

NEWSLINK

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

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**Bishop Kenneth and Mrs Carney
following the blessing of the GFS
Anniversary Banner**

(See pages 8 & 16)



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Bishop Kenneth writes

Dear Friends,

There's nothing like hard facts to jolt you into reality, and that's what happened me recently when I received a phone call from a journalist who wanted me to comment on the publication of preliminary results from the National Census of 2016.

If I'm honest I hadn't taken much notice until then. I remembered completing my census form along with everyone else on census night. I was also aware in recent weeks that there was a lot of media coverage of census returns with respect to housing and homelessness in the country, but beyond that I hadn't paid much attention to the census results.

The journalist's phone call and request for an interview sent me to the web to Google 'census returns – religion'. The Census office has now begun to issue preliminary figures for the 2016 National Census. The question on religion is important because it's how people describe themselves and their religious affiliation.

There's a general perception abroad that religion and religious practice in Ireland is in serious decline, and the numbers with no religion are growing rapidly. The census figures tell a more complex story.

There is decline in religious affiliation, but nothing like the numbers you might expect:

Church of Ireland membership fell by 2% since the last census in 2011, from 129,000 to 126,400 members;

Roman Catholic decline was 3.4% in the same period;

The numbers describing themselves as 'Apostolic or Pentecostal' fell by 4.9%, to 13,400.

There are significant areas of growth in religious numbers in other areas. There are now 63,400 Muslims in Ireland, a growth of 28.9%

since the last census. What surprised me is the growth in the number of Orthodox Christians in the country – at 62,200 they are also the same as the number of Muslims. In my opinion, these two figures together reflect the growth in immigration from the Middle East and Eastern Europe where Orthodox churches predominate, and African migration, many of whom are Muslim.



Another figure which surprised me was the number saying they had no religion, at just under 10% (9.8%). I had expected a much higher figure, though the number is still 3 1/2 times the number of Church of Ireland, and is growing fast.

The journalist's questions pushed me further. We live in a very mobile world, and as a church we've experienced growth in the number of Africans, especially Nigerians. That shouldn't surprise us, as the Anglican Church in Nigeria is the largest in the Anglican Communion, accounting for approximately 20% of all Anglicans worldwide.

Significant numbers of people now retire to a different country from where they worked, and we're benefitting greatly from citizens from the U.K. and Europe, especially Germany, settling in Ireland. Many are Anglicans and seek a home in the Church of Ireland.

So a fascinating picture, and I've suddenly discovered an interest in census figures! The immediate question we have to ask ourselves is how welcoming we are, and how comfortable we are with different traditions in our church? 'Not too bad', I guess is the answer, but we could do better.

We also need to counter the impression that religion in Ireland is in some sort of terminal decline – far from it, but it is a rapidly changing environment and we must learn to adapt.

Sincerely,

+ Kenneth

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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 - Ascension

Thursday 25th May is the Feast of the Ascension, a 'principal holy day' in the calendar of the Church of Ireland, on which the BCP says 'it is fitting that Holy Communion be celebrated' in every parish. It used to be a 'holy day of obligation' for Roman Catholics, when those who were able were expected to attend mass, but not here in Ireland since 1996.

I have fond memories of Ascension Day as a schoolboy, because it was not only a holy day but a holiday! We could ask permission to leave the boarding school grounds for the day and were given a packed lunch. I remember, aged 13, taking a train to a neighbouring town with a friend, where we supplemented the packed lunch with then exotic 'Chinese gooseberries' – now called kiwi fruit – and rowed a boat on the river underneath the walls of a castle, before racing back for roll-call in the evening.

We no longer believe that God is in his heaven above the skies, any more than we believe that hell is a place of fiery torment under our feet – it is simply incompatible with what science has revealed to us about creation. The imagery of Jesus ascending to sit at God's right hand in heaven has lost its literal meaning: we can only interpret it symbolically.

So what does the Ascension mean for us today? I rather like the way Archbishop Rowan Williams puts it: the Ascension is 'a celebration of the extraordinary fact that our humanity in all its variety, in all its vulnerability, has been taken by Jesus into the heart of the divine life'. Jesus takes all that we are, everything in our muddled, struggling lives, the goodness in us as well as what is rebellious, troubled and broken, and he brings us with him to the throne of eternity in the burning heart of truth and reality, our true home.

