



NEWSLINK

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

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At the General Synod Eucharist in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

(photo: Peter Cheney)

UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT

SUMMER MADNESS

Friday 30th June – Tuesday 4th July 2017
Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm, Co. Antrim
14 plus year olds



JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

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

SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

Sunday 20th August – Friday 25th August 2017
Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo
Secondary School Upwards



SPECIAL OFFER

€20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event from same family

Return Transport from/to: Adare (Junior Summer Camp only), Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea, Portlaoise (Summer Madness only) & Birr (Senior Summer Camp only).

**For more information call, text or e-mail Edward on
087/2907 553 or edhardy70@gmail.com**

Bishop Kenneth writes on General Synod 2017

Hosting the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Limerick is a once in a lifetime event, as it is very unlikely that Synod will be held again in Limerick for a very, very long time. But the city and diocese "did us proud" and the 500+ delegates went away after the three-day Synod with a very positive experience of the Church of Ireland in the South and West.

Several elements combined to make it such a happy event. The opening service in St Mary's Cathedral was dignified and showed Anglican worship at its best. The bell ringers, the choir and organist, wardens and all who maintain this cathedral on a daily basis worked together to show the cathedral at its very best.

We received a wonderful welcome from the Mayor of Limerick, who gave a Mayoral Reception for the Primate on the eve of Synod, attended the Opening Service in St Mary's, addressed the Synod in the South Court, and attended the reception in Thomond Park – he gave an enormous amount of his time to the Church of Ireland over these few days.

The Prayers, led by Dean Paulsen each day during Synod made a deep impression as time after time he caught the mood of the Synod and helped the members lift the business of Synod in prayer to God.

There was a great display-stand about the diocese in the foyer of Synod and a welcome desk distributing tote bags and local information. The Mothers' Union Stand was run by members of the diocese.

All of this, and much more, took lots of voluntary effort on the part of so many people in the diocese, including those of you who attended the service and the reception at Thomond Park, and who made our guests feel so very welcome.



Mentioning names would be invidious, but you know who you are, and we all should be very grateful. General Synod is the most important and most senior body in the Church. We were privileged to be able to host it, and to host it so effectively. A sincere thank you to all involved.

One important discussion at Synod specifically related to our own diocese. As most of you know there have been ongoing conversations between ourselves and the diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry about future relations between us and the possibility of some form of closer relationship, or even merger between the two dioceses.

We will be discussing this further at Diocesan Synod, but in the meantime we had a question for General Synod who will make the final decision. Our joint working group is looking at two specific proposals for the future with respect to episcopal ministry.

One is to unite the two dioceses – Limerick and Killaloe and Tuam, Killala and Achonry into one with a diocesan bishop in Limerick and an assistant (or suffragan) bishop in the Tuam area who would also be a rector of a parish. In effect a part-time assistant bishop. An alternative is to leave Limerick and Killaloe as it is, but have a part-time diocesan bishop in Tuam, Killala and Achonry.

Our question to General Synod was this – if the two dioceses come back next year with either proposal, will General Synod accept them? The answer was a resounding yes, and a very strong encouragement for us to continue with our discussions, and to be brave and imaginative in our proposals.

This is a huge encouragement to us all, and we look forward to continuing our conversations with our neighbours to the north, knowing that we have the support of General Synod for proposals we might decide to bring forward.

Kind regards
+ Kenneth
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Diocesan Calendar

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

Fri 2nd – Mon 5th June Diocesan Confirmation Weekend (with Tuam), Esker Youth Village, Athenry, Co Galway (2016 & 2017 candidates)

Wed 7th June, 2.30pm Roscrea Mothers' Union Tea Party, Methodist Hall, Roscrea

Sat 10th June, 12.30pm Shinrone Parish Fete & Dog Show, Cloughmoyle, Shinrone

Sun 11th June Birr Parish Fete, Oxmantown School, Birr

Sun 11th June, 12 noon – 6pm Adare Village Garden Fete, St Nicholas Church, Adare

Sat 17th June Clergy & Readers Ministry Day, Glenstal Abbey
Sun 18th June, afternoon St Kieran's Fete and Fun Day, Cloughjordan

Fri 23rd – Sun 25th June GFS Camp, Bandon

Sat 24th June, 10am Diocesan Synod, Villiers School, Limerick

Sun 25th June, 7pm Choral Evensong with the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral, St Cronan's Church, Roscrea

Fri 30th June – Tue 4th July Summer Madness (14+), Esker, Athenry, Co Galway

Sat 1st July Birr Parish Pilgrimage to the Burren

Sun 2nd July Aghancon Parish Fete, Community Hall, Aghancon

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.

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

Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 24th June 2017.

Registration from 10am; Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.

Yvonne Blennerhassett, Diocesan Secretary

Editorial - Deliver us from evil

As I write the consequences of an evil act are playing out in Manchester.

On 22nd May a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device packed with nuts and bolts in the foyer of the Manchester Arena, after an Ariana Grande concert, killing at least 23 and injuring more than 60, including many children. The bomber has been named as Salman Abedi, aged 22, born in Manchester of Libyan ancestry, and a Muslim. Security services are investigating whether he was part of a wider network, which appears likely. ISIL have claimed responsibility. The British Government has raised the security threat level to critical, and announced that armed soldiers will assist police forces.

A day later, amid the shock and horror, thousands of Mancunians joined in a vigil for the victims, to demonstrate the strength and resilience of their multi-cultural, multi-faith city. Among them was the Bishop of Manchester, Rt Rev David Walker, who said:

"There is a proper anger and rage in the face of events like this. Our challenge will be to direct that rage and anger to be a force for good. We will rally around the victims and their families. We will unite across our diversity, drawing close especially to any that the terrorists would seek to separate us from... Today is a day to mourn... But today is also a day to begin our response. A response that will crush terrorism not by violence but by the power of love. A love which Christians celebrate especially now in Eastertide."

Let us pray for the victims of evil acts of terror in Manchester, and wherever else they are perpetrated:

God of compassion,
you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress;
accept our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the bombing in Manchester;
We pray especially for those suddenly facing a future without a child, parent or loved one,
young ones who are in deep distress,
those who are injured, traumatized or awaiting news.
Strengthen them in their hour of need,
grant them perseverance and courage to face the future
and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lead us not into temptation

– the temptation to take revenge, to demonise and hate those who are not like us, who make us feel uneasy but are our neighbours. May we crush terrorism by the power of love.

God Bless, Joc Sanders

Apology

The Newslink team apologise sincerely to those subscribers who received an incomplete copy of the May issue of Newslink, with missing and duplicated pages due to a printing problem. Our printers have offered to supply a replacement copy free of charge to those subscribers who wish it.

To obtain one, please text or email Joc Sanders with your name and address by Friday 9th June, and he will arrange for it to be sent to you.

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Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for July/August 2017, published for Sunday 2nd July.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 16th June 2017 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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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 - June 2017

Each Sunday in June

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

4th June, Pentecost (Whit Sunday), Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of North East India in the Church of North India and Rt Revd Michael Herenz, Bishop of North East India.

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

11th June, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Northern California, USA and Rt Revd Barry Beisner, Bishop of Northern California.

Diocese: For Rev Jim Stephens as he begins his ministry as Priest-in-Charge of the Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes, that he and his congregations may be blessed in it.

18th June, 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of the Northern Territory, Australia and Rt Revd Greg Anderson, Bishop of the Northern Territory.

Diocese: For the Diocesan Synod to take place on Saturday 24th June, in Villiers School, Limerick, and for the triennial elections to take place there.

25th June, 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Nyahururu, Kenya, Rt Revd Stephen Kabora, Bishop of Nyahururu and Rt Revd Jacob Lesuada, Suffragan Bishop of Maralal Area.

Diocese: For the Clonfert Group of Parishes as they seek to appoint a Priest-in-Charge, that they may receive a faithful pastor.

2nd July, 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

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 the Limeirck City Parish as they seek to appoint a new Dean and Rector, that they may receive a faithful pastor.

A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits Thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults which Thou has borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother,
may I know Thee more clearly,
love Thee more dearly,
and follow Thee more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.

Richard was Bishop of Chichester 1197-125. Canonised in 1262, his feast day is 16th June.

The Path of Right

My walk this day with God,
My walk this day with Christ,
My walk this day with Spirit,
The Threefold all-kindly:
Ho! ho! ho! The Threefold all-kindly.

My shielding this day from ill,
My shielding this night from harm,
Ho! ho! Both my soul and my body,
Be by Father, by Son, by Holy Spirit:
By Father, by Son, by Holy Spirit.

Be the Father shielding me,
Be the Son shielding me,
Be the Spirit shielding me,
As Three and as One:
Ho! ho! ho! As Three and as One.

From Carmina Gadelica, a compendium of prayers, hymns, charms, incantations, blessings etc. They were gathered in the Gaelic-speaking regions of Scotland between 1860 and 1909 by folklorist Alexander Carmichael and first published in 1900.

Short prayers

Prayers don't need to be long. Consider these Biblical prayers, for instance:

Peter (Matthew 14.30): 'Lord, save me!'
A Canaanite woman (Matthew 15.25): 'Lord, help me.'
Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10): 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'
Psalm 43.3: 'O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.'

Christians in later years have adopted the same form. Why not practise saying a simple one-sentence prayer each day – and simply mean what you say?

Michelangelo: 'Lord, make me see your glory in every place.'
Gladys Aylward: 'O God, give me strength.'
William Barclay: 'O God, keep me from being difficult to live with.'
Francois Fenelon: 'Teach me to pray. Pray yourself in me.'
John Wesley: 'O Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ's sake.'

The Collect of Pentecost

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
By the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Book of Common Prayer 2004 p279
(from the Alternative Prayer Book 1984)*

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling - A latter-day Pentecost in Oxmantown Mall



Not so much a View from The Pew this month as a Reflection from the Lectern because it was as I was reading the first lesson from the Acts of the Apostles in which St. Luke tells us that after Peter's Sermon three thousand persons were added to the original one hundred and twenty of Jesus' Friends and Followers that into my mind came the question could that / does that happen today. That question has stuck and constantly my memory has reminded me of the story of Swaziland. Let me remind you.

SWAZILAND

When we first heard of Swaziland in our United Dioceses we heard of the grounds of the Anglican Cathedral being swamped by a tidal wave of humanity seeking sanctuary and succour as they tried to come to terms with the human consequences of rampant HIV and AIDS infection. The choice was there for the people of the Cathedral. They could have asked the police to clear the grounds and leave the needy to the care of the Government - OR - they could choose to act themselves with imagination, compassion and loving kindness. They chose the latter and so we come into the picture, as they looked for help to put together programmes of feeding care, childminding care, home nursing care, education provision and food production. We responded with all kinds of support right down - or should it be up - to a specially designed carrot washer. It was a latter-day Pentecost and no one who has seen the care programmes in operation can refute that. Of course it was far away in Southern Africa and we can sit lightly to the work of the Spirit at that distance.

THE HOMELESS

Let's bring the matter nearer home. There are 1,800 people on the housing waiting list in Offaly. I don't know the numbers for Galway, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, Kerry. Let's imagine for a moment that all 1,800 persons in Offaly with their dependents peacefully sat down in Oxmantown Mall outside St. Brendan's Church of Ireland. What would be our parish response? Would we walk round them and over them to get to Holy Communion or Morning Prayer or the Service of the Word? Having worshipped would we hold an emergency meeting and decide it was all the Government's fault and the Government's business and go home making sure the doors were securely locked?

Or again the after-Church conversation could well have agreed that something does need to be done about homelessness in our country, but while the Government is making gigantic efforts the problem only seems to be getting worse. Perhaps the Bishop and the Archdeacon should have a word with our local TDs, Marcella and Carol and Barry, and maybe we, ourselves, should mention the matter to our local Councillors, the three Johns and Eamon, Peter and Sean. The Government is making billions available to local Authorities, so why aren't we seeing results on the ground in greater measure than we do? Are there problems that need to be resolved? Conversations aimed at establishing visible accountability.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

And maybe there are one or two voices rather timidly enquiring is there anything we ourselves should be doing and evoking the

response that the problem is too big for individuals to tackle. This in turn provokes the response, well, couldn't we get the Methodists and the RCs to join in and work through Birr Churches Together? When the spirit is released from the paralysis of smallness imagination begins to function (remember that bit about imagination from the last time) and we remember that there is a Tullamore Churches Together and we know that there are good relations between the Churches in Roscrea and Cloughjordan. We have the same sense of things in Borrisokane. We decide that it would be good to share our concern with the Clergy in those towns and offers are made to get in touch with them and with friends.

PRACTICAL STEPS

Meanwhile the 1,800 odd are still in the Mall. The Rector and Church Wardens offer to go and tell them what we are proposing to do. An awkward voice from the back remarks that a delayed response will be cold comfort and the Rector inquires hesitantly if there are actually people sleeping rough would there be a few beds available as a temporary measure. Slowly but surely a number of hands go up. On a check we can muster about 20 beds available between us and so the three musketeers of parish goodwill go out to speak with the multitude. In the distance we hear the Rector shouting our message. There is a silence and then much speaking. We continue to listen as the conversation ebbs and flows. After some time a sheepishly triumphant Rector and Wardens return; 15 beds is what is immediately needed and parking for 2 trailers. We can manage that. More telephone calls are made to Tullamore, Roscrea, Cloughjordan and Borrisokane telling what has happened and somebody suggests we should rope in Shinrone and Banagher as well. Our own lunches are forgotten, almost certainly destroyed, but who cares. We are beginning to feel what it means to be on the side of God and it is exhilarating. Arrangements are made to keep the conversation going with the homeless over the next few days, and Salters agrees to tell the CEO of the County what we are up to on Monday. Introductions are made between bed givers and bed takers and we go home to bread and cheese and chutney as our substitute lunch.

IT COULD HAPPEN!

Please don't say it couldn't happen. It could! The Holy Spirit is around! Substitute the names of your own locations, TDs and Councillors and sense the feeling.



Oxmantown Mall, Birr

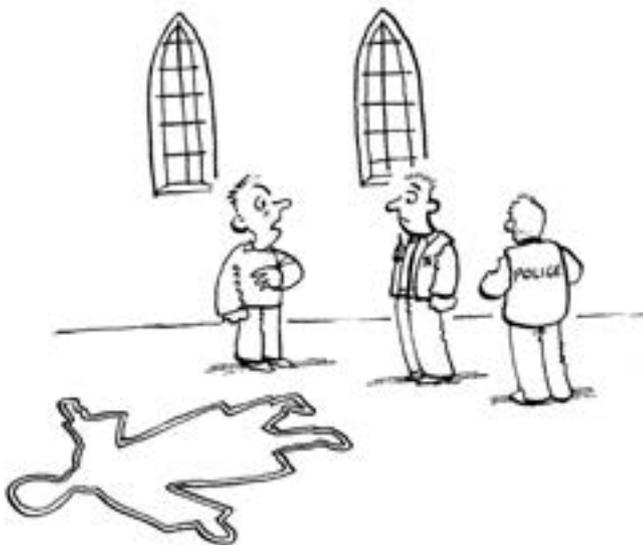
Bishop John Jebb - The Abington Years.

