorial in the chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge*

# Tralee & Dingle Unions Welcome Rev Jim Stephens

## Report by Rev Phyllis Jones

The Service of Welcome for Rev Jim Stephens on Saturday 27th May 2017 was very special and moving, with representatives from the Tralee Community, the Roman Catholic churches, clergy and readers and St. John's Parochial School. It was lovely to welcome members of the Kilcolman Union where Jim had served since Christmas 2014, who were saddened to lose Jim's ministry among them, but came to offer their support and best wishes on his appointment as Priest-in-Charge of the Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes.

The service was conducted by The Rt. Revd. Dr. Kenneth Kearon and all six churches in the Group of Parishes were represented by presenting symbols of the ministry Jim will be providing to the parishes. The children from St. John's sang 'Love the Lord your God' and Jim's daughter Isabel and niece Kayleigh Roche sang the gradual hymn 'Let there be Love'. We were delighted that so many attended the service and the refreshments and fellowship after the service was much appreciated. A very big thank you to those who provided and served the refreshments, and for all the work behind the scenes to make the church look so lovely.



Rev Jim Stephens at the Service of Welcome

Rev Jim Stephens writes:

*May 27th was a special day in my life and in the life of my wife Elsie and my daughters Ava and Isabel, when I was welcomed as Priest-in-charge of the Tralee and Dingle Unions of parishes - my eldest daughter Sophie could not be present as she was on placement from college in Scotland.*

*It was a wonderful experience to see the church full of parishioners, former parishioners and friends for the service on that fine May evening. I will treasure that memory for many years to come.*

*The service was made all the more special as my youngest daughter Isabel and my niece Kayleigh sang the gradual hymn. The children of St John's School also participated enthusiastically as they sang their musical piece.*

*St John's Church was gleaming for the service and I am most grateful to all those parishioners who prepared both the Church for the liturgy and the parish centre for the wonderful tea that we enjoyed afterwards.*

*The parishioners can be very proud of the way that they worked together in their preparations for the occasion.*

*I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Rev Phyllis Jones for all the preparations that she did for the service of welcome, and for her assistance to me as I transitioned from Kilcolman to Tralee and Dingle. I was delighted to see both Fr Padraig Walsh and Fr Francis Nolan, Diocesan clergy and readers robed together in the Church. Archdeacon Gordon Linney on his first visit to Tralee certainly made an impact with his homily, as he summarised very succinctly what the essence of the Gospel is all about. Bishop Kenneth presided and led the liturgy as he always does, in a very meaningful and inclusive way.*



Clergy & Readers at Rev Jim Stephens' Service of Welcome



2017 Birr Parish Fete



Birr Confirmation Class with Mr Paul Fitzpatrick

**QUIZ SHEETS**

For many years, quiz sheets have been sold in the weeks coming up to the Fête. This year, we had them available at the Fête itself, and they will be available for sale for €2 during the summer. The draw for the winners will be on the 3rd of September, after the 11:30 am service in Birr. As before, there is a colouring sheet for children on the reverse side, with additional prizes for the best colouring.

**CONFIRMATION**

At this writing, Bishop Kenneth will be coming to St Brendan's Church in Birr for our Confirmation service on Sunday, 18th June. Please keep our candidates in your prayers as they show forth in their lives the vows they will have taken on for themselves at the service. Due to be confirmed are Isabel Alexander, Shannon Briscoe, Orey Higgins, and Charlene Powell from Birr, Kelly Ross from Banagher, Andrew Armstrong and Cian Sheppard from Kinnitty, and Alex Mooney from Shinrone. Many thanks to Mr Paul Fitzpatrick, who made a tremendous contribution to our Confirmation classes this year.

**GARDEN PARTY FOR LOCKEEN, 8TH JULY**

There will be a Garden Tea Party in aid of Lockeene Church repairs on Saturday, 8th July from 2 to 5pm at Bourney Old Rectory, the home of Jameina Reid, on the Templemore/Thurles Road (N62), 3 miles from Roscrea between Drought's Garage and Patterson's Nursing Home.

**Roscrea Group of Parishes**

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**HOLY BAPTISM**

Welcome into the Church baby Harry Seamus Parr, first son of David and Mary-Louise. Harry's baptism took place in St. Burchin's Church Bourney on Sunday May 28th. 2017.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Clare and Brian Pearson on the birth of their third son, Matt Brian Henry, on May 17th, a brother to Ben and Alex.

Congratulations also to Des and Florence Reid who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary (40th). They recalled that 40 years ago the weather was perfect, the ceremony was in Adelaide Memorial Church, Myshall, Leighlin, before God. A small crowd of friends witnessed the event.

#### UNITED SERVICE

The next fifth Sunday will be Sunday July 30th. Our United Service, that is only one service in our entire Group of Parishes will take place with our Methodist friends on the Mall. The service will take place in Christ Church Corbally. Many thanks to the Corbally folk who have been so willing to change the time of their service to help suit other congregations. The time of the United Service on Sunday July 30th is 11.15 am. It is hoped the weather will allow a picnic afterwards.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS SERVICE will take place on July 2nd at 12 noon in St. Burchin's Church Bourney. Animals please be accompanied by a human. This is fast becoming a whole community event which we like to hold outside. Ponies prefer it. All are welcome, bring a picnic, tea and coffee will be provided.

HEALER PRAYER next service July 19th, and for August the 16th, both at 2.30 in St. Cronan's Church. Names of those who wish our prayers can be given to Margaret Connor.

#### MOTHERS' UNION AREA MEETING

A Tea Party was arranged for Wednesday June 7th in the Methodist Hall. See more on page 8. The wearing of Vintage Dress, while optional, proved a great success. Graceful gentlewomen were seen to be almost floating about the hall. Our Diocesan President Lucy Kavanagh showed a promo of MU Ireland, this excellent snapshot of the many works and ways MU does ministry is well worth a look. Lucy

also showed us some of the overseas projects ongoing. The ministry of MU is sometimes overlooked when we think about parishes and mission. Graceful gentlewomen is merely a cover for so many who show God's love in many different ways to many different people at home and abroad.

All our youth organisations, Sunday School, Boy's Brigade, GFS, Youth club, are taking a breather for the summer. Very many thanks to all the leaders who give of their time and expertise to help grow our youngsters in the ways of faith and fun and fellowship.

Leading into the summer months we cannot help but reflect back on the Human Voices Exhibition and floral tributes. A small number of booklets telling the story of the exhibition are still available. Adrian Hewson will have details.