Bishop John Jebb was Rector of Abington from 1809 prior to becoming Bishop of Limerick from 1823 until his death in 1833. He was well known for his ecumenical outreach at a turbulent time in history.

The Friends of Abington Church are holding an historical event on his life and influence in the parish in Abington Church on Saturday June 24th at 2pm and visiting nearby sites of interest with refreshments afterwards. For further details phone Bertie on 087-2964287.



Marble statue of Bishop John Jebb in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick



We did keep warning the Vicar not to pick a fight with the flower arranging team!

Letters to the Editor - Finding a Church on holiday

Would it be possible for parishes to have a notice at the church doors giving details of service times for churches in the Group/ Union. This would be of great help for visitors during the holidays.

Yours etc., Florence Reid, Roscrea Group of Parishes.

People on holidays in remote areas of Co Clare and Co Kerry may find it difficult to locate a suitable place of worship for Sunday morning. If there were an abbreviated list of services for each county for July, August and September on the diocesan website, this would be helpful. The clergy have enough to do on Saturday afternoons without phone calls asking for directions and times.

Yours etc., Trevor Giles, Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes.

The wicked

A little girl had been very naughty and as a punishment her mother told her she would go without her favourite vegetable. She sat down for a meal, her mother served, carrots, corn, - - and? "It's no use waiting," said her mother, "I told you, no peas for the wicked."



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 7th June

Daniel Battle (organ)

Reubke's famous Sonata on the 94th Psalm

Wednesday 14th June

David Simon (organ)

Music by J.S. Bach, Demessieux and Mendelssohn

Wednesday 21st June

Yuki Nishioka (violin), Irina Dernova (piano)

Wednesday 28th June

Frank Schaefer (cello), Ethna Tinney (piano)

Music by Brahms and Saint-Saens

Wednesday 5th July

Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn

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

A new development in resourcing ministries

by Canon Patrick Comerford



Canon Patrick Comerford writes to introduce his new role in ministry and education in the United Dioceses

Since January, I have been living at the Rectory in Askeaton as the part-time priest-in-charge of Rathkeale Group of Parishes. In recent weeks, my teaching roles at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and Trinity College Dublin have come to an end, and I have taken up the second half of my appointment in these dioceses as Director of Ministerial Education and Training.

I hope to share some of my vision for this role later this month at both the Ministry Day in Glenstal Abbey on 17 June, and the Diocesan Synod on 24 June. In the meantime, I am contacting all clergy and readers who are active in the diocese, introducing some of my ideas of what a programme of ministerial education and development can look like, exploring hopes and seeking feedback.

One area I am beginning to explore is the resources we need for ministry in these dioceses. A new dedicated website or blog could provide planning for the Sunday Lectionary readings in advance, with ideas for sermons, selecting hymns and relating them to intercessions, and pointing to wider web resources.

But these need to be explored together, and from autumn on I am planning a number of single-topic study days.

How do we nurture spiritual and personal development that can sustain us in our ministry, lay or ordained? How can we develop a life of personal prayer and a rule of life that underpins our role in leading public prayer? How do we write, structure and lead intercessions?

How do we find resources for school assemblies, children's addresses or confirmation classes? What new publications, books and resources are becoming available?

Readers and clergy alike may want to explore developing their ministries in a variety of ways. How can Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer be used creatively? How do we move from asking what can readers do to empowering and enhancing the ministry of readers? How do we prepare for Confirmations and for the seasons in the Church Calendar, beginning with Advent?

There are exciting developments in Reader Training in the neighbouring Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, and there are obvious benefits in exploring how these can be developed in this diocese too. There may be further developments in areas such as Communion-by-Extension, Ordained Local Ministry and team ministry that offer exciting challenges and that need creative resourcing.

I am considering regional meetings in places such as Killarney, Moneygall, Limerick and Ennis on a monthly basis. I can be contacted by email at: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com; or by phone on 087 663 5116.

Why ministry and mission are not the same

An extract from an address by Rt Rev Robert Patterson, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, to the Chester Readers' AGM in October 2016

Service and servanthood are part of the DNA of every Christian disciple and of the Church, but during the last couple of generations, the buzz word in church has been 'ministry' (which literally means the same thing) and quite a trade was established in making Christians feel guilty if they weren't 'ministering', while fewer people outside wanted to join in this energetic ecclesial activity. Thankfully we are shifting our attention to helping Christians to be Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The more our talk revolves around 'ministry', the more we devalue and disable Christian disciples whose calling is not to do something for the benefit of the church but to be Christians. Put simply, discipleship is what all Christians are called to – we are all disciples of the Lord – whereas ministry is a summons by the Lord to some activity and, in particular, an activity for and/or on behalf of the Church.

The concept of ministry has a range of interpreters. At one end of the scale are those who divide the Church into the few who minister and the majority who don't; at the other end are those who assume that every Christian is a minister with at least one ministry. A couple of generations ago we were at one extreme and ministry normally meant ordination; then opinion swung to the other extreme, and ministry came to mean activities every Christian should engage in,

calling each little act of service 'our ministry'. Both are fatal traps into which we easily fall. 'When all is ministry, ministry fades away.' (T.F. O'Meara: *Theology of Ministry*, Paulist Press, 1983)

Ministry is always the servant of mission. God's mission is the outgoing love of God the Holy Trinity for His creation expressed in the mission of the Son: namely the incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom God has reconciled the world to Himself and through whom the Holy Spirit has been given. That mission Christ has committed to His Church as a royal priesthood in making disciples, baptising, teaching and being His body in the world. (Matthew 28:19,20; John 20:21,22, Romans 1:16,17)

Good, called, well-trained, accredited, commissioned and accountable ministers in many areas of witness are vital to equip the Church for the mission of God. Despite the few who scorn the use of the word 'mission', it is where God starts and ends.

Both mission and ministry serve the purpose of drawing people into a relationship with God the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus Christ so that all may enjoy reconciliation in His love, and that life in our communities, churches and as individuals may be enriched by the Gospel and reflect the joy of the Kingdom of God.

Ordained Local Ministry

A Communication from the House of Bishops to General Synod 2017

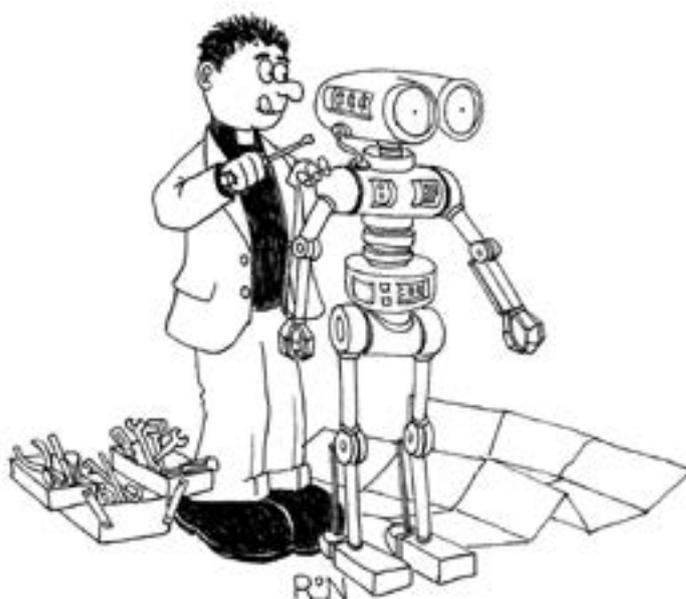
Since the last session of the General Synod, the House of Bishops has been extremely mindful of the desire of the Synod, expressed by means of formal Resolution, that an appropriate form of Ordained Local Ministry should be developed among us. Last year, in the context of the Report of the Commission on Ministry, the Synod had the opportunity to discuss something of what such ministry would look like, and how fit persons would be duly called and prepared to serve in it. The mood of the synod in its discussion of this possible development was overwhelmingly positive. We would wish to express our appreciation of the work done both by the Commission, and the Director and staff of CITI, in assisting the synod in its consideration of this issue.

The bishops are satisfied that Ordained Local Ministry, rightly understood and cherished within the overall life of the church, would be a source of enrichment and strength in to – day's circumstances. As we are responsible for the actual Ordination of duly – trained persons to serve in the historic threefold ministry which the Church of Ireland has received, it is our duty to ensure that this development is properly placed within the framework of catholic order. Necessary emphasis on the local must not obscure our understanding of the relationship of all ordained ministry to the whole Church.

The bishops wish to inform the Synod that it is now our intention so to advance matters that it will be possible to begin a programme of training for ordained local ministry in the autumn of 2018, with selection processes for suitable candidates taking place earlier next year. It is envisaged that Selection will be undertaken at diocesan or regional level, with the benefit of additional external wisdom and at the ultimate discretion of the bishop. Training, which will need to take some appropriate account of the previous experience and knowledge of candidates, will be essentially delivered locally but in a manner that ensures consistency of content and standard. While those called and ordained in the context of OLM will of course be deacons and priests in the fullest catholic sense, they will be serving in a manifestation of ministry which we will regard very much as a distinct and lifelong vocation with its own integrity and character, lived out in its fullness at local level. Hence we emphasise that we do not envisage transfer from this ministry to any form of stipendiary ministry: were such a thing to occur it would require a

fresh and full selection process at all-Ireland level and consequent substantial further training and formation.

There has been much preparation to do to make all this possible, particularly in the area of training. We are confident at this stage that Ordained Local Ministry will strengthen the mission of the Church and its ministry of Word and Sacrament in a wide variety of contexts. It will be something new for us all, and we will have much to learn from the very manner of its implementation over the coming years. It is always a basic task of the Church to offer prayers for vocations to ordained ministry and for those in training. We now pray in a particular way that in this matter we may have the gift of a sound judgement as we make this response to authentic and discerned local need within the church. We remember too those who may feel moved by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to serve God and his people in this distinctive context which has rich potential for our time.



The difficult bit was persuading a bishop to ordain him

Pentecost - a day that changed history

People often call it 'Whitsun' because once upon a time it was a day for wearing white and going on church processions. The church, however, calls it 'Pentecost' and it's on June 4th this year. It is a crucial date in the Church calendar – in some ways the birthday of Christianity as we know it.

After the crucifixion the followers of Jesus took to meeting in an 'upper room' in Jerusalem, with the doors locked 'for fear of the Jewish authorities'. It was here that the risen Christ appeared to them several times, as well as on a few occasions in other locations when they ventured out. Eventually He told them that He was 'going back to the Father', but that they should stay in the city until they received the spiritual resources to do the job for which He had called them – to take His message to the world. They did as they

were told, about 120 men and women, Luke tells us, including the mother of Jesus.

Then it happened, on the Jewish feast of Shavuot, which was 50 days after the Passover. Pentecost was a spiritual experience which transformed their lives. Emboldened, they emerged from the upper room and started preaching on the city streets. They continued to do so even when ordered to stop. What had happened to bring about this transformation? The answer was two words: Holy Spirit. If that sounds very elusive and vague, think of it in its basic meaning in the Greek of the New Testament: Breath – the very source of life itself, the most precious gift of God. At Pentecost the handful of believers were brought to new life because the Holy Spirit of God breathed upon them. The Church was born. Two thousand people were baptised. Wimps became witnesses!

Archbishop Richard Clarke reflects on Identity



In his Presidential Address to General Synod 2017 in Limerick, Archbishop Richard Clarke focussed on the theme of identity. Here is a summary of his words.

Many of the extraordinary changes over the past year revolve around a single conception, that of identity. What is our basic identity, is it local or global, is it national or supra-national, is it a particular social, ethnic or religious culture, or does it extend further? Massive difficulties

arise when there is a serious clash between differing perceptions of fundamental identity, when each side in the discussion seeks to demean, threaten or even destroy the other, and we have indeed seen many examples of this over recent months, and in many places, near and far.

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

As Christian disciples, we recognise that we do indeed have a basic identity that we must share with all others, that of being made by God in His image and likeness. This means that others – all others – must be treated with a complete dignity and with an utter respect, regardless of who and what they are, what they think or what they do. There are of course other identities of which we must be aware – identities of culture, of religious affiliation, of ethnicity, of sexuality, of nationality – but these cannot be allowed to deface our essential fundamental identity of being loved equally by God.

But we are called to find another identity within our Christian calling. This comes through strongly in the Gospels where Christ calls us to find a true identity, not only with those who are like us, or with those whom we find it easy to like or admire, but with those who most need our love and our care. The twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel is a stern reminder that we find identity with Christ in those to whom we hold out our hand in unselfconscious care – those who are homeless, regardless of why they are homeless, those who are in prison, regardless of whether they are guilty of some crime or not, or those who are without the means to have decent clothes or any clothes at all, regardless of whether or not it was fecklessness, dishonesty or addictions that put them into that situation. The identity that we must have and truly believe we have is with those who need us, and therefore we must hold to such an identity willingly and ungrudgingly.

THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Perhaps the most obvious area in which we should be able to see this is in relation to the refugee crisis. It has become a focus for many people's complaint that 'their identity' is somehow being threatened by immigration... We need to be ready to protect, in every way we can and in every part of this island, those refugees and asylum seekers who are already here in Ireland, but who are now being treated with indifference, or with suspicion, hostility and even violence. All people who are here as refugees or asylum seekers should be met with the dignity, justice and humanitarian support that they deserve, and ideally within an integrated programme. This should include those asylum seekers who are already in the country and have been so for some time, a category that can very easily be forgotten.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We also need to understand other more hidden but equally dangerous aspects to that human insecurity. There are many around us today, in every age group and every social class, who are not at ease with themselves and who cannot find their true identity. One of the terrible outcomes of this is the terrifying incidence of domestic abuse and violence in Ireland today. Inevitably victims are more often female than male but this is not the entire picture. What is immensely disturbing is that the incidence of reported violence is so high – and we know that it cuts across all social classes and all socio-economic groups – that we must assume that it is present within every community represented here today... Domestic abuse may be violent, but it may also be more subtle – economic or psychological – but nonetheless devastating in its impact. And we know, much domestic violence and abuse goes unreported, whether through fear or manipulation. It is in every community. It is under our noses, perhaps even in our own families. People who suffer in this way must be encouraged to seek help. One of the possibilities that we are investigating in Armagh Diocese is how parish churches can be designated as "safe places" for those who are suffering domestic abuse. For many people, in every part of this island, the Church does not have a reputation as being a place of safety, far from it. Surely we can work together to reverse this notion of what we are.

CHAPLAINCY

Finally, I want to suggest to synod that we expand our understanding of our identity in a different way. I have suggested that our understanding of Christian identity should be our utter solidarity with those who need us. Much of our understanding of ministry is related to our engagement with those who are, metaphorically at least, within our walls. We expend relatively little on chaplaincy work, which – whether in hospitals, in prisons, in universities, in institutions such as our police service – is simply under-resourced. But it is in the world out there – out in a world which barely knows us, or which finds it hard to believe that we have anything to offer – that there is pain, weariness, depression, loneliness and stress of every kind. It is in a world well beyond the comfort of our pews that people are living without meaning or identity, who need love and care, and who do respond, not to proselytisation or badgering, but to unaffected generosity and concern in the name of Jesus Christ. They will not find us of their own volition. We need to find them and to be there for them.



Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

KILLALOE & CLONFERT PRIZE DAY RESULTS

The Annual Diocesan Service & Prize day took place on Saturday, 1st April 2017 in Borrisokane.

The Diocese celebrated 50 years since GFS was re-started in the Diocese in the same church as the opening service was held in 1967. It was lovely to have past and present members with us on the day. Congratulations to all girls and leaders who took part in Bible Study and Craft competitions. We are very proud of you all.

CRAFT COMPETITION RESULTS

Junior Candidates (3-5): Decorate a full-face. Paper/Card Mask

Age 4: 1st: Ruby Lewis, Cloughjordan; 2nd : Ellie Draper, Birr; 3rd: Reeva Russell, Aoibhean Gaffney, Alannah Eades- Lynch, Charlotte Dagg

Candidates (5-7): Decorate a box.

Age 5: 1st Lily Mcloughney, Cloughjordan; 2nd: Emily Drought, Cloughjordan; 3rd: Juliana Eades de Silva, Sarah-Jane Clarke, Lily Culbert

Age 6: 1st : Phoebe Hodgins, Roscrea; 2nd : Charlotte Roe, Roscrea; 3rd: Megan Mooney

Junior Member (7-9): Make a decoration. Any shape, using one 9 inch Paper Plate.

Age 7: 1st: Julia Klisiewicz, Birr; 2nd: Charlotte Clements, Birr; 3rd: Isabelle Harvey, Grace Wharton, Beatrice Copland, Gemma St.Leger, Ruby Benn.

Age 8: 1st: Erika Murphy, Nenagh; 2nd: Lucia Eades de Silva, Birr; 3rd: Lucy Wallace, Erin Cordial, Alice Hayes, Abigail Clarke, Aimee Fitzgerald, Alyssa Culbert, Louise Stanley, Julie Draper.

Junior Members (9-11): Create a Fabric Bowl

Age 9: 1st: Alison Grant, Cloughjordan; 2nd : Emma Beck, Roscrea; 3rd: Emma Armitage, Ella Wakefield, Erin Wakefield, Isabella Roe, Amelia Cislak, Neasa Doorley.

Age 10: 1st: Leah Shaw, Birr; 2nd: Jessica Murphy, Nenagh; 3rd: Jessica Wallace, Heather Hayes, Ava Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald, Megan Kennedy, Molly Grace, Katy Williamson, Viktorija Voitenko, Sofiya Gladka, Julia Swigon, Sinead Johnson.

Members (11-13): Fill in an animal silhouette with rolled magazine strips;

Age 11: 1st: Laoise Gaffney, Cloughjordan; 2nd: Kelly Ross, Birr; 3rd: Ciara Drummond, Lisa Mooney

Age 12: 1st: Isabel Alexander, Birr; 2nd: Saoirse Barrett, Roscrea; 3rd: Danielle O'Brien, Mary Gill

Members (13-15): Create a handmade poster celebrating 140 years of GFS in Ireland

Age 14: 1st: Rebecca Reid, Roscrea

Senior Members (15-18): Create a handmade poster celebrating 140 years of GFS in Ireland

Age 15: 1st: Grace Langley, Nenagh

Age 16: 1st: Tara St. Leger, Roscrea

Townsend Members: Design and make a fabric wall hanging celebrating 140 years of GFS in Ireland

1st: Grace Healy, Cloughjordan; 2nd: Valerie Lewis, Cloughjordan

BIBLE STUDY RESULTS

Theme: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

Ages 4: 1st; Ruby Lewis, Cloughjordan; 2nd; Aoibhean Gaffney, Cloughjordan; 3rd; Charlotte Dagg, Birr
Age 5: 1st; Juliana Eades de Silva, Birr; 2nd; Emily Drought, Cloughjordan; 3rd; Sarah Jane Clarke, Nenagh
Age 6: 1st; Charlotte Roe, Roscrea; 2nd; Phoebe Hodgins, Roscrea; 3rd; Megan Mooney, Roscrea
Age 7: 1st; Gemma St.Leger, Roscrea; 2nd; Ruby Benn, Roscrea; 3rd; Julia Klisiwicz, Birr
Age 8: 1st; Lucy Wallace, Roscrea; 2nd; Erika Murphy, Nenagh; 3rd; Lucia Eades de Silva, Birr
Age 9: 1st; Neasa Doorley, Birr; 2nd; Isabella Roe, Roscrea; 3rd; Emma Armitage, Cloughjordan
Age 10: 1st; Sinead Johnson, Birr; 2nd; Leah Shaw, Birr; 3rd; Julia Swigon & Sofiya Gladka, Birr (joint)
Age 11: 1st; Laoise Gaffney, Cloughjordan 2nd; Kelly Ross, Birr; 3rd; Lisa Mooney, Cloughjordan
Age 12: 1st; Isabel Alexander, Birr; 2nd; Mary Gill, Nenagh; 3rd; Danielle O'Brien, Nenagh
Age 13: 1st; April Hayes, Nenagh
Age 16: 1st; Tara St. Leger, Roscrea

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MET IN CLOUGHJORDAN

Events and venues were decided for the coming year. It was agreed that the 50th Celebrations were a great success. A big vote of thanks was recorded for all involved in the new banner, booklets and Prize Day Service. Many thanks to Cloughjordan leaders for hosting the meeting and providing lovely refreshments.

At the recent Camp Meeting details for the weekend were finalised.

At the All Ireland Council May Meeting attended by Grace Healy, Cloughjordan and Florence Reid, Roscrea, the All Ireland Results were announced. The following are the Killaloe successes
Bible Study: 3rd: Lucy Wallace, Roscrea & Laoise Gaffney, Cloughjordan;
HC: Charlotte Roe, Roscrea; Sinead Johnson, Birr; April Hayes, Nenagh; Tara St. Leger, Roscrea.

Crafts: Highly Commended: Pheobe Hodgins, Roscrea; Erika Murphy, Nenagh; Leah Shaw, Birr; Rebecca Reid, Roscrea;
3rd Ruby Lewis, Cloughjordan; Laoise Gaffney, Cloughjordan;
1st: Grace Langley, Nenagh; Grace Healy, Cloughjordan.

Congratulations and well done to all girls whose work represented the Diocese at All Ireland.

ROSCREA

Enrolment Service was held on Sunday, 7th May in St. Cronin's Church. Megan Mooney, Charlotte Roe, Phoebe Hodgins, Ruby Benn and Emma Beck were enrolled as Junior Members. Jessica Wallace was enrolled as a Member and Rebecca Reid as Senior Member. Rebecca also received her Young Helpers Badge and Handbook. Alison Roe was enrolled as a member and Leader. The Branch was delighted to have Norma-Jean Carney, Diocesan President, in attendance



Happy faces from Roscrea GFS following their swimming badge test

The Girls had their Swimming Badge on 12th May. They were examined by Seamus, Manager, Roscrea Swimming Pool who praised their standard. He stated that they had worked hard and well deserved their Badge, and the girls have begun their Homemaker Badge.

CLOUGHJORDAN

Parents' Night held on Friday, 26th May also included a celebration of 50 years of GFS in the Branch.

NENAGH

Girls have completed their Safety Badge and Floral Art badge. They enjoyed flower decorating and displayed some of their work at Easter Sunday Service in St. Mary's Nenagh. Girls received high visibility jackets from the Garda Station as part of the safety badge. They learnt about safety in the car, home, walking on the road and lots more.



Nenagh girls with the decorated Easter window in St Mary's

UP COMING EVENTS

Camp - 23 - 25 June - Faith Mission Centre, Bandon

Girls will enjoy games, crafts along with shopping in Wilton Shopping Centre, Cork., visiting West Cork Secret Centre, go-cart races and lots of other unusual games, military style obstacle course and super slide - lots of muck and water. Followed by shower and change and delicious stone baked pizzas. On Sunday all will attend church in Saint Peter's Church, Bandon

The cost of camp is €70 for one girl and €65 each for two or more from one family. Cost includes transport, food, activities and accommodation for the weekend.

Consent Forms, full itinerary and bus schedules are now available from all Branch Leaders. It is advisable to complete forms and return them to your Branch Leader as soon as possible as this is going to be an amazing camp - you do not want to miss this one.

Mothers' Union

LIMERICK BRANCH

General Synod

Mothers' Union had a very busy stall at General Synod in the South Court Hotel, Limerick in May. We met and chatted to many people, and it was a wonderful opportunity to spread the word of Mothers' Union and to showcase our many cards, books and gifts and to talk about the many projects that we support both at home and overseas.

I would like to thank all those who visited the stall, many of whom went home with a new supply of cards etc! My thanks also has to go to all those who helped on the stall during Synod, it is very much appreciated.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thursday 15th June - MU Garden Party, Villiers Square, Limerick



Jessie Griffin, Enterprises Rep talking to Rev Patrick Burke, Castlemomer

BALLINASLOE

On May 13th St. John's Branch members joined by friends visited Woodville Walled Garden in Kilchreest, Loughrea for a talk about the history of the house and a guided tour around this most beautiful walled garden. Although the afternoon was interrupted by scattered showers, this did not dampen the enjoyment of the group who along with a delicious afternoon tea were treated to lots of information both historic and horticultural. After the tour the group returned to Loughrea Hotel and Spa for a lovely meal. New friends were welcomed by Jackie Eastwood, Branch Leader, and invited to join us at our meetings which will reconvene in September. A new programme will start with a very Special service on Tuesday 19th September in St. John's to celebrate 130 years of Love and Service of Mothers' Union in Ireland. Information about the programme is available from Jackie (087 2341535)



3 Members and friends of St. John's at Woodville Walled Garden.

ROSCREA

A Mothers' Union tea party will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 2.30pm in the Methodist Hall, The Mall, Roscrea. This is 130th birthday of Mothers' Union. Why not dress in Vintage clothes ie hat, long skirt, shawl?

You may win a prize!! This will be a fun afternoon.

Contact Florence Reid for more details. 050522446/0877670875

United Diocesan Youth Council

SUMMER MADNESS

What? Summer Madness is an amazing event which began in July 1987 making this year the 30th Anniversary....The first Summer Madness camp had less than 250 people.....it now attracts about 4000 peoplewith participants from throughout Ireland and beyond..... 5 days for fun, friendship and freedom ...a pure camping experience. The Summer Madness Festival offers an opportunity for faith building encounters, an action packed programme and a mind blowing mix of music, worship, workshops, seminars, outdoor activities, debates and worship. The theme for this year's event is "The Time Of Your Life".

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

Who? 14 years or older. The festival is primarily designed for teen to twenty somethings who want to wrestle a little with their faith and develop a lifestyle that reflects God's all embracing love.

What's On? The mornings are filled with awesome Spirit-filled worship, practical teaching from leading youth speakers and performances from a wide range of international and local Christian artists. In the afternoons an endless range of activities with workshops and seminars, myriad of activities and bountiful supply of talented musicians to keep you entertained, chill-out zones, cafes, acoustic afternoons, caged football, sports activities, water sports, barbecues - or one can take time out to soak up the Sun (or maybe the rain) with friends. From evening running into late nights are cafes, various live band venues, karaoke, themed discos, continuous worship, 24/7 prayer....the list goes on. VISIT www.summermadness.co.uk for more information. The confirmed main stage speakers for this year are Matt Chandler (Village Church), Rachel Gardner (Youthscape), Simon Lennox (Word in the City), Craig Cooney and Stu Bothwell and the worship leaders are Lisa Kernaghan (CFC Belfast) and Michael Shannon (Causeway Coast Vineyard).

How Much? €150 - paid by Friday 23rd June 2017. This includes return transport, food during event & entrance ticket to Summer Madness.

SUMMER CAMPS

It's nearly summer holidays and time to book for U.D.Y.C.'s Junior & Senior Summer Camps..... both camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. We have an amazing action packed programme planned for both summer camps which is fully detailed on booking forms now in circulation. BOOK TODAY and DON'T DELAY!!!!

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

Senior Summer Camp (Secondary School upwards) Sunday 20th August - Friday 25th August 2017. Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo.

Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Camp is Friday 7th July and for Senior Camp is Friday 11th August.

The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee will be €220 per participant. SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking (Summer Madness,

Junior & Senior Summer Camp) over summer months if booking for more than one person from same family.

Return Transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall & Roscrea for all events!

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

Until next month,

Oscar

Mobile: 086 2476327

Diocesan Board of Mission

Church of Ireland

*LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION*

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

Thursday 15th June

IN

WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE

at 8.00 P.M.

**MODERN CHINA
(FIRST IMPRESSIONS)**

SPEAKERS:

Salters Sterling & Michael Hanna

Everyone (irrespective of Christian denomination) with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas is very welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be served before and after the meeting

Boasting boys

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him €50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him €100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

We were delighted to send a cheque for €260 to the Toilet Twinning Project recently. This money was raised by 6th class pupils when they organised their coffee afternoon last February. The remainder will be given to Crumlin Children's Hospital this term.



The limerick.ie bus comes to Adare

The school has just been awarded its 6th Green Flag, for Waste Management and Global Citizenship. This is a wonderful achievement and we look forward to raising the flag later this month. Many thanks to Ms Anglim and the Green Schools' Committee for all their hard work and leadership on this project.



Hurling practice in Adare

For the first time the school took part in the Discovery Science and Maths Programme. Pupils from 1st to 6th classes enjoyed Scratch classes all year and set up many science experiments as part of the programme. The pupils then presented their experiments to the rest of the school during our Science Afternoon on May 3rd. Thanks to Mrs Keane who organised our application and we were delighted to get the news this week that we have won an award for our endeavours. Well done to all involved.



Basketball at Villiers Sports Day

The senior pupils produced our latest school magazine, St. Nick's Buzz just after Easter. This was full of news items from around the school, activity pages and a quiz as well as interviews with teachers and pupils.

On Wednesday 17th May the senior pupils headed off to Villiers School for their annual Primary Schools' Sports Day. Once again we were treated to a well-organised and enjoyable day. Despite the heavy showers everyone had an action-packed day. The Transition Year students looked after the pupils and teachers so well. Games of soccer and tag rugby were played on the astroturf, basketball in the hall and orienteering around the school grounds. Thank you to Neville Atkinson and his team for another wonderful day in Villiers.

This is an eventful time of the year and we look forward to our school tours, sports day and many other activities in June. 6th class pupils will also prepare for their move to secondary schools so all in all a busy time ahead in June.

St. Mary's No 2 National School, Nenagh

The third term always brings its own treasures to pupils and staff alike. The copies and books have been well filled with new learning, the long warm days bring outdoor lessons and planning begins for Sports Day and School Tours.

On 17th May our Senior Classes made their way to Villiers for a great day of outdoor activities. They met with Secondary School students from Villiers and toured the school. It was great for the pupils to meet up with friends from other schools in the area. A great day was had by all and all thanks must go to the team at Villiers for inviting us. Go raibh míle maith againh!

The Senior classes will journey to Limerick for their tour this year. They will take in the cultural and historic sights before heading to Ballymorris for a spot of pottery and further onward for outdoor pursuits in Co. Clare. The infant classes will be touring Turoe Pet Farm and getting up close to nature.

The Drumcondra standardised tests took place over a week. These tests measure a school's progress and help greatly in planning for Numeracy and Literacy targets at whole school and class level next year.

The pupils greatly enjoyed their Athletics coaching in April and May. Now they are two weeks into the Aquatics coaching programme and their feedback is marvellous. It is wonderful to see the progression of each child as their confidence and skill improves each session.

Senior French classes continue comme d'habitude and the children are working hard on their fluency.

We are pleased to invite our parents to an Open Morning on 9th June. Our pupils are proud to display samples of the work they completed over the year and hope their parents will be impressed with all of their efforts.

Our Graduation Assembly will take place on 28th June. We bid a fond farewell to Séamus, Shea, Colin, Ciara, Laura, Chelsea, Mary, Danielle, and Oliver. Thank you for your contribution to the life of our school community. May you remember your time at St Mary's with fondness and we wish you every success in the future.

Wishing all of our pupils, Staff, Parents and Community a relaxing summer ahead, may the weather be kind and the days happy!

St Michael's National School, Limerick

Great excitement in school on May 17th, when not one but two trophies arrived back following our annual participation in the Limerick City Sports Day at The University of Limerick. The girls won their category and the boys shared the victory with Crecora NS. All the preparation and practice for the races, relays and long

jumping ensured that all participants thoroughly enjoyed the day. Unfortunately for us, this event clashed with the Villiers Schools Sports Day.



Girls at Limerick City Sports Day



Boys at Limerick City Sports Day

As usual, Junior Sports Day was organised for the junior end of our school. Two of our teachers, who have recently attended a Fundamental Movement Skills course, had lots of lovely new sporting activities and games for everyone to try.

We are busy planning our week of physical activity in June which forms part of the process for gaining an Active School Flag. During the year, levels of fitness have improved due to a variety of enjoyable sports and activities.

The school has been granted permission to build a new classroom and support room. Plans are in progress and some serious fund-raising will need to be done in the next couple of years, as grant-funding does not cover all the costs. A major thank you to Brian Beck, past pupil, current parent and the BOM expert in planning!

First and Second Classes spent a very enjoyable day in Irish Seedsavers in Scarriff, Co. Clare in truly magnificent weather. Homemade pizzas, assembled by the pupils and cooked in an outdoor oven were devoured by everyone! A treasure hunt for clues in an orchard, was followed by an up-close look at minibeasts and the sowing of sunflower seeds. For many of our city-based pupils, this kind of day offers memories that last a lifetime. Infants go on their outing to "Free Range Kids", where lots of fun and activity will be enjoyed.

As usual we wish our Sixth Class well on the next part of their educational journey to their secondary schools in Limerick city and county. As the final "goodbye" to 6th Class, the BOM part-funded a "Mystery Tour" to Wherever?? This replaced a prize day for the last 18 years so that everyone could enjoy a final and hopefully happy memory of their days in St Michael's NS.

Also we say goodbye to Ciara Fleming, who has been teaching in the school since 2015, firstly as a supply teacher for sick leave and then for two maternity leaves. We wish her well as she moves to Wicklow/Dublin to teach. We welcome back Áine McMahon from maternity leave, following the birth of her second daughter, Meabh, last year.

As this school year draws to a close, we have an additional significant goodbye. Having started on 1st December 1998, (the last century and the last millenium!!) in St Michael's NS, Rosalind Stevenson is retiring on 31st August 2017, as teaching Principal. The whole school community and the Board of Management, staff and parents/guardians wish her health and happiness as she embarks on a well-deserved break.

St Cronan's National School, Roscrea

A very busy Summer Term has begun in St. Cronan's National School. All pupils are currently enjoying Modern Dance classes while 1st to 6th class pupils have started both Swimming lessons and Gaelic Football.

LENTEN PROJECT

The focus of Our Lenten Project this year was Irish Lung Cancer and we were very proud to present a cheque for €545.00 on the day of our Easter holidays. Many thanks to our pupils, and their families and friends for their generous contributions to this worthy cause.

CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Julie who won the Supermacs Art Competition. 1st to 5th class pupils will benefit from her success as they have all been invited to Supermacs for a Pizza-Making Day.

The Roscrea 6th class Tennis Tournament took place on April 28th and we were delighted when our team returned to school with first place medals and the overall Shield Cup. Well done to Emma, Ben, Dylan, Stewart and Danny.

Congratulations too, to Ben, who was on the winning All Ireland Community Games Roscrea Under 11 Rugby team. Well done Ben.

VILLIERS

We looked forward to our Annual Interschools Sports Day trip to Villiers on May 17th, and came home with the cup. Congratulations! This is always a fun filled day and a big highlight in our Summer Term calendar. We extend a sincere thank you to the staff and Transition Year Students for organising and running this great event.

SCHOOL TOURS

Senior classes will be heading for an exciting visit to Dublin Zoo on their School Tour this year, followed by the Viking Splash Tour of the city. The Juniors will enjoy bowling and Adventure World in Portlaoise.

SUMMER WORKS

We were delighted to receive confirmation from the DES that our application for the Summers Works Scheme to upgrade the school toilets was successful.

END OF YEAR SERVICE

Our End of Year Service will be held in St. Cronan's Church on June 22nd at 7pm when we will have the opportunity to celebrate the years that the current 6th class have spent in our school, and to wish them every blessing in their transition to Secondary School, and in the years ahead. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Wishing all our Past Pupils taking part in State Exams every success especially those sitting their Leaving Certificate.

Cloughjordan No 1 National School

The school was delighted to host the annual Basketball Blitz, last month, and to welcome Aglish, Borrisokane and Corville National Schools. We are grateful to Patsy Farrell who co-ordinated the event and to Declan Gaffney who gave so generously of his time to help prepare our team for the event. Congratulations to the members of our winning team and best of luck to you in the next round of the competition.



Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Basketball Team which won the Basketball Blitz hosted at our school last month

Thank you very much to Mr. Dooley, Mr. Hassett and Mr. Casey for the kind invitation to our 3rd – 6th Class pupils to join with St. Michaels' N.S. for hurling training and to participate in the hurling blitz in Toomevara. The Cloughjordan panel, which included Ross Austin, Tom Austin, Cathal England, Andrew Hayes, Scott Kenny, David Perse and Alex Ryan, played brilliantly in the North Tipp Final in Toomevara but lost out to Boher N.S. on the day. We are very fortunate to join with our good friends in St. Michael's N.S. for so many activities throughout the year.

Our 3rd – 6th Class pupils enjoyed participating in Borrisokane Athletic Club's Primary Schools Competition 2017 at Borrisokane Community Sports Grounds. Thank you very much to John O'Farrell, and his many helpers, for organizing this wonderful event.

Congratulations to Lucy Fitzgerald, Lisa Mooney, Ava Austin & Alison Grant who came 3rd in All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals held in Baldoyle Badminton Centre, Dublin at the end of April. This is the second time the school has had a team participating in an All Ireland Table Tennis Championship – well done to the girls on their success and for the All Ireland bronze medals attained. A special thank you to Mandy Fitzgerald who helped to make all of this possible by giving so generously of her time and driving to and from the competitions in Kinsale and Tallaght, and to Jimmy Hayes, table tennis coach, for his dedication and encouragement throughout the year. It was great to have so many parents present on the day to support the girls.



Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Girls All Ireland Table Tennis Bronze Medalists, with team coach Jimmy Hayes

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Jeremy Pagden from Lurtel Ltd. to give a very informative Cyber Bullying & Internet Safety Training Workshop to our 3rd – 6th Class pupils last month, when he spoke to them very clearly about keeping safe on the internet, the challenges presented and the rights and wrongs of social media. It was quite an eye-opener, as was the talk for parents later that evening in Toomevara N.S. Thank you very much to the staff of Toomevara N.S. for the kind invitation to join with them for the talk to parents and for the hospitality shown.

Once again, we say a very sincere "Thank you" to SuperValu in Roscrea for the very generous Easter Hamper donated to the school, and to Mrs. Esme Grant for very kindly organizing this donation. The hamper was raffled and raised €255 for our school, which we very much appreciate.

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

Our Junior School Tour to Birr Outdoor Education takes place at the end of May. We are looking forward to a fun-filled action packed day, once again, at the centre. Our senior pupils are looking forward to their tour later this month which promises to be full of activity, challenges and adventure at Baysports in Athlone.

We say a fond farewell to our Sixth Class pupils and we wish them all the very best in Secondary School. Our Sixth Class this year move on to secondary school in Borrisokane Community College, Ursuline Convent Thurles and Villiers School, Limerick.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

What a wonderful year we've had in Kiltallagh.

We wish all of our students and their families a wonderful Summer. Here are some photos of the highlights of our year.





Kitallagh National School highlights.




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Oxmantown National School, Birr

ACTION DAY FOR WATER CONSERVATION

The children wore blue or non-uniform and blue face paint on Friday 12th May. We made €112 to fund Green School project to purchase another Water Butt for the garden club. All lessons for the day had a water theme! This action is one of the many steps the school is taking to earn our third green schools flag.

LENTEN PROJECT

The children, parents, friends and teachers of Oxmantown National School raised nearly €2,800 for the Irish Cancer Society. WELL DONE EVERYONE!!

The children held sales, raffles, had a sponsored spelling test and through their hard work and generosity they collected this enormous total.

On Tuesday 16th May, Breda from the Irish Cancer Society came to the school to receive the cheque. She went around to all the classes to speak to the children about the Society and explained how the money they worked so hard to raise will help and make a difference to peoples' lives.



Breda from the Irish Cancer Society receiving the cheque from pupils of Oxmantown NS

INTERNATIONAL DAY

We held an International Day in 2014 which was very enjoyable for the pupils and parents. We plan to have this exhibition again on Friday 26th May. We are appealing to parents to support their children to show items of interest, including food items, pictures, national costumes, etc. from their country of origin. The Bishop of Limerick will visit the school to chat with the children about their exhibits.

PARK AND STRIDE

With the arrival of the better weather, we would like to remind pupils of the park and stride programme which encourages parents to park away from the school gates and to walk with their children to school, this promotes health and fitness.

VILLIERS SPORTS DAY

Fifth and sixth class visited Villiers School for an Inter-School Sports Day on the 17th May. Transport and a lovely lunch were provided free of charge by Villiers School. We are so grateful to Mrs. Storey and Mr. Atkinson for this wonderful event which our children thoroughly enjoyed.

Rathkeale No 2 National School

The summer term is always a busy one in our schools and this year is no exception.

We congratulate Declan in 5th class on winning the final of the Scratch Competition for 5th and 6th class. Scratch is a coding program which has been introduced in many schools around the country. Declan began his project, "Biodiversity" as an entry into our own Scratch competition in conjunction with a Green School class competition. He won this competition and then spent many hours improving and developing his program, particularly over the Christmas break from school. We entered his project in the national competition and eagerly awaited the announcement of the finalists. Thirty finalists were chosen from all over the country's primary and secondary schools and we were delighted to see Declan's project listed. The final took place in UL at the end of April. Declan attended, talked through his project with the judges and demonstrated it. The judges were very impressed with the level of coding Declan had achieved and he won his category.

Our pupils collected €106 during their Lenten Collection at Friday assemblies. This year the pupils chose to donate their collection to Make-A-Wish Ireland. Our school cake sale and coffee afternoon raised just over €360 for school funds. We thank everyone for their generosity in supporting both of these causes.

Our Green School Committee are delighted to announce that we have successfully achieved our 5th Green Flag. Thanks to Sharon, our secretary, for travelling to Cork with some other local schools to collect the flag for us. We intend to raise our flag on the last day of term, Tuesday 27th June at 12 noon following a short end of year service in Holy Trinity Church. We look forward to Bishop Kenneth being with us for this occasion.

We had a wonderful day in Villiers at their annual Primary Schools Sports Day. We once again thank everyone involved in organising the day. Congratulations to the pupils of St Cronin's National School, Roscrea on winning the cup this year and to our pupils for coming in second place.



Pupils at the Villiers primary schools Sports Day

Our school tours will take place on Friday 2nd June. The junior pupils will travel to Dreamland in Limerick and the senior pupils will travel to Cobh to visit the Titanic Experience and Spike Island.

We say farewell and thanks to Ms Rachele Robbins at the end of May and welcome back Ms Ciara Looney following her maternity leave.

School will close for the summer on Tuesday 27th June and will reopen on 1st September.

Villiers School



PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

We hosted in excess of two hundred and seventy primary school students from the diocese and beyond on Wednesday 17th May. Our TY's organised the event and shadowed all students as they participated in tag rugby, soccer, basketball, orienteering and fun games. Congratulations to St Cronan's in Roscrea who were the overall winners and lifted the cup.



St Cronan's NS, the overall winners of the Villiers Primary Schools Sports Day

FORM 6 GRADUATION

We look forward to the Form 6 Graduation where we acknowledge and reflect on our student's time in Villiers. Most have been here for the six years and some have joined us along the way. The event is a mix of prayer, music, speeches and presentations from both students and staff, followed by dinner with family and friends. We now wish all our students well in their final preparations for their leaving certificate examinations. We encourage them to keep in touch with the school and come back to visit us.

UGANDA – ZEST4KIDZ

Twelve Villiers staff are busily preparing for their upcoming trip to Uganda towards the end of June. This is a follow up to our TY trip there during Easter 2016 where we identified the need to further assist the charity Zest4kidz in their efforts to build a new school for the deaf near Kampala. The primary focus of the trip is to aid with the building of two new classrooms and a school office. Fundraising has been ongoing with a recent table quiz and bands night in school. The excursion is for ten days. Seven days working on site and a few days relaxation prior to our return home.

PAST PUPILS HOCKEY MATCHES

We welcomed back past pupils, both male and female on two separate occasions recently to play both our senior boys and girls. Our senior boys retained the cup for the second year in succession with a 4-2 win and our senior girls drew 2-2 in their match.

A special thank you is due to Kieron Brislane who has been organising the past pupils for the last 30 years. He has decided to step aside and will be sorely missed. He has put in a huge effort which must be acknowledged. His hard work has been an integral part of the success of this annual event. We look forward to Robbie Ryan who has taken over the reins from Kieron for next year.



Past Pupils Hockey.

INTER-SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

We recently hosted the inter-schools athletics competition in the University of Limerick Sports Campus. Bandon Grammar, Ashton School, Newtown School, Kilkenny College and Midleton College compete in the long jump, high jump, shot putt, triple jump, 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres and relay. Our boys were in very hard luck and beaten by a single point into second place by Bandon Grammar and our girls finished third behind the winners Kilkenny College.

MR. WHISKER'S RETIREMENT



The first time we all met you was the day we came in to Villiers for our scholarship exam. We were all just confused primary school students, and you were just that tall teacher with a moustache. Six years later, and we are now confused secondary school students but you have become so much more than just a teacher to us all. We now view you as a very caring man, passionate about his field. A man who reaches beyond the outer image of a student and looks into the heart, and understands and respects what he sees. You're the one teacher who has really been there to witness each and every single one of us grow – literally, because since first year we've been marking our heights all over your classroom walls!