## 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](mailto:rsmyth6582@btinternet.com)

It was with much sadness that we in the Nenagh Union learned of the unexpected death of James Armitage on Saturday 20th May. Our sincere condolences are expressed to his daughter and son in law, Jean and Melvyn Mooney, his fiancée Marjorie, and to the extended family circle. James was a much-valued member of our parish community and will be sorely missed.

Many congratulations to Amy Hamilton and Reggie White who were married on Friday 16th June in Killodiernan Parish Church. Amy is the daughter of Stuart and Judy Hamilton, Dromineer. The service



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Twitter: [@bandongrammar](https://twitter.com/bandongrammar)



was conducted by Rev John Marchant, Rector of Donnybrook and Irishtown, Dublin, assisted by Father Connor Hayes.



Amy and Reggie outside Killodiernan Church

The United Family service on Sunday 18th June was based on the theme of 'love.' The children's address was based on Romans 5: 8. Much fun was had by all in trying to answer the question, 'what does love mean,' including some very interesting answers. For example, 'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on after shave and they go out and smell each other!' Interesting!

The Rector finished the talk by pointing everyone to the bible for the definition of love, particularly verse 8 of chapter 5 of Paul's letter to the Romans; 'But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.'

On Sunday 25th June at the 11am Eucharist in St Mary's, twins were baptized, the daughters of Michael and Thelma Percy-O'Brien, and sisters of Ella. Mae Maria Katie and Sarah Hilary Bridget were presented for baptism by their parents Marin and Thelma, and Godparents Richard Percy, Gerard Mulligan, Nancy O'Brien and Erika Coonan. Congratulations to all concerned, and welcome to the Nenagh Union family!



Parents Robbie and Sharon Nevin with baby Jack Robert



Colin Walsh & Ciara Drummond, confirmed on 28th May, with Bishop Kenneth and Rev Rod

## 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](mailto:terrym438@gmail.com)

Cloughjordan recently held a Biodiversity Week Celebration in June, with events including the biodiversity of the Ballyfinboy River, Greenhouse gas emissions in re-wetted peat land forests and Re-wilding, Rural Regeneration & Eco-Tourism Nature on the Farm. There was also an Evening Bog Walk at Scohaboy Bog with Lorcan Scott, District Conservation Officer, NPWS; as well as 'Mindfulness in the Woods', a 30 minute guided exercise for all ages with Jean Finn in Knockanacree Woodlands and a Guided 'Forest Therapy' Walk.



Community Eco Service outside St Kieran's Cloughjordan

The week culminated with a Community 'Eco-Service' held at the St Kieran's Church Green. This was an ecumenical gathering with local Churches to close Biodiversity Week and celebrate Creation in the natural world around us. The service included the Climate Justice Candle. The candle will be hosted by St. Michael's & St. John's Church in association with Eco-Congregation Ireland. Thank you to Revd. Shannon DeLaurel and Fr. Ger Jones for sharing in the service.

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*Exploring the biodiversity of the stream*

Thank you also to the organiser of the week Mr Gearoid Ofoighil for inviting the churches to be part of the week, as we too recognise our responsibility to both care for and nurture the environment of which we are a part. The Biodiversity week reminded us of the importance of our environment that surrounds us and provides our life-support system- the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that grows our plants and crops.

Congratulations to the GFS in Cloughjordan as they celebrated their 50th anniversary on the 26th May. In 1967 the first GFS Diocesan Service was held in Borriskane Church. 120 girls were enrolled and this included girls from Cloughjordan. Mrs J Nicholson was the branch leader in Cloughjordan and Mrs Linda Armitage was the secretary. Mrs Elsie Atkinson took over as branch leader in 1968 and she served for many years before she handed over to Mrs Ivy Dann in the 1980s. Mrs Grace Healy then followed and is still the branch leader.

A number of leaders and helpers over the years have included Iris Ralph, Helen Shortt, Adelaide Chadwick, Meryl Gillespie, Vicky Ryan, Anne Atkinson, Jane Smith and the late Evelyn Williams and Carrie Wilde. The current leaders are Valerie Lewis, Helen Armitage, Gillian Armitage, Gillian Grant, Sandra Hayes and Caroline Stanley.

Cloughjordan GFS is a very active branch and meet weekly. Members are encouraged to take part in Diocesan and all Ireland Bible and craft competitions. Every year a camp is held and this always attended by a number of girls from the Cloughjordan branch.

GFS is all about friendship, fellowship and fun. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, girls and friends for their wonderful support over the past 50 years. We hope to be celebrating our 100 year anniversary in another 50 years.

(Please note that the name for the Confirmation Photo at St Kieran's should have read Adam Stanley and not Adam Clayton. My apologies for the miss-print).

## **Shinrone Group of Parishes**

*Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin*

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (On sick leave)

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

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly

Phone: 05791 35341: email: [ruth\\_gill40@outlook.ie](mailto:ruth_gill40@outlook.ie)

### **CONFIRMATION**

Congratulations to Andrew, Alex and Cian on the confirmation of their baptismal vows at the service in Birr on the 18th June. It was great to see so many who came to support them. It was a great service with participation by the candidates. Many thanks to Archdeacon Carney and to Paul Fitzpatrick for preparing them and to Edward Hardy for organising the Confirmation weekend.



*Bishop Kenneth with Cian, Andrew and Alex following their Confirmation*

SHINRONE DOG SHOW & FETE was a great success. But it didn't just happen on its own; a lot of planning and commitment made it the success it was and all ably co-ordinated by Alan Algeo and a team of workers. A sincere word of thanks to sponsors and to those who contributed items for the various stalls and side shows.



*Plants aplenty at the Shinrone Fete!*

AGHANCON FETE will be held at the Community Hall on Sunday, 2nd July starting at 2 p.m., with a variety of stalls, a raffle, teas and other things to whet the appetite and test the brain! The area around the Hall has been laid with tarmac and parking spaces outlined. More trees have been planted and extra garden features have been put in place to enhance the entrance and the grounds of the Hall. Again, this entailed a lot of hard work, particularly by Ina Blackwell, but it definitely has been worth it.

DUNKERRIN FETE & DOG SHOW will be held on the 16th July starting at 2 p.m., in the Community Hall.

### **MOTHERS' UNION**

The members had a most enjoyable outing to Clonohill Gardens, where they were kindly looked after by Enda Phelan.

### **KINNITTY**

Work has been completed in placing outer glass protection on all the windows of the church. The windows were cleaned inside and out prior to the work being done and it has made a wonderful difference to the brightness of the church.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Mrs. Jackson celebrated her 90th birthday on the 18th June. It was lovely to see so many friends and neighbours come to wish her well on a beautiful day and they could share in Holy Communion with her.