We admire your ability to multitask, managing 22 indifferent adolescents while once more, explaining DNA and Protein Synthesis to the few students who will listen. You also seem to be able to do the impossible – getting girls to stop fixing their hair and boys to stop looking out the window when it's time to pay serious attention to Ecological Relationships and Population Dynamics... Not only will you be missed by the whole student body, but surely, there will be a notable gap in the staff room when you're gone. Who else will Mr Griffin look up to for moustache goals?? The Science Department will also certainly miss having you in the prep room for a cup of coffee and a chat (about science, of course).

It gives me great pleasure to say that we recognize, respect and appreciate all the valuable skills and knowledge you, our dear teacher, have imparted to us, your students, and even to your colleagues. We thank you for all your efforts and relentless hard work over the past 30 years. Sir, you have put in great efforts in instilling tolerance, kindness and patience into us, the future generation; and for this, we express our sincerest gratitude to you. Your unique love and zeal for the Sciences will never be forgotten. I believe that the school is losing two major Science enthusiasts this year (myself included).

Just as our measurements on your classroom walls will always remain, though some of us have outgrown them, you will always remain with us, even long after your retirement. You have worked tirelessly, now it is time for you to enjoy all that you have laboured for over the years. We hope that in the future, you will look back on us with gratitude. We hope that as you leave us, you will take us with you, and that we will live on in your memories. Your teachings will forever be treasured; your contribution in our lives can never be measured. On behalf of the students, parents, and all the staff here at Villiers School, I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours, as you bow out after spending a meritorious 30 years doing what you do best. Remember: always think like a proton, and stay positive!

From the students of Villiers school. By Deborah Adepoju – Head Girl.

The Reformation after 500 years:

1. Martin Luther and the Continental Reformation

In the first of three features on the Reformation, Canon Patrick Comerford looks at Martin Luther and the continental reformation.

This year, Churches of all traditions throughout the world are marking the five-hundredth anniversary of the Continental Reformation. Although the actual events are shrouded in myths and legends that have developed over the past five centuries, 31 October 1517 is remembered as the day that set the Reformation in motion.

Of course, the Church has always been in a state of being reformed, although the principle of *ecclesia semper reformanda*, which has been attributed not to the Reformers but to Saint Augustine, is used only for the first time by Karl Barth in 1947, and then adapted by Hans Küng in the 1960s. The Church is always reforming itself, and there were great reforms in pre-Reformation days too. One early reformer was Pope Gregory the Great, one of the Doctors of the Church, who reformed the liturgy and structures of the Western Church and sent Saint Augustine on his mission to England.

From the mid-14th century, John Wycliffe and the Lollards were demanding Reform, and William Tyndale, who worked on an early translation of the Bible, was executed before the Anglican Reformation began. On the European Continent, early voices and movements for Reform included Peter Waldo and the Waldensians, John Huss (1369-1415) of Bohemia, and Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536), the Dutch humanist who remained a Roman Catholic priest, but who influenced the Continental Reformers through his translation of the Greek New Testament.



Martin Luther ... did he nail his 95 Theses to a church door 500 years ago?

Martin Luther (1483-1546), was born in Eisleben, Saxony, and received his name because he was baptised a day after his birth, on the Feast of Saint Martin of Tours. He was educated by the same religious community whose members included Thomas à Kempis and Erasmus, and then studied theology, philosophy and law at Erfurt.

In 1505, he was caught in a thunderstorm, struck by a lightning bolt and thrown from his horse. He was terrified of death and divine judgment, and cried out: 'Help! Saint Anna, I will become a monk!' He became an Augustinian friar, and devoted himself to a life of fasting, prayer, pilgrimage and penance. He was ordained in 1507, began teaching theology in Wittenberg in 1508, received his doctorate in 1512, and became a professor of theology.

As he was teaching, Luther came to question several Church teachings and practices. The catalyst was provided by the arrival of Johann Tetzel in Germany in 1516 to raise funds for building Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Luther strongly disputed what he interpreted as the notion that freedom from sin could be bought and paid for, although historians now agree that Tetzel was not teaching official dogma, and probably never said: 'As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.'



St Peter's Basilica ... did the sale of indulgences trigger the Reformation? (Photo: Patrick Comerford, 2017)

Luther proposed an academic discussion of indulgences when he published his 95 Theses on 31 October 1517. Myth now says that on that day 500 years ago, he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, although in reality Luther had sent them to the Bishop of Mainz in an effort to stimulate debate.

Luther taught that salvation and, subsequently, eternal life are not earned by good deeds but are received only as the free gift of God's grace through the believer's faith in Christ.

He challenged the authority and office of the Pope by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divine revelation. His marriage to Katharina von Bora, a former nun, challenged clerical celibacy, while his translation of the Bible made it more accessible and transformed German culture.

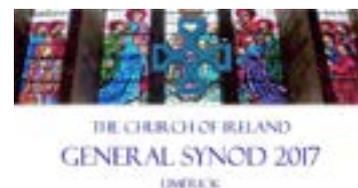
Luther had no plans to cause schism or to form a new Church. But his refusal to renounce his writings at the demand of Pope Leo X in 1520 and the Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms in 1521 resulted in his excommunication by the Pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the Emperor. Both failed to silence him, and his pamphlets and books were soon widely read throughout Europe. Meanwhile, parallel Reforming movements began with Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich in 1519, and with John Calvin in Geneva.

Luther's writings triggered civil turmoil and wars throughout Europe. But he died in his own bed early on the morning of 18 February 1546, and was buried beneath the pulpit in the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He has left a divided legacy, from his hymns to his anti-semitic tirades. But the arrival of his writings in Cambridge would make it the nursery of the English Reformation.

NEXT ISSUE: The Anglican Reformation.

General Synod 2017

Reported by Archdeacon Simon Lumby



It was really good to have the Church of Ireland's General Synod in Limerick 4-6 May. Representatives from the length and breadth of this island gathered in our Diocese for the annual event, and got to experience how big our Diocese is.

The RC Bishop of Limerick, Brendan Leahy, in expressing his thanks for our welcome to him and the other official ecumenical representatives, spoke of our common mission and invited everyone to think of ways we could, as different church traditions, better act together for our witness to Christ in our communities.

Thought was given to how we should and could respond with the gospel of reconciliation during this year which marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's kick-starting of the Reformation.

There was a successful debate on our Diocesan dialogue with our neighbours in the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. A big laugh was generated when it was said that our two bishops are "a different kind of animal". We were given permission to include options that will consider the potential of a suffragan bishop who would also be a Rector in our journey of discovery of the ways in which our two dioceses may cooperate more deeply.

A debate was had regarding the issue of denominational education and church schools. The EU Charter on Human Rights was cited in support of fighting to uphold and improve the provision of church schools in educating according to denominational principles. The Charter does protect the right to teach according to one's religion; it has to be said that there is nothing in the Charter about any right to

teach according to one's denomination. Some of the debate seemed to cloud that distinction. Is it the case that Col schools are there only to teach Col children; some complained that our schools teach anyone but Col children.

The Rathkeale project was presented to General Synod; about 80% of the houses in Rathkeale are reportedly owned by Travellers. We were reminded that looking for lost sheep is not done in a clean and swept environment. Lost sheep are "mucky, bloody, lost and hesitant"—we must not judge people—these are not Mary's meekly following her.

A private members bill was defeated, one had the impression that many of the evangelical wing of the church were mustered to quash a request that the Bishops consider how it might be that public prayers could be offered for those in same-gender marriages, without breaking Canon Law.

Our Bishop won the caption competition!! Gary, the Dean of Killaloe, led the daily prayers very movingly and perceptively; it was a joy to hear them.

Everyone was very complementary about the organisation and support given to the Synod by local people. The Mayor of Limerick was very effusive in his welcome and gratitude that the Synod had chosen his city for their meeting. He held a civic reception in their honour; a very notable gesture.

A jolly time was had by all; I think!



General Synod 2017 in session



Members from Limerick & Killaloe at General Synod 2017



At the reception for Synod members in Thomond Park (l-r): Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Archbishop of Armagh Richard Clarke, and Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe Kenneth Kearon



Lucy Kavanagh and Margaret Schutz ran the Mothers' Union stand



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Spiritual Care in Dementia



The Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission launched a leaflet on the spiritual care of people living with dementia at General Synod 2017. The leaflet is also available online at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/435/spiritual-care-in-dementia>

Speaking of the launch, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, Chair of the Commission said: "Dementia continues to be an issue that impacts our Churches at every level. This leaflet provides some useful information for pastors, church visitors and family members. It's also a very real sign of the Covenant between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church. We are very grateful for permission to reproduce this material."

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Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

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Easter Vestry meetings are now behind us and those elected can now get on with their ministry in the church. It is always a thankless task which people volunteer to do and for which we are grateful. This year we had Castleconnell Easter Vestry on a Sunday straight after the church service which was a much better arrangement. Many who would not have attended in the past appreciated that it took place in the format it did. It is our hope to continue this in the future.



Dora Benson (center) with Betty Brislane and Rev Lucy Green

It was such a great privilege to have the General Synod in Limerick this year and it was good to see many of our parishioners who would never have attended a synod as a representative, take the opportunity to attend some of the sessions and get a taste of what this is all about.

It was also good to see Betty Brislane participate in the Darkness to Light walk in Killaloe Ballina. Betty who is no longer a teenager put some of our younger people to shame who decided to stay in bed. Well done Betty.

The Cathedral in Killaloe is open every day from just after 9 until about 6 in the evening and if you are passing by why not pop in and visit this wonderful Cathedral and say a prayer for the community who worship here. We have guided tours and up the bell tower by arrangement. The most spectacular view of Killaloe from the roof of the bell tower. Tuamgraney Church is also open every day during the summer months and do visit the oldest church in continuous use on this Island. There are lovely woods across the way and its worth a walk as well to have some quiet time in the church.



Hazel and Will with Bishop Kenneth and Dean Gary

Our confirmation service took place at St Flannan's Cathedral on 14th May in the afternoon and it was as always good to have the Bishop present in the Cathedral. Hazel and Will were our two candidates this year and we wish them well as they continue to contribute to the life and worship of our congregations. The families were well in attendance in support of the two confirmands. This is such an important feature that families come and support these young people in this initiation rite or rite of passage. Many traditions and cultures throughout the world have rituals and ceremonies to mark the different phases of people's lives. This is an important custom and we too give thanks for our young people entering a new phase in their lives. As we have so few candidates we will probably have confirmations every second year going forward.

The Reverend Lucy has faithfully over several years now been doing home communion service for some of our elderly that can't always make it to church and continues to do so. This month Joss Barkman was missing from the monthly gathering through a fall injuring her hip so we keep her in our prayers and wish her a speedy recovery. Jean Newenham was also not well this month. Dora Benson who will be 100 later this year is featured in the photo at our May communion service. There is always great hospitality afterward.

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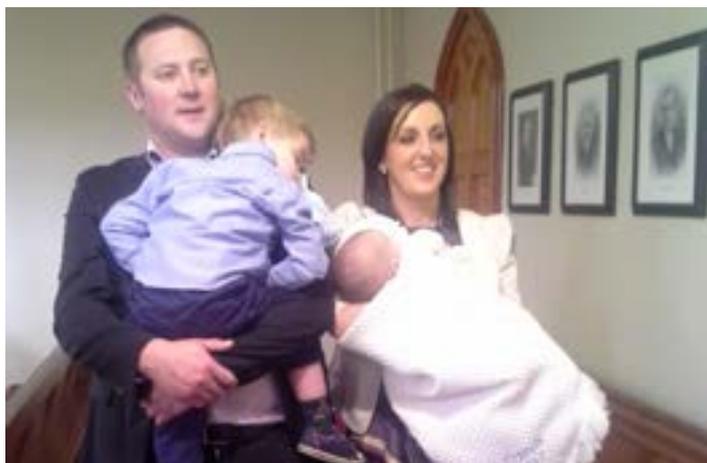
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PRAYERS

We keep Diane Dagg, and Pamela Edge in our prayers, and continue to pray for baby Saoirse in Australia, granddaughter of Whitten and Linda Gill.

BAPTISM

Baby Rhys was brought by her parents Trevor and Doireann Bailey to St. Brendan's Church on 21st May for baptism by Canon Ruth Gill. We welcome her into the family of faith.



Baby Rhys after her baptism with her family

FAMILY EUCHARIST

Our monthly Family Eucharist continues on the second Sunday of the month. Many thanks to the young people who have been assisting with the service in so many ways. Sometimes people think that the Eucharist is not a 'child-friendly' service – on the contrary, there are many opportunities for children and young people to take part in the service. Even young children can bring up the bread and wine at the Offertory, somewhat older children can assist in preparing the Table and in helping with the Ablutions after Communion. And those old enough to be good readers can look after the Lessons and the Intercessions. If children and young people get used to coming to church regularly, and are allowed to take an active part in the service, they will have a foundation for a life-long faith. This requires parents to bring them, and older members of the congregation to realise that children (like the rest of us) aren't always perfect, in the church or out of it.

PARISH FETE

The Parish Fete will on Sunday, 11th June in Oxmantown School. Please pray for good weather, and not the deluge we endured last year!

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth will be in Birr for Confirmation on Sunday, 18th June at 11:30 am. We will have candidates from Birr, Clonfert, and Shinrone Groups of Parishes. Many thanks to Mr Paul Fitzpatrick from Shinrone Group who has been assisting the Archdeacon with the Confirmation classes.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday, 1st July, we are going on a Parish Pilgrimage to visit the ancient Christian sites in the Burren, to be led by Canon

Bob Hanna. This will include a picnic lunch, a service in Kilfenora Cathedral, and a stop for dinner on the way back. More details will be available closer to the date. This pilgrimage came about as a result of Birr Select Vestry thinking of possibilities for the parish, coming out of a discussion about our Diocesan document, 'Forward Together'.

JOINT SERVICE WITH BIRR METHODIST CONGREGATION

On Sunday, 2nd July, we will once again share worship with the Methodist congregation in the Methodist Church, with a meal to follow in the County Arms.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

WEDDING St. Cronan's Church Roscrea was the venue for the wedding of Amanda Pearson and Richard McNamara on Saturday April 29th. Many guests witnessed their vows before God, in the church where Amanda regularly worships. The church was decorated most tastefully, perhaps not surprisingly, as Amanda is in the business of floristry herself. We wish Amanda and Richard very many years of happiness together.



Amanda Pearson and Richard McNamara

FUNERAL The rector was privileged to preach at the funeral of May Chambers April 5th. May was a resident of Patterson's Nursing Home for many years. While her mind had her in a land of its own, it didn't deprive her of her hymns or prayers. We extend our condolences to May's husband, daughter and her grandson.

UNITED SERVICE It was again a joy to share our fifth Sunday with our Methodist friends on The Mall Roscrea on April 30th. Thanks to Revd. Shannon De Laoreal and her people for such warm fellowship hospitality. The next fifth Sunday will be July 30th.