*Mrs Elsie Jackson (seated) with Joan, Linda and Billy*

Richard and June Greene celebrated their 60th Anniversary on the 24th April. Belated congratulations and best wishes to them. Congratulations also to Cian Wakefield on being awarded a scholarship to Villiers School.

Thank you to Adrian Hewson who came to Aghancon on the 18th June, not only to help celebrate Mrs. Jackson's birthday, but also to share some of his knowledge of the history of the surrounding area. The next get together will be in September when we'll do something with a harvest flavour – more details nearer the time.

#### PASTORAL

By the time these notes appear, hopefully Richie Mooney will have his surgery in St. James' Hospital over and will be on the road to recovery. We continue to remember in our prayers all those who are ill at home or in hospital

#### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

There is now easy access to the four churches within the Group of Parishes.

## 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](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

The Summer focus on the Atlantic Coast, and the chaplaincy linked with it from Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh, brings us to confront some reality and change.

St James's Church, Kilfieragh (Kilkee) is now officially closed and will shortly be deconsecrated by Bishop Kenneth Kearon. This is the first year that there will be no chaplaincy at Kilkee. The deterioration of the building negated any further prospect of insurance cover and all-told with the minimal take-up for attendance at worship over the months of July-August spelt the death-knell for any further Church of Ireland presence there on a Sunday basis.

Over the past quarter century in any case, justification for the chaplaincy which was meant to cover Kilrush area as well (following the closure of St Senan's, Kilrush), came about largely to facilitate the once-popular Clar Ellagh Christian holiday centre in Kilkee, with which we as a parish enjoyed close and warm fellowship embracing Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists and Anglicans. (Protestant worship does continue in Kilkee, led by an independent congregation, housed in a small church owned by the Methodist Church in Ireland and a Methodist chaplaincy is exercised there occasionally under The Rev Vicky Lynch)

The church of St James is presently up for sale with a strong prospect of reaching a positive conclusion and a good price. Drumcliffe Hon Secretary Mr John Donovan has been overseeing all issues linked with St James and we owe him thanks for his sterling work alongside the Representative Church Body Property Section.

Another "reality" is that this Summer will also see the end of use of the Mobile Home for Chaplaincy (which served Kilkee and Kilfarboy –Spanish Point). A low take-up over the past couple of years suggests clergy and readers in Britain and Ireland have changed their lifestyles ! Reference to ministry now will be made in the next set of notes.



*Scott Gibbons (St Columba's) accompanied by his parents Timothy and Miriam and sister Sophie after Confirmation in St Mary's Cathedral.*



*Mr Stephen Fletcher, his wife Frances and Bishop Kenneth together in St Mary's Cathedral following his commissioning as a Diocesan Reader. A regular visitor to their holiday home in Kilrush, West Clare, Stephen is an active Reader in St Alban's Diocese, Hertfordshire, who helps out in Clare when here.*

#### MUSIC

Renowned harpist Dr Janet Harbison will centre four performance evenings involving pupils from her Summer School, near Kilfenora, in St Fachnan's Cathedral during July (dates – public welcome – are July 6th and 13th) with part proceeds going towards the St Fachnan's fund. The Kilfenora Timeline history project will occupy the building on a daily basis throughout the Summer. Proceeds from this go to bursaries for students and to the St Fachnan's fund.

Lismorahaun Singers, with soloists Peter O'Donohue and Katie O'Donohue, Conductor Archie Simpson and accompanist Ronan de Burca provided a wonderful evening of music in St Columba's in mid June. Soprano Helen Houlihan follows her June 1 lunchtime recital in Ennis (with celloist Peter Sebastyen and pianist Peter Barley) with another involving herself and Peter Barley. A full church and appreciative audience of superb and rich repertoire bodes well for the July 13 event.

1.15pm on Thursday 20th July sees St Columba's host the Portland Oregon Symphonic Girls Choir (8pm). Wednesday 2nd August Clare-born tenor Dean Power, presently singing opera in Germany, will sing The Songs of Thomas Moore, assisted by fellow tenor Dean Power. The return of a second national Fleadh Cheoil to Ennis in August

(13-21) involves the use for Recitals and competitions of St Columba's Church. We wish this major moment huge success.

The Rector Canon Bob Hanna wishes to thank all who have shared messages of goodwill during his illness. The glandular fever—at this stage six weeks active—is slowly disappearing and limited activity and work is possible.

# Clonfert Diocese

## Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

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

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

### WEDDING

Congratulations to Walter Underwood & Laura Cortez, from Austin, Texas, who had their marriage blessed in a service of prayer and dedication held in Ardrahan Church on June 10th, whilst honeymooning here in the West of Ireland. We wish them every happiness in their life together.



*Walter and Laura outside Ardrahan Church*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our organist June Morrissey (nee Seale) and her husband Dermot on the birth of their daughter Alison. We wish them all every blessing.



*A fidget-spinner - icon of the Trinity*

### FAMILY SERVICE

Trinity Sunday was fittingly celebrated with a family service in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim. As well as leading readings, prayers and action songs, the young people explored the mysteries of the Holy

Trinity – with the use of Fidget-Spinners! As one child meditated, "The three Arms are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But you can't break them apart, because they are held together by love." We look forward to more insights from our young theologians when the monthly family services return this autumn, starting on September 10th at 11.30am in Aughrim.

### UNITED SERVICE

Ardrahan Church will host a United Service on Sunday 30th July at 11am (5th Sunday).



*Tales & Tunes concert in Ardrahan Church*

### THE GLEBE NATIONAL SCHOOL

The Glebe National School hosted a coffee morning on June 17th. We are most grateful to the Parent Teacher's Association who organized the event, including a cake sale, raffle and bring-and-buy stall. Sincere thanks to all who supported it. The sun shone brightly on the happy crowds who gathered for the festivities. Around €800 funds were raised on the day, which will help support co-curricular activities in the school. Special celebrations are planned for June 28th to mark the awarding of the school's first international Green Flag award. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make that possible. Term-time ends on June 30th - we hope that staff and students alike enjoy their well-earned summer holidays!

### CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth will lead a Confirmation service for our parish on Sunday 15th October. There are a number of young people who have expressed an interest in preparing for confirmation at this time. Confirmation classes will begin at the end of August. For more details please contact the Rector.

### SUNDAY SCHOOLS

St Catherine's Roman Catholic School in Aughrim is in the process of a major renovation project, which is due for completion this autumn. We were most grateful to receive a donation of second-hand school furniture from them for use in our various Sunday schools.