ROSCREA BRANCH GFS ENROLMENT SERVICE took place in St. Cronan's Church Roscrea on Sunday May 7th with Norma Jean Carney, Diocesan President, present. The girls led our worship and enlivened the congregation with an action song from their repertoire. Congratulations to the whole branch who did so well in the annual competitions. Three cups were awarded, Bridge, Rodeen and the Greenwood (shared) Many medals were awarded in all age groups and categories. Notably in the Bible Competition the work of Phoebe Hodgins, Charlotte Roe and Megan Mooney were selected for Dublin; in the craft competition the work of Phoebe Hodgins, Lucy Wallace, Tara St. Leger and Rebecca Reid selected for Dublin.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES were extra busy this year being a

triennial year which adds a layer of diocesan positions which need filling. Many thanks to those who made it to the meetings and agreed to serve. To all those continuing to serve their parishes in the capacity of vestry member and especially as office holder, secretary, treasurer, glebes and most especially church wardens, thank you. All these office holders are busy people, they are the ones who do all the background work and enable church in and out of season, to run smoothly.

Particular mention is made of two people retiring from vestry life. Des Young has been an office holder and Select Vestry member over many decades. A person who has always had the good of the parish central to his thinking and who has been instrumental in many fund raising initiatives. Des freely admits he loves his church. This fact has proved itself through bad times and good. St. Cronan's has been fortunate to have had such an active generous hard worker on it's vestry.

The day has come too for David McCorduck to retire from membership of St Cronan's Select Vestry and office holder in many areas, not least that of treasurer. We knew the day was coming. Everyone dreaded it because David unflinchingly, kept us all aware of our financial situation. The office the treasurer holds is a complicated, and relentless task. David's careful and wise remarks over a wide range of issues and concerns will not be easily matched.

We wish both of these servants of Roscrea Group of Parishes, and St. Cronan's all the very best of good times filled with less stress and more and other activities to enjoy, in the years to come.

KEITH'S WALK Keith Stanley will lead a fund raising walk and talk, on Sunday June 18th. Details of the route are to be determined but will not be a hike for many miles, more a good walk for a Sunday afternoon, Meet with us in Kinnity Community Centre at 2.00. Last year we proved that this is not an event that is weather dependant! Ask any of the 'drowned rats' who squelched their way as they followed their leader! All are welcome, of all ages.

MOTHERS' UNION AREA MEETING

A Tea Party is arranged for Wednesday June 7th in the Methodist Hall. The wearing of Vintage Dress, while optional, may very well be rewarded! (See Mothers' Union notes).

CHORAL EVENSONG, that most exquisite form of Anglican evening-time worship, is still sung in many of our cathedrals. We welcome everyone to St Cronan's Church Roscrea when St. Mary's Cathedral choir, with their organist Mr. Peter Barley will sing Evensong at 7.00pm on Sunday June 25th. Come and join us listen and so worship through the music.



Anthony Roe following his baptism

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templeberry, 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

The Family Service and Confirmation provided the first opportunities for the newly formed Nenagh Union Senior Girls' Choir to contribute to our worship. The choir, made up of pupils from classes five and six, together with girls from secondary education, rehearse on Fridays from 4.30 – 5.10 pm. The members will now take a break until the autumn when their contribution to worship will be extended and developed in the run up to Christmas.

At the Family service on Sunday 21st May the readers were Ciara Drummond and Colin Walsh, our Confirmation candidates, and the Rector, in his address, produced a cuddly toy and a piece of old blanket, as he talked about 'the Comforter', from the Gospel reading. During this service there was also a form of service for the public admission of Churchwardens and Vestry persons, as a result of the recent elections from the Easter General Vestry.

During the past month there have been a few changes taking place around St Mary's. A new noticeboard has now been installed giving details of services and the church bell, which in the past few years has only been used sporadically, has received the attention of the Rector's Churchwarden and others, and is now back in action and can be heard before worship each Sunday. A new bell ringer has also been found in Shea Drummond!

Friday 19th May was a day of much celebration in Templeberry Parish as family and friends gathered for the wedding of Amanda Lewis and Michael Carroll. The couple were married by Rev Rod Smyth assisted by Father Conor Hayes, and the soloist was Mr Liam

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Brennan as the couple left the church to the strains of 'Templederry my home.' The reception was in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh.



Amanda and Michael and their bridal party

On Sunday 28th May the Bishop came to a United Service in St Mary's at 11am, to administer the Rite of Confirmation. Parents, Godparents, family and friends gathered to support our candidates in a beautiful order of Confirmation and Sung Eucharist, including a setting of 'O God, you search me and you know me,' based on Psalm 139 by Bernadette Farrell. The pupils of St Mary's School also contributed to the beauty of the service as they sang, 'He's got the whole world in His hands.' We congratulate our candidates, Ciara Drummond and Colin Walsh, who, as part of their preparation over the past number of months, have also been training to be Servers at the Eucharist. We look forward to their ministry in this role as they take up a new role of responsibility in the life and worship of our parishes.

Congratulations to Robbie and Sharon Nevin whose son Jack Robert was baptised in St Mary's, Nenagh, on Sunday 14th May.

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

A Funeral service was held for Elizabeth Stephens on the 22nd of April. It was led by the Revd. Rod Smyth of the Nenagh Union of Parishes. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

May Chambers passed away peacefully on the 2nd of May after a long illness. Although resident at Roscrea, she was from Ballingarry and the funeral service was held on the 5th of May at Ballingarry Church of Ireland. Thank you to Revd. Jane Galbraith for sharing in the service and our sincere condolences to May's family.

After a short illness, Marion Stephens passed away on the 14th of May. We extend our condolences to her family at this time. She was a member of the Borrisokane parish, but was her wish to be buried in her home town of Castlemaine. Thank you to Revd. Jim Stephens for helping with the arrangements and conducting the service, along with Canon Bertie Kingston who paid a fitting tribute.

Robert (Bobby) Powell passed away peacefully on the 17th May. His funeral was held at Borrisnafarney, Church of Ireland on the 20th May. Loved and respected by all who knew him he will be missed, but we find comfort in the words of Scripture and the promise of eternal life.

Congratulations to Mervyn and Emma Dennison upon the occasion of the baptism of Thomas on the 7th of May at the parish of Borrisokane. It was a lovely opportunity for all of us to share in this service with them and their families.

The Confirmation Service for the Borrisokane and Cloughjordan Group of Parishes was held at St Kieran's in Cloughjordan on the 14th May at 10.30. The following candidates were confirmed Laoise Gaffney, Josh Caplice, Emma Dunne, Ross Austin, Ava Brophy, Tom Larke, Robyn Fitzgerald, Michael Harding, Lisa Mooney, Andrew Hayes, Alastair Grant, Hannah Austin, Adam Clayton and Anna Harding. (Left to right in the photo).



Bishop Kenneth and Rev Terry with the confirmation group



Emma with her great grandmother, Rebecca Johnston, her grandmother, Daphne Powell and her Mum Amanda Dunne

Well done to all of you and thank you to Bishop Kenneth for leading the service and sharing in Holy Communion. Indeed we were reminded of the privilege we have in sharing in this meal with our Lord and one another, every time we celebrate communion.

It was a joy to see the church overflowing as family and friend came out in support of the confirmands. May you all continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Borrisnafarney Church of Ireland will be holding their Annual Sale at the hall in Moneygall on the 15th July. It will start at 5pm and will have a wide variety of items on sale, tasty snacks and tea, as well as lucky draws. Your support for this fundraiser will be appreciated.

St Kieran's Cloughjordan will be holding a Fete and Fun Day on the afternoon of the 18th of June. There will be items for sale, activities for the children, as well as the wheel of fortune.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (On sick leave)

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

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

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly

Phone: 05791 35341: email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

PARISH FETES

Shinrone Dog Show & Fete will be held at Cloughmoyle School on Saturday, 10th June, beginning at 12.30 p.m.

Aghancon Fete will be held at the Community Hall on Sunday, 2nd July

Dunkerrin Fete & Dog Show will be held on the 16th July starting at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATION.

Five young people have put themselves forward for confirmation this year. On the 23rd April, Holly Talbot was been confirmed in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, and on the 14th May Emma Dunne was confirmed in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan, We look forward to the Confirmation service for Andrew Armstrong, Alex Mooney and Cian Sheppard in St. Brendan's Church, Birr on the 18th June at 11.30 a.m. Classes will be held in Birr Rectory on the 27th May and 10th June. They are all wished every blessing as they embark on their journey in faith.

MOTHERS' UNION

The outing to Clonohill Gardens, Coorain, takes place on Saturday, 17th June.

EMBRACE FARM

The annual National Embrace FARM ecumenical service to remember loved ones who have died or suffered injury on the farms of Ireland will be held in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix on Sunday 25th June at 2.00 p.m. All are welcome.

GENERAL SYNOD was held in Limerick this year. It was a welcome change for members from around the Dioceses who usually have to travel long distances to attend. It also made it possible for those who wished to come as visitors. The opening service in St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday morning was a beautiful and very fitting start to proceedings.

CHRISTIAN AID Andrew Coleman travelled from Bandon to attend the service of Morning Prayer in Kinnitty when parishioners from the four churches in the Group came together for the fifth Sunday in April. He gave an illustrated talk on their ongoing work with refugees and was able to stay for a cup of tea and to meet with everyone. The collection of €500 has been sent to Christian Aid and acknowledged.



*John Reid, Andrew Coleman, Iris Peavoy & Alan Armstrong
at the Christian Aid talk in Kinnitty*

PASTORAL. Those who are ill at home or in hospital, the housebound and those who care for them, continue to be remembered in prayer. We also remember those who are bereaved.

PLOUGH SUNDAY

There was a lovely turn out for the blessing of the plough and the seed in Aghancon Community Hall on the 21st May. Thank you to Laura Grant, ploughing champion, for bringing her tractor and plough. It's good when friends and neighbours can come together and share something in common. A sincere word of thanks to all who made it happen, especially the Kinsella family who provided music afterwards. The next occasion to meet will be on the 18th June at 3.30 p.m. when Adrian Hewson will talk about the history of the locality and looks forward to hearing what others have to say!



The attentive crowd, including Fr Brady, listening to the Kinsella Family

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

NO NOTES SUPPLIED - REV BOB HANNA IS UNWELL.

Editor: The Newslink team wish Rev Bob Hanna a speedy recovery.

Miscellaneous observations from modern life

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes? Come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and am now the proud owner of Aisle 4.

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built's?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?

If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

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

Editor: Thanks to Robert Cooke for collating these notes during Rev John's sick leave. We are delighted to learn that he is now well enough to get out and about.

Our deepest sympathies are with the clergy and parishioners of St Michael's Parish Ballinasloe on the death of Father Dan O'Donovan at the end of April. Father Dan blessed the lives of so many people through his ministry in Garbally College and in the town and hospital in Ballinasloe, where he was actively serving until a few short weeks before his death. He will be most sorely missed.

Congratulations to Laura Wakefield and her fiancée William on their recent engagement. We wish them every blessing as they prepare for their wedding next year.

Our Rector has been on sick leave with a serious viral illness since before Easter. We are glad to see him returning to health and were pleased to see him resume normal parish duties in time for the Feast of the Ascension. Sincere thanks go to all who have ensured the smooth running of the parish over the last number of weeks. We are most grateful to the clergy who have helped to cover Sunday services, including Dean Maurice Sirr, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Reverend Janet White-Spunner and Reverend Michael Godfrey. Similarly, our heartfelt thanks go to the clergy team who have provided a continuity of chaplaincy and pastoral cover throughout the Rector's absence - Canon Trevor Sullivan and Reverend Patrick Towers.

As always, we are all deeply indebted to the unsung heroes who keep the show on the road, not only at times like this, but all year round, including parish readers, churchwardens, organists, parish secretaries, treasurers, vestry persons and all who dedicate their prayer and energy to the life of the parish.



Michael Hyde

This year's Easter Vestries, chaired by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, were an opportunity for us to give thanks for the selfless generosity of all who serve the parish on our Select Vestries. Their dedication and devotion is the dynamo which drives forward our community of faith. This Easter we gave special thanks for the remarkable contributions of two very special people. The Creagh Parish Union celebrated an incredible 30 years of service by Penny Kearney, as she prepared to step down from

her roles as parish Secretary and Treasurer. Meanwhile the Aughrim Parish Union expressed their heartfelt thanks to Michael Hyde for a lifetime of service there, not least in the roles of Group Treasurer and Glebe Warden. Our love and blessings are with them both.

In May, Galway County Council awarded Ardrahan Church a grant under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme towards a scheme of works on the church windows, which are in very poor condition, with extensive rotting, corrosion, cracking and decay. Repair of the windows is essential for the weatherproofing and proper ventilation of the church. Whilst all ten windows are in need of repair, we are currently aiming to repair the three worst affected windows. In order to make this possible, the parish has undertaken a number of fundraising initiatives over the last two months, including a clothing collection on April 2nd, a Sale of Work in Kinvarra on April 22nd and on May 27th a fundraising concert in the church - Tales and Tunes - which entertained us with a miscellany of poetry and prose with musical interludes. We are most grateful for all who worked so hard to make those events so successful and wish to thank all who have offered their time, talents and money in support of this good cause. Further donations are most welcome!



Ardrahan Church windows are in need of repair

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

ERROR DETECTION

Last month several people in the parish received their Newslink with the pages of the Clonfert Group news missing. Certain of you, mostly those in Eyrecourt received a full set. I guess those of you who received a blemished copy will see its value increase in the spirit of "The Wicked Bible" of 1631 which ran a print of several copies of the Bible where the key word "not" was omitted from the Ten Commandments thus giving a reading of "Thou shalt commit adultery". The extant copies are now very rare though occasionally one might catch a display of one. In the case of the "Wicked Bible", the Publishers were summoned before the Star Chamber and an exceedingly large fine was imposed. King Charles was outraged, far more than he was when he subsequently lost his head. Good practice: regarding the former rather than the latter!

ERROR CORRECTION

People in Eyrecourt will let you, the deprived of the parishes, read the intact edition of April's Newslink. A copy of which is on display in the Eyrecourt Library which retains all the data necessary to research the advertised vacancy of the Clonfert Group. The notorious blemished version of the same can be viewed on Tuesdays only.

"Nothing ever happens...nothing happens at all" is that amazing song by Del Amitri and you might think after last month's unlinking Newslink that it is the ballad that captures most succinctly the blithe spirit of our Parish Group. Well 'tis far from the truth. Maureen Moss and John Counihan's marriage was blessed in lovely Portumna. Theirs was a more unusual marriage in that bride and groom were in that age category, as indeed I am, of being 'senior citizens'. Lights, camera, action: Carrie-Anne Moss in the Matrix trilogy? No! Maureen Moss in 'Portumna Paradise'. Their pictures were in the previous, but intact, edition, and in Grazia.

SUMMER IS COMING

We will meet in Portumna for a Summer Evensong in Portumna at 3.30pm on June 4th. The Churchyard is so attractive and easy to walk around, especially as the graves are all so identifiable. Maybe we can enjoy the Service, afternoon cream teas and wander thru the sacred spaces and find ourselves in touch with our Celtic roots.

BAPTISM. In Clonfert Cathedral. We look forward to receiving Fletcher Johnston-Cooke into Christ's Church at 12 noon on Saturday June 3rd. Another fine area in which to stroll after leaving the ancient Church of St Brendan. I think a Group of Americans led by an Episcopalian Priest might be hoping to visit and to celebrate the Eucharist there. Maybe the Bishop might be free to join them and us. More details later.