### MOTHER'S UNION

St John's Ballinasloe Mothers' Union will commence the new season on Tuesday 19th September at 7.30pm in St John's Church with a service of Praise and Thanksgiving for 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland. The service will be led by the Rector and Diocesan President - Lucy Kavanagh - who will give the address. We extend a warm invitation to Mothers' Union members and friends throughout the Diocese to join in this celebration. Light refreshments will follow the service in Gullane's Hotel.

## Clonfert Group of Parishes

*Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna*

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649

Email: towers.patrick@gmail.com

Sunday: July 2nd, 12 noon Matins in Banagher. 3.30pm: Evensong in Portumna

Sunday July 9th, 10.30; Holy Communion with hymns in Eyrecourt. 12noon: Holy Eucharist in Banagher

Sunday July 16th, 10.30: Holy Communion with Hymns in Portumna. 12noon Matins in Banagher

Sunday July 23rd, 10.30. Matins in Eyrecourt with hymns. 12noon: Holy Eucharist in Banagher

Sunday July 30th, UNITED SERVICE OF SUNG MATINS in CLONFERT CATHEDRAL at 11am

Saturday August 5th, 9pm: Concert in Eyrecourt Church

Sunday August 6th, UNITED SERVICE OF SUNG MATINS in BANAGHER at 11am

Sunday August 13th, 10.30: Holy Communion with Hymns in Portumna. 12noon: Holy Eucharist in Banagher.

Sunday August 20th, 10.30: Matins in Eyrecourt with hymns. 12noon: Matins in Banagher

Sunday August 27th, 10.30: Holy Communion with Hymns in Portumna. 12 noon Holy Eucharist in Banagher

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES will be announced during the preceding week. Locations and details of services may change at short notice. Please check your phone messages or ring the Priest (086-8140649) closer to the time for the latest details.

BAPTISM. In Clonfert Cathedral. We welcomed Fletcher Johnston-Cooke into Christ's Church at 12noon on Saturday June 3rd. Fletcher arrived with his mother Heather and father Aidan, and his godparents Sandra Hartigan and Oisín Cooke and with his brother Sullivan.

RECOVERY; Such good news that Dorothy Patterson has recovered well from her orthopaedic operation and that following long periods of treatment strength is gradually returning to Lorna in Eyrecourt. We wish them God Speed as they look to complete their recoveries.

### EYRECOURT CHURCH CANDLELIT CONCERT

Saturday August 5th will be a Candlelit Concert Night in Eyrecourt Church when "Classic Meets Irish": Doors open at 8.30pm and the concert starts at 9pm. Admission €10. Refreshments will be served and tickets sold at the door. Everyone welcome.

# Limerick Diocese

## Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Vacant

Priest-in-charge: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061 302 038, Mob: 086 357 4917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

STATE EXAMINATIONS: Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations are now over. We hope that the Leaving Certificate candidates will have their efforts duly rewarded when results come out on the 9th of August. We wish all candidates well and hope they now enjoy the summer!!

FAREWELL TO ROSALIND STEVENSON - On Thursday 15th of June at the annual St. Michael's School Fun Evening, the school bade farewell to their principal, Rosalind Stevenson who after nearly 19 years of dedicated service to St. Michael's NS is retiring at the end of the school year. It was lovely to see such a good turnout of both present and past pupils/parents in attendance to mark this special event. Mr. Paul Richie, of the Baptist Church, Jennifer O'Leary, Chairperson of the BOM and Jerome aan de Wiel on behalf of the parents led the speeches. Everyone wishes her health and happiness in her retirement.



*St Michael's NS retiring principal Rosalind Stevenson receives a presentation after nearly 19 years of service*

40 THOMAS ST  
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967

FAX: 061 ~ 415365

*Thompson Undertakers*  
*Limerick*

PARK AND PLAY GROUP are going to Bunratty on Thursday 20 July. They are taking Dublin Coach from Arthur's Quay at 10:30am or meeting directly in Bunratty at 11am. So far there are seventeen adults and thirty children signed up for the excursion. The group would love it if any parents/grandparents/children from Limerick City parish were to join them. The cost per adult is €8 and under fives are free. Contact Maebh on 0868499521 if you are interested.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Our fair is getting bigger and better each year. We are delighted to announce that it is taking place in Villiers School on a Saturday 25th of November. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves, books, bottles, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac (no electrical). Please keep us in mind when "Spring cleaning" your house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods.

#### ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL NEWS:

**CHOIR FROM KENTUCKY** - On Monday 10th July, we are pleased to welcome the Sacred Heart Academy Choir from Louisville, Kentucky to sing the lunchtime concert for us. They will be performing a mix of traditional Kentucky folk and sacred music.

**A TRIP TO ENNIS** - Following the success of their recent concert there, Peter Barley and Helen Houlihan will be returning to St Columba's Church, Ennis to give a lunchtime recital on Thursday 13th July at 1.15pm.

**CHOIR TRIP TO DUBLIN** - St. Mary's Cathedral Choir will be travelling to sing the Sunday services in the St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on Sunday 23rd July. If you happen to be in Dublin then do come and support them: the services are at 11.15am (Choral Matins) and 3.15pm (Choral Evensong).

**REMEMBRANCE** - On Monday 31st July at 7.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral there is a special concert called A Night to Remember, in commemoration of the fallen of the World Wars.

**HERITAGE WEEK** - Following the success of St Mary's Cathedral's contributions to this national event last year, we will be taking part in a cycle and organ/history trail again this year. This event is a co-promotion by the Limerick Pipe Organ Festival and Limerick Smarter Travel, and there will be tours and brief organ recitals in St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 24th August at 5.30pm and Saturday 26th August at 1.30pm. All welcome to this free event - and do come along on a bicycle if you can (not obligatory though)!

**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS** - Supporters of our Wednesday lunchtime concerts in St Mary's will find details of concerts over the summer advertised elsewhere in Newlink. We especially commend the concert on Wednesday 5th July, when popular local pianist Stuart O'Sullivan will be making a long-awaited return to play in the cathedral at 1.15pm. His programme includes Beethoven's famous Appassionata Sonata. As ever, these concerts are free admission, with a retiring collection for the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music.

## 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

#### BAPTISM

On Sunday, 28 May, the people of St. Nicholas, Adare, welcomed Jack Joseph Shire, as he was baptised into the Christian life. Jack is the infant son of Ian and Mandy Shire, and the grandson of Valerie and the late John Shire. Jack also was surrounded by family and friends at his baptism.

#### NEW PARISH READERS

Our Group of parishes is now graced with two new Parish Readers: John Scanlan and Kevin Murphy. They were commissioned in a

service at St. Nicholas, Adare, on the Day of Pentecost, 4 June. The service was well-attended by both parishioners as well as family and friends of the two new Readers, who helped to plan the service. John and Kevin now join Dorothy Brislane and Stanley Wallace, who is a Diocesan Reader, as the Readers who serve our parishes. We are very grateful for their service, and wish John and Kevin all God's blessings in their service to the Church.



*John Scanlan and Kevin Murphy*

#### GARDEN FETE

St. Nicholas, Adare, was the site of the annual Adare Village Garden Fete this year, held on Sunday, 11 June. Each year this is an occasion when people from all the churches, schools, vendors, and social service agencies throughout the village come together to hold a massive Fete. It was held throughout the church's car park and St. Nicholas National School's playground, with the Junior and Senior Infants' classroom transformed into a tea room. The blustery weather meant that attendance was not as great as in other years, but we still had a good attendance and people enjoyed themselves.



*St Nicholas' NS parents at the plant stall*

We are grateful to everyone who helped in so many ways, including setup, take-down, parking cars, staffing the stalls, and organising the whole event. The proceeds from the event go toward a number of beneficiaries in the village. St. Nicholas receives a good share, as the host of the event, for which we are grateful.

#### SECOND FRIDAYS

We are just about to start a new series of events, called "Second Fridays." It grows out of one of our Vestry's discussions of the diocesan review, "Forward Together." Our discussion centred mostly on parish life, faith development, and worship. We voiced the desire for more social or fellowship activities and also a willingness to try a worship time other than Sunday morning. We proposed a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evening, but were not sure which would be best.

So just to try something, we are launching "Second Fridays," with the idea that on the second Friday of each month we will have a special event, such as a social activity or a special worship service.

Our first event will be a walk in Curraghchase Park on Friday, 14 July. We have a tradition of walking there on St. Stephen's Day, but have not walked there so far in the summer. As of this writing, the details are still being planned, and plans are coming together also for an August event.

## Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

*Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin*

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 398647, Mob: 087 663 5116

Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST:

2 July: 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton (Mrs Raylene Downes); 11.30, Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin (Colonel Edward Buckingham).

9 July: 9.30, Castletown (Mrs Raylene Downes); 11.30, Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Colonel Edward Buckingham).

16 July: 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin (Holy Communion).

23 July: 9.30, Castletown (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Holy Communion); 3.30, Baptism, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

30 July: 11 a.m., Fifth Sunday, United Service (details to be announced).

6 August: 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton (Holy Communion); 11.30, Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin (Morning Prayer); the Revd Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

13 August: 9.30, Castletown (Holy Communion); 11.30, Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Morning Prayer).

20 August: 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin (Holy Communion), the Revd Joe Hardy.

27 August: 9.30, Castletown (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Holy Communion); 3.30, Baptism, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

MANCHESTER AND LONDON:

The people of Manchester and London, and the families of those who suffered and were bereaved in the recent tragedies in both cities, were named specifically in our intercessions in recent weeks.

Southwark Cathedral was one of the many churches that opened their doors as places of shelter and refuge. When the Dean of Southwark Cathedral, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, was told of our concerns and prayers for the people, he replied: 'We really appreciate your thoughts and prayers ... Please keep us in your prayers.'

CONFIRMATION:

Three candidates were presented to the Bishop for Confirmation recently. Ella Mary Hurrell, Liam John Hurrell and Chloe Jean Shorten were confirmed on the First Sunday after Trinity, 18 June 2017, in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.



*Bishop Kenneth Kearon (left) and Canon Patrick Comerford (right) with the three confirmation candidates in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale: Chloe Shorten, Ella Hurrell and Liam Hurrell.*

On the previous Sunday, the Festal Eucharist was celebrated on Trinity Sunday (11 June 2017) in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Baby Samuel Jacob, a son to Garrett and Sandra Teskey, was born on 24 May. A brother for Ruby. It is great news to hear that all are doing well.

RECENT GRADUATION:

Congratulation to Amber Downes who recently graduated in medicine

in University College Cork, and was conferred with the degrees MB,BCh, BAO (Hons). She celebrated the day with her family, her parents Raye and Simon Downes, and her brother Simon Downes.



*Dr Amber Downes after her conferring in University College Cork, with her parents, Raye and David Downes, and her brother Simon Downes*

SYMPATHY:

Harold Fitzell of Lislaughtin, Ballylongford, Co Kerry, died on 3 June 2017 in the care of Terry and Sean and the staff of St Anthony's Nursing Home, Pallasgreen. Harold was predeceased by his wife Eva (nee West). The parish has expressed prayerful sympathy to his sons Andrew and Charles, daughters Clara and Grace, brothers Roland and Brian, sister Yvonne, sons-in-law Anthony and Joe, daughter-in-law Kate, grandchildren Jessica, Alma, Bella, Dan and Eva, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives, friends.

Harold was brought to Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert on Monday 5 June, and his funeral service on Tuesday 6 May at 2pm, followed by burial beside his beloved Eda in the churchyard. It is sign of the esteem Harold was held in that Saint Brendan's was full on both days. The Rev Joe Hardy assisted at funeral service, and the attendance at the removal included the new Taoiseach, Dr Leo Varadkar.

EMERGENCY CALLS:

When Patrick is away, emergency calls should be directed to the Rector of Adare, Canon Liz Beasley.



*Parishioners enjoying the hospitality of Jackie and Victor Gardiner at Beagh*

## 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: stjohs.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

Date	Ballyseedy 9.45 am	Tralee 10.45 am	Ballymac 12 noon	Kilgobbin 10.00 am	Dingle 12 noon	Killiney 7.00pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	HC	HC	MP	HC	HC	EP
9 <sup>th</sup> July	MP	HC	HC	MP	MP	EP
16 <sup>th</sup> July	MP	MP	MP	HC	HC	No Service
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	No Service	HC	HC	MP	MP	EP
30 <sup>th</sup> July	No Service	HC	No Service	HC	HC	EP
6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	HC	HC	HC	HC	HC	EP
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	HC	HC	HC	MP	MP	EP
20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	No Service	Rose of Tralee	No Service	HC	HC	EP
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	No Service	MP	MP	HC	HC	EP

**MID-WEEK SERVICES:** The services are held each Wednesday at 11.00am in St. John's, Tralee followed by coffee and fellowship.

**HEALER PRAYER GROUP:** There will be no prayer meetings during July and August. The next Healer Prayer will be on Tuesday 5th September, at 8.00pm.