Another American was a very welcome visitor to the ancient cathedral, a lovely young lady from a protestant church, Marilyn Burns of Michigan, USA, joined with a Darren Mooney from Dublin at Clonfert Cathedral and had their marriage blessed by the Reverend Trevor Sullivan as shown in the picture taken by Mrs Olive Kenny on her Hasselbad H5D-50 fashion camera. Trevor's gown is more voluminous than the bride's but her smile beats his.



MEDICAL NEWS

It is as I write good to recall that those who were indisposed on account of a medical condition are all now well-disposed or well on the way. Alleluia.

But to anyone who reads these notes and feels I am unaware of your misfortune let me reassure you that I shall be informed soon and you will be in the heart of our parish prayers.

CHEERFULNESS

Whilst it would be presumptuous of me to record that everyone is in such a state, I do think most of you are blessed with a good measure of the said state. And I give thanks for your continual expression of it.

Editor: Deliberate errors duly corrected.

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50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061 302 038, Mob: 086 357 4917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENT:

26th April - Vera Fenton - Our deepest sympathy to her son Ewan, grandchildren Sarah, Ewan and David, together with their wider family circle and friends. Vera was a founder member of The Thursday Club.

2nd May - Amanda Armstrong - our deepest sympathy to her husband Cian, her mother Carol and grandmother Sophia.

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

On Saturday 6th of May a Memorial Service was held in St. Michael's for Glenys Molina-Walsh, sister of Vivienne, Carol, Bronwen and Lyned. Glenys died in Switzerland on 1st April.

BAPTISM:

On Sunday 7th May, Aria Bowman was baptized in St. Mary's Cathedral. Our congratulations to her parents, Jamie and Ralene.



Aria Bowman with her parents

On Sunday 21st May, Robyn Wakely Devereux was baptized in St. Mary's Cathedral. Our congratulations to her parents, Darren and Jenny and her grandmother, Revd Edna.

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS:

At the Thursday Eucharist, 18th May, in St. Mary's Cathedral - Kevin and Mary Beth Neyland renewed their marriage vows on the 30th anniversary of their wedding. Mary Beth and Kevin came to us from New York.

CONGRATULATIONS

Amy and Peter Hayes are delighted to welcome baby Ruadh, born on 16th May, a beautiful brother to Conall and Donagh and a new grandson for Joe and Lucy Kavanagh.

Villiers Housing Association has a vacant apartment at Villiers Square, Church Street, Limerick. Application can be made by phoning (087)2745924 or email: villiers.square@gmail.com for an application form. Villiers Square provides secure and pleasant housing for the elderly.

ABINGTON CHURCH

On June 24th at 2pm there will be a history lecture (talk and walk) centred on Bishop John Jebb and his time in Abington and on the following day the annual bring and share parish picnic takes place in the church grounds after HC service at 12 noon.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir is making a return trip to Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford on Saturday 10th June for a special Three Choirs Concert (at 7.30pm). St Mary's choir was last in Waterford in 2013, and this trip marks the third annual collaboration between the three Church of Ireland cathedral choirs of Kilkenny, Waterford and our own St Mary's choir.

THE ORTHODOX SPIRIT - this is to be a return by the prestigious Chamber Choir Ireland to give a special recital of music from the Russian Orthodox Church, encompassing music from 17th to 21st centuries. Thursday 22nd June at 8pm - further details and tickets from the Lime Tree Theatre. <https://www.limetreetheatre.ie/show/the-orthodox-spirit/>

On Sunday 25th June at 7pm the Cathedral Choir will be singing evensong in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, by kind invitation of the Rector, Revd Canon Jane Galbraith. Jane is of course a former Curate of Limerick City Parish, and was installed as Canon Treasurer of the United Chapter earlier this year. All are most welcome at this special evensong for St John the Baptist (whose feast day is the day before).

Plans are already in hand for the next Three Choirs concert (for summer 2018) which will take place here in Limerick in honour of the 850th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's Cathedral. More on all that anon!

STATE EXAMINATIONS: Wednesday 7th of June is the start of the Leaving and Junior Certificate. We wish all students from the parish the best of luck and hope the papers will be kind to them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. We wish them all a happy and safe summer break.

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

BAPTISMS

It has been a month of baptisms in the Adare Parish, thanks be to God. At the time of this writing, two infants have been welcomed into the household of Christ. By the time this issue appears, a third will also will have been baptised, but we will announce it in the July/August issue.

On 7 May, Lily Pearl Clarke was baptised. Lily is the daughter of Thomas and Karen Clarke, and the granddaughter of James and Meriel Clarke.



Lily reaches for her baptismal candle!

On 14 May, India Catherine Nancy Johnson was baptised. India is the daughter of Duncan and Ana Johnson, and the granddaughter of Lady Geraldine Dunraven and the late Thady Wyndham-Quin, Earl of Dunraven.

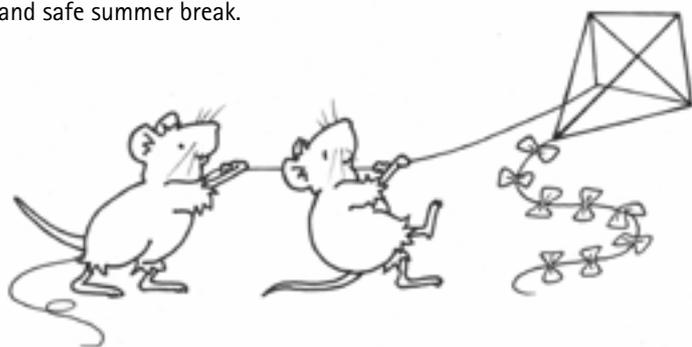
We were delighted to celebrate with both Lily and India, their parents, grandparents, godparents, and all the family and friends who came to be with them.

GENERAL SYNOD

A number of our parishioners were excited by the presence of the meeting of General Synod on 4-6 May right down the road in the South Court Hotel. Some visited for part or all of the three days, taking advantage of the occasion to witness how the General Synod operates. A number of people helped out at the Welcome Booth, which had been put together by Kieron Brislane. Thank you to all who helped at the booth and showed hospitality to the visitors who travelled to Limerick for the Synod meeting.

READER COMMISSIONING

Two new Parish Readers will be commissioned on the Day of Pentecost at St. Nicholas, Adare: John Scanlan and Kevin de Burca Murphy. John and Kevin have been in training with the Rev. Liz Beasley, Rector and Warden of Readers, for about a year and a half. John also had previous training, and both have been helping out in worship in various ways. We ask for prayers for John and Kevin as they prepare to take up this service to the Church in a formal way.



GARDEN FETE

St. Nicholas, Adare, will be the site this year of the annual Adare Village Garden Fete on Sunday, 11th June from 12 noon until 6 pm. Usually it is held on the grounds of the girls' school, but construction prevents that possibility this year. We are gearing up to welcome vendors and visitors alike to our grounds. Thanks to Janet Bray for being the Chair of the event, and to all those who are helping in the preparations.

GREENWICH ACADEMY CHOIR CONCERT

As part of a concert tour of Ireland, the Greenwich Academy Madrigal Singers, from Connecticut in the USA, will offer a concert on Monday evening, 19 June, at 8.00pm at St. Nicholas, Adare. The programme will include a variety of sacred and secular works, including pieces by Mendelssohn, Rutter, and Elton John! The concert is free, but a retiring collection will be taken in aid of the restoration of this 700-year-old former Augustinian abbey. All are welcome!

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

At the end of April, the fifth Sunday in the month was marked with a group celebration of the Eucharist in Castletown Church, with everyone invited back afterwards to the home of Jackie and Victor Gardiner. It was a joyful afternoon, and it was possible to on the shores of the Shannon Estuary at Beagh that summer truly was about to begin.

Earlier in April, the Easter Vestries for the four parishes took place over three consecutive evenings in the Rectory in Askeaton. The following office-holders were elected:

Parish Secretaries: Mrs Susan Shorten, Rathkeale; Mrs Raylene Downes, Castletown; Mrs Anne Drew, Askeaton; Mrs Margaret Fitzell.

Parish Treasurers: Mrs Jennifer Shorten, Rathkeale; Mr Thomas Downes, Castletown; Mr Ralph Drew, Askeaton; Ms Nikki O'Mahony, Kilnaughtin; Mr Victor Gardiner (group Treasurer).

Diocesan Synod members: Colonel Edward Buckingham, Mr Victor Gardiner, Mrs Hilary White, Mr Joseph Gleeson.

Diocesan Synod Supplementalists: Mr Niall West, Mr Declan Shier, Mr Donagh O'Grady, Mr Erick Parkinson,

Parochial Nominators: Mr Niall West, Mrs Hilary West, Mr Victor Gardiner, Mr Eric Parkinson.

Parochial Nominators (Supplemental): Colonel Edward Buckingham, Mr Donagh O'Grady, Mrs Raylene Downes, Mr Joseph Gleeson.

Churchwardens: Mrs Ann Drew and Mr Simon White (Askeaton), Mr Declan Shier and Mr David Downes (Castletown), Mr Alan Fitzell and Mr Eric Parkinson (Kilnaughtin), Mr Niall West and Mrs Daphne Casey (Rathkeale).

The Easter Vestries also agreed to change the times of Sunday services to 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEKS ARE:

4 June (Pentecost): 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin; Pentecost Day Holy Communion in both churches.

11 June (Trinity Sunday): 9.30, Castletown Church, Morning Prayer; 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.

18 June: 9.30, Saint Mary's, Askeaton, Morning Prayer; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion; 4 p.m., Confirmation in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.

25 June: 9.30, Castletown Church, Holy Communion; 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, Morning Prayer.

GENERAL SYNOD:

Many parishioners turned up during the three-day meeting of the General Synod in Limerick on 4-6 May in the South Court Hotel.

This was the first time the General Synod met in Limerick, and there was an opportunity to showcase both the diocese and this group of parishes to the wider church when Patrick Comerford and David Breen spoke to a packed synod about the work of the Rathkeale Pre-Social Cohesion Project.

SYMPATHY:

Clive Patrick Killick died on 3 May, and his funeral took place on Monday 8 May in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, where his son Paul is buried. Clive is survived by his wife Gill, his son David, daughter Andy, sister Teresa, daughter-in-law Becky, son-in-law Con, grandchildren Kevin and his partner Sarah, Roisin and her partner Tom, Conor and Emma. And great-grandchildren Noah and Jacob, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

MEETINGS IN JUNE:

The school Board of Management meets at 5.30 p.m. on Monday 19 June. The Diocesan Synod meets in Villiers School, Limerick, on Saturday 24 June.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Jim Stephens,

St. John's Rectory, Ashe St., Tralee, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

Email: tralee@ireland.anglican.org

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

Date	Ballyseedy 9.45 am	Tralee 10.45 am	Ballymac 12 noon	Kilgobbin 10.00 am	Dingle 12 noon	Killiney 7.00pm
4/6	HC	HC	MP	HC	HC	
11/6	HC	MP	HC	HC	HC	
18/6	MP	HC	HC	HC	HC	
25/6	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: The next prayer meeting will be on Tuesday 6th June at 8.00pm in Teach an tSolais. Please remember to write the names of anyone in need of prayer in the books provided for each church. All are welcome to join us for this short service followed by light refreshments.

FEILE NA BEALTAINNE: A service mainly spoken in Irish was held in St. James, Dingle as part of the Feile na Bealtaine celebrations. We were delighted to welcome Canon George Salter once again to preside at the service. The lesson was read in Irish by Micheal O'Se, Revd. Phyllis preached, and the prayers were beautifully led in Irish by Niamh and Aiofe Gascoigne. Following the service we enjoyed a bring and share lunch in the Ventry Community Centre. The afternoon continued with a glorious drive around Sleah Head, seeking the answers to clues set by Eric and Eleanor Prestage,

and culminated with welcome refreshments at An Bothar, whilst checking the answers to the questions. Congratulations to the winners – the 'Gascoigne Team'!



Feile na Bealtaine Service in St James' Dingle with Canon George Salter.

CONFIRMATION: Samantha Knightly and Michael Prendergast were confirmed by Bishop Kenneth on Sunday 7th May at Ballymacelligott Church, Tralee. It was a happy occasion with the Sunday School singing 'This is the day that the Lord has made', and school friends Rachel and Shonagh Griffin, delighted everyone with their flute duets during the service.



Samantha and Michael with Bishop Kenneth.

FUND-RAISING CONCERT: The fund-raising concert which was held in St. John's, Tralee on 30th April was a huge success. Thanks for the traditional music provided by The O'Sheas and the wonderful choral works provided by Kerry Choral Union, including the Junior Choir, and to our entertaining Master of Ceremonies, Sean Lyons. We are indebted to the hard work provided by Mona Butler and her team and are pleased to report a net-profit of €3,500, was added to the Restoration Fund. Our grateful thanks to all who supported the event.

REV JIM STEPHENS: We continue to hold Rev. Jim and his family in prayer, as final preparations are put in place for his Service of Welcome on Saturday 27th May, at 7.30pm.

Circle us, Lord, with your love,
be the warmth seen in our smile;

Circle us, Lord, with your peace,
be the calm within our hearts;

Circle us, Lord, with your joy,
be the song we choose to sing;

Circle us, Lord, with your arms,
be the life we choose to live.

Amen.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Few of my generation will fail to remember the Alice Cooper 1972 classic "School's Out" as we kicked off into the real world. In hindsight; maybe we were a bit hasty! But for the children and mentors at St Mary's the summer break from Sunday School will be welcome and let's hope the children get the weather they deserve this year. However, one of the stallworths of youth leadership in the church is calling time on her involvement with Sunday School after 30 years of service. Lynda O'Connor is taking a well-earned break and we will certainly have our work cut out to replace her. On behalf of the hundreds of children and parents that Lynda has tutored and mentored over the years, can I say a very humble thank you from all of us.

CONCERTS:

While the concert season is going very well it was our pleasure to attend Killarney House on Sunday May 21st for the launch of this year's Spraoi Chiarrai. This annual series of concerts is held across a few venues around the county, but it's spiritual home is St Mary's which hosts four concerts by Tim O'Shea and Friends each year. Check future editions of Newslink for times and dates for these concerts which should not be missed.



Killarney Summer Concerts - Spraoi Chiarrai.

ST MARY'S ROSTER:

Being conscious of the fact that over 40,000 people visit the church each year every effort is made to have the church and grounds as presentable as possible. Unfortunately time pressure sometimes prevents those who intended turning up making it and the vacuuming, weeding, etc., doesn't get done which can leave visitors wondering if there's a lack of respect by the congregation for the place. With that in mind, it's been decided to set up a rota for the second Saturday of each month to involve as many as possible who have an hour or so to contribute. This will be followed by a coffee and scone at a nearby café, so it's a great chance for newcomers to become more involved and for the incumbent congregation to show them a welcome in a relaxed social atmosphere. Cleaning Day starts on June 10th at 10:30am with everyone asked to make the effort to get this off the ground.

BEST WISHES TO OUR FRIEND:

Jim Stephens takes over as Priest-in-Charge of St John's in Tralee shortly following a Service of Welcome. Jim has preached in St Mary's many times and Tralee is very lucky to have a man of such outstanding theological and ecumenical talent to take up the reins. We wish Jim well in his latest challenge and hope and pray that both he and the congregation at St John's will benefit greatly from his ministry.