**LINKS GROUP:** Links members will be on summer recess until Monday 4th September.

**SERVICE OF WELCOME FOR REVD. JIM STEPHENS** – please see article and photographs on page 20

**THANK YOU FROM REVD PHYLLIS JONES:** During the past 11 months there have been some challenging times, but mostly I have felt affirmed and very blessed. Affirmed by the confidence of Bishop Kenneth in my ability to take on the role of Priest-in-Charge during the vacancy, and blessed by the love and support of the members of all the churches. I am reluctant to name names because you have all been wonderful, but I must thank the Readers, Margaret, David, Linda and Adrian, for their willingness to be available for services, and also to Revd Brian Lougheed and Revd Joe Hardy.

It helped tremendously that all the parishes worked together so well and I do thank you all; but particularly I'd like to thank Camp and Dingle for their understanding of my limited time to be with them. I must also thank Keith for his support and understanding – especially when it has meant he missed the start of the Motor Racing or a Cup Final! To have him drive me from service to service was (and is) a great help.

But now, with Revd. Jim at the helm, I can step back a little. However, I am looking forward to sharing ministry with Jim because there are so many exciting challenges and possibilities to look forward to; made all the richer by living in such a beautiful part of God's creation, together with some very warm and caring people.

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

### BAPTISMS:

We had an extremely busy mid-summer season with concerts and other church events. Two of the most important occurred on the weekend of June 17th and 18th when we had not one but two baptisms in the church. On Saturday Reverend Joe Hardy christened baby George Leo Hoffman in the faith and all at St Mary's wish happy parents Catherine and Ivan well in their spiritual journey with their beautiful baby.



*Venerable Simon with baby Jake Michael Poff with parents Catherine and Mark Poff.*

On Sunday St Mary's was extremely busy with the summer "bus service" – an early morning holy communion service for visitors which takes place throughout the summer – which was followed shortly afterwards with the usual weekend holy communion for our own congregation. During this service Venerable Simon welcomed baby Jake Michael Poff to the faith with proud parents Lisa and Mark and God parents Rose O'Sullivan and Kevin Poff. Throughout the service the Greenwich Academy Madrigal Singers from Connecticut in the U.S. sang hymns and songs of praise and the whole event was absolutely magical.



*The Madrigal Singers from Greenwich, Connecticut performing in the North Transept of St Mary's during the baptism.*

### BOOK CLUB:

The book club is going from strength-to-strength and this month's choice is *Singled Out* by Virginia Nicholson. Nearly three-quarters of a million young British men died in the First World War. Their loss was also that of a generation of young women who had expected to marry. Virginia Nicholson's subject is this generation: the single women of the 1920s and 1930s. Even before the war, there were more women than men, but Nicholson's focus is the years when the disparity in their numbers was greater: the 1921 census revealed that women exceeded men by 1.75 million. Headlines shrieked of a 2 million "surplus". This extraordinary tale tells the story of how 2 million British women survived without men after the first World War and is a must-read for all.

### HERB SPIRAL:

As we go to press – I've always wanted to write that – Dr. Uwe Hild, a parishioner at St Mary's is completing the design for a new herb spiral we are hoping to put in place shortly. The symbolism of herbal growth and utilization in both Christian and pre-Christian times would take volumes to explain, but Uwe is continuing a tradition as old as Erin itself and once the spiral is in place. Newslink readers will read with fascination the history and mythology surrounding herbalism. More anon – there's another thing I've always wanted to write!

### DIOCESAN MINISTRY CONFERENCE:

Andrew Eadie and Adrian Hilliard joined Venerable Simon at the recent Diocesan Ministry Conference held in Glenstall Abbey and all report that their effort was very worthwhile. The concept of developing new ways of delivering ministry at a parochial level was the theme of the conference and we are looking forward to the ways our delegates can cultivate their ideas for St Mary's into the future.

## Kilcolman Union of Parishes

St Michael's Killorglin & St Carthage Castlemaine

Vacant

For information, contact Archdeacon Simon Lumby.

Mob: 086 870 3997

Email: [archdeacon@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon@limerick.anglican.org)

Web: [kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org](http://kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org)

SERVICES:

St Carthage Sunday 9.45 am except 1st Sunday at 7pm.

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Morning Prayer 2nd & 4th Sundays.

St Michael's 11am every Sunday Followed by Refreshments.

Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays

Morning Prayer 1st & 3rd Sundays.

THE REV JIM STEPHENS.

The Rev Jim has upped anchor and moved to Tralee Parish, 17 Miles away, just over the hill, which is why our parish is now vacant. Jim put in a lot of time as a non stipendiary Priest in this Parish and we are most grateful to him for the work he did for us in that time. He had a full church welcoming service in Tralee on the 27th May and we wish him success & happiness in his new position.

REV ROMAN

The Rev Roman Roldan and his wife & family have come to spend eight weeks with us from Louisiana. He has taken a sabbatical from his own parish and we are delighted to have him here with us. It is great to have a different type of preacher to lead our worship for a change. He is only on duty here on Sat & Sun as they are touring around during the week – taking advantage of what is on offer this side of the Atlantic.

FAMILY BEREAVEMENTS:-

During the week 5th to 11th June two families lost loved ones in the Parish.

Mrs O'Flynn had a service conducted by Archdeacon Lumby. They provided their own music in the form of a harpist & a singer accompanied by a guitar. The family were pleased with the form the service took and many of their friends attended to support them. It was good to see so many neighbours and friends who were not Church of Ireland, supporting her family.

Margaret O'Grady (nee Boyle) was a long serving member of the Parish and her funeral service was conducted by the Rev Jim Stephens. Canon Lougheed played the organ for us at her service which was very well supported by Family, Parishioners, employees and friends. Margaret will be missed on Sundays particularly by her brother George, his family and those that sat with her. Margaret had made a large number of friends by having worked in Boyle's Hardware store for many years

We hold both these families in our prayers.

HELP WANTED.

St Michael's Church needs more people to help with providing flowers for the Sanctuary, reading lessons and preparing the refreshments after service on Sundays. Please talk to Rosalie about Flowers & Refreshments and Eric about reading the lessons. Doing any of these jobs is good experience.

HELP AVAILABLE.

I recommend that you take time to look up the Church of Ireland web site for the benefit of improving your knowledge of the Church. Google:- [ireland.anglican.org](http://ireland.anglican.org) & see what it gives you.

GOOD BYE, FARE WELL & KEEP SINGING.

We wish to say good bye to one of our singers Lettia Young who is also going over the hill to Tralee. We wish her well in her new house and home as we all wait for the house warming party!

We would be delighted to see you in church any Sunday if you are passing through the Parish. In any case have a lovely summer and take care on the roads – the tractors, cyclists, pedestrians & tourists are out in serious numbers. Be patient.

## Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

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

Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312

Email: [michael.cavanagh@eircom.net](mailto:michael.cavanagh@eircom.net)

MOTHERS' UNION

We were honoured and delighted to host the service celebrating the 13 decades of the Mothers' Union in Ireland. A full article describing the day is featured on page 17, but we particularly wanted to thank Phyllis Grothier, All-Ireland MU President, our own Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh, and members of the St Patrick's congregation for having the idea, planning it, and seeing it through to fruition. We had a truly memorable and God-centred day.

PATRICK MUSA

We also continue to be encouraged by news from Cheryl's Childrens Home in Nairobi, which we support both individually and as a congregation. We receive regular news from Patrick, the second student we have been able to support through his joining the home as a street orphan, and who is now in 3rd level education. A quote from his most recent letter inspires us to work hard to make sure he will not be the last we can help to learn and grow.

*I really dont take your support for granted it is this great team of you guyz that compromises the strong pillar of my succes .when ineded a sholder to lean on you offerd you offerd to carry ,when i needed to dry my tears you not only dried my tears but also gave me a reason to be happy and afford a simple smile indeed My God is a big God and He will continue to bless you Abudantly .*

*Thank you*

*Patrick Musa*



Patrick Musa

SERVICE TIMES

During July and August, in addition to our usual service pattern, we also hold weekly services in Waterville and Valentia in order that we can welcome summer visitors to the Kingdom within God's Kingdom. Summer service times are as follows:

Church of the Transfiguration, Sneem: 9:30am

St John the Baptist, Valentia 09:30am

St Michael & All Angels, Waterville 11:30am

St Patrick, Kenmare 12:00 noon

# Methodist News

## Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Ruth Watt

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

Tel: 061 396 236 Email: watt\_ruth@yahoo.ie

One week in June saw the difference that the weather can make to our plans. A couple of days of showers meant that for the third time in four years our Field Meeting at Adare Manor Golf Course had to be moved indoors. We may not have been able to follow the example of John Wesley in hearing the word of God in the open air, but it was wonderful to see the church so full and to hear the praise of young and old (the local Church of Ireland primary school join us every year). The end of the week showed an improvement for at least the Saturday and the Sunday School got to enjoy a trip to Fota Wild Life Park. Great fun and fellowship was had by all, as indicated by the tired adults the next day!

Coming to the summer months and things quieten in our churches. At time for rest, for holidays, for enjoying the outdoors between the showers and during them! And hopefully a time to be rejuvenated in God's work too. Even Jesus needed to go away to be refreshed from time to time, and if we can't follow His example, then whose should we? I pray that we are all refreshed in body, mind and spirit when we come to the Autumn and begin many of our church activities again.

### SERVICES FOR JULY:

2 <sup>nd</sup>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Ruth Watt	
15 <sup>th</sup>		Sat eve service @ 8pm in Adare
16 <sup>th</sup>		@ 11am in Ballingrane
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Ruth Watt	United service in Ballingrane @ 11am

### SERVICES FOR AUGUST:

6 <sup>th</sup>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Ruth Watt	
19 <sup>th</sup>		Sat eve service @ 8pm in Ballingrane
20 <sup>th</sup>		@ 11am in Adare
27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	

Unless otherwise stated services are in Adare @ 10:15am and in Ballingrane @ 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

Well, the Lake Grove Sanctuary Choir did come all the way from Portland Oregon to join with us for worship on June 18th and it was amazing. The Sanctuary Choir, directed by Wendy Bamonte, is an all-volunteer, all-are-welcome chorus of approximately 90 singers of which about forty came to Ireland this summer. Members come with a range of experience and expertise but all share a great love for music and a heart for service and ministry. The Sanctuary Choir is devoted to mission outreach, including many benefit concerts for African church partners in Zambia and Senegal. The funds generated from these concerts have helped drill water wells, build schools, and provide food in areas affected by drought and crop failure.

The choir has been on two mission trips: in 2005 the choir presented sacred choral concerts in Italy, France, and Austria and in 2014 the choir shared the Gospel through music in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

During the service we asked choir member Linda to share with us about what motivates the choir. They obviously put in a lot of time and effort to get as musically good as they are but they definitely have something extra which is very clear to see, hear and feel when they sing together.

Linda explained that it is the love of God which inspires and motivates them on their musical journey. Mission is at their heart and they just love to help people worship and to bring joy and enthusiasm with their particular ministry. When they visit a church, the hope is to support and encourage that congregation in their own context – to uplift them. I can say they did just that in abundance.

The choir's visit came just after the Presbyterian General Assembly and the Methodist Conference. Mission was very much top of the agenda in both these gatherings. The theme of Rev Dr Laurence Graham, MCI President this year, is Meet Jesus – Share Jesus – the Rhythm of Grace; an encouragement to renewal and mission across Ireland and beyond. It was very timely indeed that Lake Grove Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir joined us and really helped and inspired us by demonstrating vibrant, creative mission in action.



*Praise the Lord! The Lake Grove Sanctuary Choir from Portland, Oregon.*

## 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

Drop in Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm

KILLARNEY

Sunday services 9am and 11am

Prayer meetings Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 9am

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.

We're looking forward to a summer of fun in Killarney. Commencing on Friday 7th July is our 2nd year of FAB Fridays. This year we will be journeying with the Apostle Paul around the Mediterranean on our cruise themed family bible study. We will encounter the highlights of Paul's journey, play incredible games, make stuff, learn about Jesus, eat together and have fun!

The second highlight of the summer will be the arrival of a team from the United Methodist Church in Ohio who will be with us for a week later in July. We have all sorts of activities planned when they are here including a fun day and another church picnic.

## 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 Aldersgate Day, 24th May, a day on which Methodists around the world celebrate John Wesley's heart being strangely warmed back in 1738, our circuit said their final goodbyes to beloved church member, James Armitage. We thanked God for his life of faithfulness and witness of Christ, his love of family, church, circuit and community, and for his service and friendship to all. His services were ecumenical events. He would have been humbled by the outpouring of love and the Community choir's offering of music at the graveside burial. Thank you to all who shared God's grace to the family and James' fiancée Marjorie, during this sad time.

On Sunday 11 June, when the wind blew and rain poured, The circuit

gathered for a BBQ in Roscrea Church Hall. Over 50 gathered for the lunchtime feast. We thank the BBQ grill master John Hastings for all his hard work which provided much delicious food enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the organising team of Gillian Hastings Ryan and Irene and John Hastings.



Simon Crawford and Maeve Davoren on their wedding day, 21st April 2017.

Summer has arrived and our monthly activities are taking a break! Parents of children and youth do not forget about this wonderful opportunity in August:

### UPLIFT SUMMER STAGE PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

Northern Irish/American friends of Rev. Shannon own and direct Uplift, a Performing Arts Company. This company is based in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. They are coming to Co. Tipperary and offering a 4 day workshop called Summer Stage from Wednesday 16th August – Saturday 19th August for children and youth aged 3 years and up in the Cloughjordan Col Parish Hall. Workshop will include singing, dancing drama, and musical theatre. Saturday night will conclude with a show! For children/youth 8 years old +, cost is €60. For children 3-7 years old, cost is €35. 10% family discount. To book, please contact Uplift directly at (+44) 7840453723

May you have a very blessed summer!

Faithfully,

~ Rev Shannon

# If the World were a Village of One Hundred People

*Editor: 3rd & 4th classes at Oxmantown National School, Birr presented this as a drama on International Day. We think many will find it thought-provoking – well done all concerned!*

At this moment in time there are more than 7 billion people on this planet! Picturing so many people at one time is difficult – but what if we imagine the whole world as a village of just 100 people?

- Of the 100 people in the global village, 61 are from Asia, 12 are from Europe, 8 are from Central and South America, 5 are from Canada and the United States and 1 is from Oceania (an area that includes Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands).
- In the global village there are almost 6000 languages, but more than half of the people speak these eight language: 22 speak a Chinese dialect, 9 speak English, 8 speak Hindi, 7 speak Spanish, 4 speak Arabic, 4 speak Bengali, 3 speak Portuguese and 3 will speak Russian. If you could say hello in these 8 languages you could greet well over half the people in the village!
- What religions do people of the village follow? In a village of 100 people – 32 are Christian, 19 are Muslim, 13 Hindus, 12 practice folk religions, 6 are Buddhists, 2 belong to other global religions (e.g. Sikhism, Shintoism), 1 is Jewish, 15 are non-religious.
- How many people in the village of 100 people have clean air and a nearby source of clean water? 75 have access to a source of safe water either in their homes or within a short distance.

The other 25 do not and many spend a large part of each day simply getting safe water (most of this work is done by women and girls). 60 have access to adequate sanitation, 40 do not. 66 breathe clean air, while 34 breathe air that is unhealthy because of pollution.

- How many people in the village of 100 go to school? There are 38 school aged villagers but only 31 of them attend school. Of the others, some have no schools to go to, some have to work in fields and factories in order to help feed their families and some girls have to stay home to help, and these 7 never learn to read or write.
- In the village 76 have electricity 24 do not. Of the 76 who have electricity, most use it only for light at night. If you have food in your fridge, clothes in your closet, a bed to sleep on and a roof over your head, you are richer than 76% of the world.
- In the global village, 24 people have enough food to eat, 16 go hungry some of the time, 34 are always hungry and 26 are severely under-nourished.

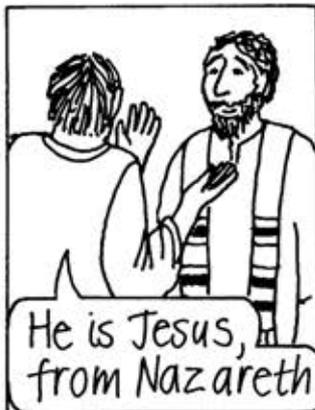
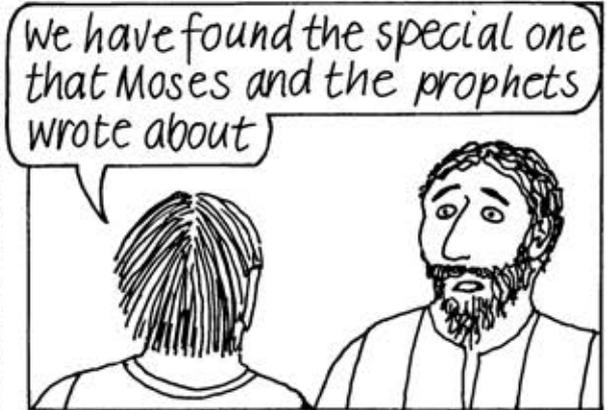
Now let's imagine the world as a whole again with many languages, countries, religions and more than 7 billion people. We live in a very diverse but unequal world. Fixing our world begins in the heart of children. A multicultural school is not about having different nationalities in the classroom, it is about having respect and tolerance in our hearts.

# Bible Bite

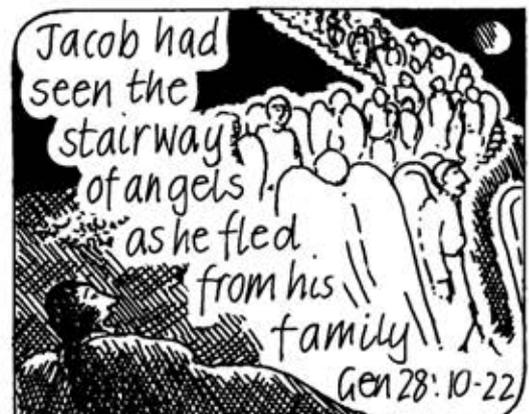
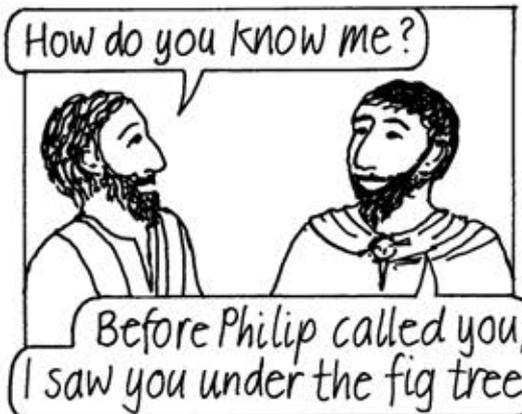
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 1 verses 35 - 51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip...



Background: the ancestor of the Israelites was Jacob, whose name meant 'Grasper' or 'Cheat', and who cheated his father and brother. God gave him a new start and a new name - Israel - 'Prince of God'. Gen 25, 27, 32



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

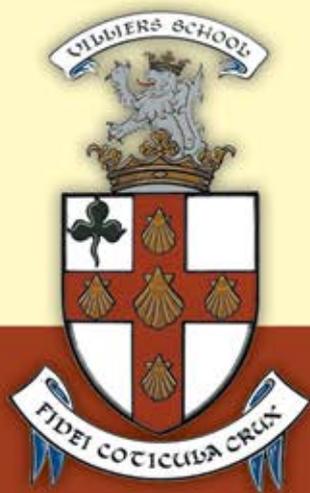
### Scholarships

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

### Prompt Payment Draw

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

**Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea.**



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