IS THERE ANY END.....?

Just when we thought everything was under control and it was time to take off the overalls, we're starting all over again. Now that the roof, the railings, the wiring, the grounds, etc. are completed, the Select Vestry have decided we need to get really stuck in good and proper. This time it's the internal plaster that requires attention. Because the efforts to control moisture ingress from outside have been so successful, the inside is now drying out apace. Unfortunately, moisture has a bonding effect and some of the plaster is now so dry that it's beginning to 'powder' and flake off. We will be doing sample works in various parts of the church to address this in the coming months. Ultimately it is hoped that all of the affected areas will be reconditioned and..... guess what? Correct! We'll be moving on to the full internal re-painting. I may already have asked, but; 'is there any end to?'

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

For information, contact Archdeacon Simon Lumby.

Mob: 086 870 3997

Email: archdeacon@limeirck.anglican.org

Web: kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

CONFIRMATION:

We welcomed Bishop Kenneth to the parish on the 7th May for our confirmation service in St Michael's, Killorglin.

The candidates participated in the liturgy, preparing the Holy Table, reading the lessons, singing the opening hymn and bringing up the offertory.

The music group from Kiltallagh National School participated in the liturgy, Many thanks to the Principal Bean Ni Bhriain and to Mrs Deirdre O Sullivan for all that they contributed to the preparations and to the service.

Congratulations to Elva Clendennen, Gavin Boyle, Robert Brookes, We were also joined by Naomi Moore from Killarney parish for her confirmation. She was joined by her Rector Archdeacon Simon Lumby.



St Michael's Confirmation 2017

Congratulations to Killian Spillane who was confirmed with his classmates in St James Church in April and to Gareth Dowd from Kiltallagh NS who was confirmed in Miltown Church.

EASTER VESTRY:

A new vestry was elected on the 23rd April. New members include Pam Byrne and Cyril Wharton.

We say farewell to Maureen Corcoran our outgoing treasurer. Maureen served as Treasurer for twenty five years. The position of treasurer is a demanding one as it involves more than just accounting for the

collection and the sustentation. It includes responsibility for ensuring that the insurance, water and electricity bills are paid. That rents are paid or collected, that donations to charities are accounted for together with many other random tasks that fall into the lap of the treasurer. As parishioners we really appreciate all that Maureen has done for the parish during those very busy twenty five years.

We also say thanks to Eric Champ who stepped off the vestry after thirty five years of generous, committed and loyal service. Eric is a great example to us. He gave a lot of time to vestry business, giving much thought to those items that were on the business agenda. Thankfully Eric will continue to contribute to the life of the parish as a Lay Reader.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Kevin Brookes who has qualified as a pilot after nearly two years of intensive training and preparation.

SYMPATHY:

We extend our sympathy to the family of the late Marion Stephens, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary and formerly of Kilderry, Miltown. Marion was the much loved wife of Tommy and mother of Pearl, Valerie and Trevor. We also extend our sympathy to her brothers Willie and Sam O Neill who live on the family farm at Kilderry, and to her sister Frances Kingston and family in Longford.

Marion's funeral service took place in Kiltallagh Church and burial was in the family plot in Kilcolman Churchyard in Miltown. The service was conducted by the Rev Jim Stephens, He was assisted by Marion's brother in law, Canon Bertie Kingston and the Rev Terry Mitchell, Rector of Cloughjordan Parish in Co Tipperary.

While Marion, Tommy and family have lived happily in Tipperary for most of their adult lives, the draw of the kingdom was strong and their hearts were also very much in Kerry. It was her wish that her funeral service and burial would take place in the parish of her birth.

A WORD OF THANKS FROM REV JIM

I would like to say thanks as I leave Kilcolman Union and prepare to begin full time ministry in the Tralee and Dingle Union of Parishes. It is a big change for me as I leave the parish that I know and love so much. While I have served and assisted in all of the parishes in Kerry, Kilcolman Union is my home. It has given me so much over the years. Everything I learned about ministry, I learned in Kilcolman Union.

It has been a privilege to officiate at so many services through all the changing scenes of life, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. It has been an immense honour to have been part of so many important occasions in the lives of parishioners, such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. I loved leading the many all age services that involved children from the Sunday School down through the years. I always enjoyed visiting homes and hopefully I will have more time for this now that ministry will be my fulltime job.

I wish to say thanks for the gifts that were presented to me after the confirmation service in Killorglin. I really appreciate them and the effort and thought that went into them. Many Thanks.



Presentation to Rev Jim on leaving Killorglin

KILTALLAGH CYCLE:

A fund raising cycle for Kiltallagh National School was held on the 20th May. Well done to the team who organised the event. A special word of credit must go to Peter Clendennen who spear headed the programme with the assistance of big team of volunteers who ran a well organised cycle around the roads of Mid Kerry.

The Cycle was followed by a Bar-B-Que, refreshments and children's entertainment in the School grounds. It is hoped that this will be first of many cycles.

COVER IN THE PARISH.

Archdeacon Simon Lumby will have oversight of the parish until a new Priest is appointed. The Very Revd Roman Roldan who is on sabbatical from the Diocese of Louisiana in ECUSA will provide Sunday cover for Kilcolman Union for ten weeks beginning on the 28th May. The Wests are accommodating him and his family at the Caravan Park. The Very Revd John Bond will provide Sunday cover for the last two weeks in August.

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

The Churches in South-West Kerry have two congregations. The 'regulars' – those who are blessed to live on or near the Wild Atlantic Way – are a family throughout the year, as members of a local parish church. But from now until Autumn, we have another congregation. At the same time as the swallows soar in from Africa, we welcome visitors from around the world. Just as the arrival of the swallows is a relief and a joy to all who are cursed by the Kerry Midges, so too are the human visitors, bringing much needed economic benefits to our towns and villages. But seeing more money in our collection plates is only a part (and a relatively unimportant part, actually) of the contribution that tourists bring to our Summer Services. While they might not be a part of the local congregation, they are part of the one Church, sharing our faith and offering praise, worship and thanksgiving to the Lord of whose body we are a part. We hear their stories of the countries and congregations they call home, share our own history and traditions, learn from each other and are enriched and encouraged in our ministry; and for me, as they describe what

they have seen of the beauty of God's creation in this place, they act as a reminder that I should never take the hills, lakes, forests, rivers and the majesty of the sea for granted. Given all those, I'll put up with the midges. (And the Campervans...)

STOP PRESS

As the Newlink copy deadline flies past, we haven't time to mention any detail of our Celebration Service for the 130th anniversary of the Mother's Union in Ireland. Watch this space for next month's issue! But for the moment at least, here's a picture of our new MU banner.



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

In April our MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland) group had our annual outing to Ballymorris Pottery (see photo). We normally meet once a month during the winter months with different speakers and activities. How lovely it is to meet together to hear God's word spoken into our lives, and how great it is to talk and laugh with one another as we discovered that no matter how uncreative we thought we were, with a little bit of help, we were all able to produce something that we were all pleased to bring home.



Adare & Ballingrane MWI

June is a busy month for us on the circuit. We begin with our annual Open Air Service, held where John Wesley is reported to have preached in the 18th century, on the Adare Manor Golf Course. No golf available on the morning of Tuesday, the 6th of June, but come and join us as we worship God as so many did so long ago (service starts at 11:30 am). We have a Sunday School outing to Fota Wild Life Park on the 10th, the MWI service (which the women will organise and lead) on the 18th, and the Sunday School service (where our children will take part) on the 25th. It is wonderful to see God using, in a different way than usual, His people in worship of Him.

This is also the month of our annual conference, this year held in Trinity Methodist Church, Lisburn. Please pray for us as a denomination as we continue to seek God's will for us.

SERVICES FOR JUNE:

4th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Holy communion
10th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Saturday evening service @ 8 p.m. Ballingrane
11th	Rev. Ruth Watt	@ 11 a.m. in Adare
18th	Miss. Wanda Hogan	United MWI Service: Ballingrane @ 11am
25th	Rev. Ruth Watt	United Sunday School Service: Adare @ 11am

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

We're delighted to be back in CB1. The dry rot is gone and the new stairs and exit are in place. When Central Buildings was built in 1938 there was no connection at all between the two buildings so the church and church rooms have never been directly accessible from Central Buildings. This is our first step in making that connection. The next part of the plan is on hold till we raise some more funds – a lot more funds!

Our first exhibition in the refurbished space was from local community art groups who are supported by the LCETB and tutored by Paul Quane. Patrick spoke at the launch and reminded us all that as a community project our tagline is Connecting Community Life. This was very much mirrored by the exhibition and gathering that day; the art was drawing people together, some who already knew each other but also people who were now meeting for the first time around a common interest, in a community space. As I've mentioned before we have our own community art group that meets each week. It is a very diverse group indeed but the members have become great friends. Paul is extremely good at creating a gentle environment where people can improve their skills, enjoy exploring their creativity and get to know each other at their own pace.



Launch of Art Exhibition



Sheena at launch of Art Exhibition

Our Parent and Toddler Group had a great time in May with a bring and share food morning. Many different nationalities are represented in the group and the idea was to bring some food that was particular to your own country. There was a delicious smell as you walked up the stairs that day. It's amazing how food brings people together.

On that note we've made a start on our new project with Donnah from Knockalisheen. We've been really blessed with help from Ennis Soroptomists and Sally and Ean from Zest. I'm sure many of you will know Zest cafes and food lines. We've decided to call the venture Now We're Cookin'! Donnah and friends will be cooking in Christ Church kitchen and hosting meals for a variety of folk. In direct provision there generally isn't the opportunity for residents to cook their own food so this is a way of responding to that situation.

We're looking forward to having the Lake Grove Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir with us to participate in our Sunday Service on 18th June at 11.30am – all welcome to come and enjoy the music!

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.



Bring and Share lunch

On Wednesday evening of Holy Week 30 people gathered in Killarney church to listen to Phil & Sam Meadows from inspiremovement.org give a presentation on meeting in small fellowship bands. This was preceded by a wonderful bring and share meal with an abundance of food. Check out their website for more information.

The Midlands and Southern District of the Methodist Women in Ireland hosted their annual weekend conference from 5th – 7th May in the Castlerosse Hotel Killarney. The guest speaker was Shirley Alexander and the theme was 'Living in Freedom'.

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

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

Over the last few months, we have been counting blessings and God continues to provide them. We have been blessed with two weddings over the last several weeks: Simon Crawford, the son of Miriam and Cyril Crawford from Borrisokane Church, married Maeve Davoren in St. Bridget's Church, Corofin, Co. Clare, on Friday 21st April. We rejoice with them as they enter into this covenant of life-long love and devotion.



Mark and Hollie with Fr Pat Lombard from Sligo, and Rev Shannon DeLaureal following their wedding in Cashel Cathedral.JPG

On Saturday 6th May, Hollie Hastings, daughter of Ivan and Lynda Hastings from Roscrea Church, married Mark Cunningham from Sligo in St. John's Cathedral in Cashel. We give thanks to God that they have joined their lives as husband and wife. May God richly bless both of these couples in their new life together.

As I prepare this article, there is great sadness across our circuit. Long-time church member, Local Preacher, and Cloughjordan Community Choir member, James Armitage of Rathmore, Borrisokane passed away quite unexpectedly on Saturday 21st May. We plan to give thanks to God for James' life-long love and witness to Christ and his church with special services. Please hold his family, his fiancé Marjorie, and the wider circle of friends in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our circuit thanks everyone who supported our fundraising concert with Simon Casey on Friday 19th May. Proceeds will benefit our circuit and N. Tipperary Hospice. Noel Joyce, from Clonmore, shared several humorous recitations. Simon along with his musicians, Paul Skelton and Patrick Fitzpatrick, performed and sang brilliantly. Overall, it was an uplifting night for so many.

June blessings,
~ Rev. Shannon

ST. CRONAN'S BB – The Company will have their final meeting of the term on Sunday 11th June from 12-3pm at the Laois Angling Centre. Fishing and BBQ is a great way to begin the summer!

COFFEE MORNING – Everyone's welcome to a summertime coffee morning on Friday 23rd June from 10:30-12pm in Roscrea Church in aid of Peter McVerry Trust for the homeless.

OPEN-AIR SERVICE – All are invited to an open-air service on Sunday 25th June at 3:30pm on the green at St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. This will be a service of praise and inspiration. All are welcome.

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 theater. 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 Email: info@weareuplift.com. Website: www.weareuplift.com



"It's most kind of the church to donate these things but I wish they'd check there wasn't anything left inside, first!"

Evelyn Underhill - Mystical writer of the 20th century



For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died 75 years ago this month (10th June 1941) after a life full of remarkable achievements: poet, novelist and mystic, author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to Church of England clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of

the first woman theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican – with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the 'still desert' of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation". Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

To give you a flavour of her writing, here is a quotation from her book 'Practical Mysticism – A Little Book for Normal People', first published in 1914, but still available on Amazon as a paperback or e-book:

"Eternity is with us, inviting our contemplation perpetually, but we are too frightened, lazy, and suspicious to respond; too arrogant to still our thought, and let divine sensation have its way. It needs industry and goodwill if we would make that

transition; for the process involves a veritable spring-cleaning of the soul, a turning-out and rearrangement of our mental furniture, a wide opening of closed windows, that the notes of the wild birds beyond our garden may come to us fully charged with wonder and freshness, and drown with their music the noise of the gramophone within. Those who do this, discover that they have lived in a stuffy world, whilst their inheritance was a world of morning-glory: where every tit-mouse is a celestial messenger, and every thrusting bud is charged with the full significance of life."

Immanence by Evelyn Underhill

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Not borne on morning wings
Of majesty, but I have set My Feet
Amidst the delicate and bladed wheat
That springs triumphant in the furrowed sod.
There do I dwell, in weakness and in power;
Not broken or divided, saith our God!
In your strait garden plot I come to flower:
About your porch My Vine
Meek, fruitful, doth entwine;
Waits, at the threshold, Love's appointed hour.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Yea! on the glancing wings
Of eager birds, the softly pattering feet
Of furred and gentle beasts, I come to meet
Your hard and wayward heart. In brown bright eyes
That peep from out the brake, I stand confest.
On every nest
Where feathery Patience is content to brood
And leaves her pleasure for the high emprise
Of motherhood—
There doth My Godhead rest.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
My starry wings
I do forsake,
Love's highway of humility to take:
Meekly I fit My stature to your need.
In beggar's part
About your gates I shall not cease to plead—
As man, to speak with man—
Till by such art
I shall achieve My Immemorial Plan,
Pass the low lintel of the human heart.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

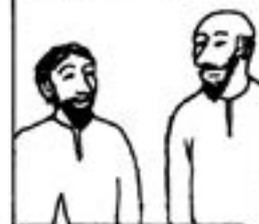


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah

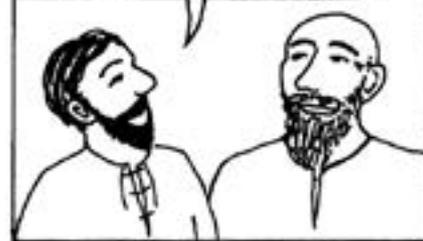


So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...



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- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

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

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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