May we continue to celebrate the Ascension as both a holiday and a holy day!

God Bless, Joc Sanders

Church Fabric Fund extended to support Church's future

Last year's General Synod approved amendments to what is now called the Church Fabric and Development Fund which extend its scope to include the development of initiatives supporting the long-term mission of the Church. The new funding regulations are now in place.

In his Presidential Address to General Synod, the Archbishop of Armagh expressed his hope that the central Church should be seeking to reshape some of its structures so that they may more effectively serve the wider life, outreach and witness of the Church into the long term. The idea behind the changes to the fund is to allow it to be used by parishes and dioceses more widely than before.

The aim of the fund is now threefold:

1. to preserve the support provided to parishes with restoration and repair obligations for church buildings;
2. to create opportunities to develop forward-thinking Church-wide initiatives;
3. to allow parishes with investment funds tied up under the old Church Fabric Fund provisions access to these funds for local development initiatives.

Application forms for each of the purposes, along with guidance notes which further explain the changes and criteria for grants, are available on the Parish Resources section (Funding & Grants) of the Church of Ireland website: www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources.

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - May 2017

Each Sunday in May

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop Alan Abernethy.

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

7th May, 4th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ndokwa, Bendel, Nigeria and Rt Revd David Obiosa, Bishop of Ndokwa.

Diocese: For the newly elected and appointed members of Select Vestries, giving thanks for the service of those who have ceased to be members.

14th May, 5th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of New Jersey, The Episcopal Church, USA and Rt Revd William Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey.

Diocese: For refugees and migrants in our dioceses, that they may find welcome among us.

21st May, 6th Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ngbo, Enugu, Nigeria and Rt Revd Christian Ebisike, Bishop of Ngbo.

Diocese: For farmers and all who grow, process, distribute, cook and serve the food we eat, that they may receive a just return for their work and we may enjoy healthy nourishment.

25th May, Ascension Day, White or Gold

A hymn of glory let us sing

New songs throughout the world shall ring

Christ, by a road before untrod

Ascendeth to the throne of God.

28th May, 7th Sunday of Easter, Sunday after Ascension Day, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: For the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome, for the Diocese of Nike, Enugu, Nigeria andfor Rt Revd Evans Jonathan Ibeagha, Bishop of Nike.

Diocese: For Methodist congregations within the United Dioceses and for our covenant relationship with them on this Sunday after JohnWesley Day, 24th May.

4th June, Pentecost (Whit Sunday), Red

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop Alan Abernethy.

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

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.

Waiting(Acts1:1-11) by Daphne Kitching

He told us to wait,
then went away.
After all the excitement,
all the joy of having Him back,
He has gone again.
Yet this time there is hope,
This time there is His promise
Of power, of His Spirit,
Of a new dimension of His presence.
This leaving is different
Now we know He's forever alive.
And we wait in confidence and anticipation
to witness to the world...
and we wait
for His Spirit to come...

Rogation Sunday

The 6th Sunday of Easter is commonly called "Rogation Sunday". What does "Rogation" mean? "Rogation" means "asking," which is a theme particularly prominent in the Gospel text for this Sunday (John 16:23-33). We call this Sunday "Rogation Sunday" because the 3 days which follow it are ancient Rogation Days, these being the 3 days leading up to the great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

Rogation Days have been a part of the Christian year in the Western church since the 5th century. Around 470 AD Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne in France, ordered that prayers should be said on the days leading up to the Ascension in the fields, which had been neglected due to storm and epidemic. The idea spread, and around 800 AD Pope Leo III decreed Rogation Days should be marked throughout the Western Church. There used to be both a Major Rogation (April 25) and 3 Minor Rogation Days (the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday proceeding Ascension Day). Thus originally, this Sunday was not a Rogation Day – the change being made in 1662, after the Major Rogation had dropped away.

How should we observe these days? Rogation days are days of prayerful supplication before God. In the agrarian culture of yesterday, it was common for the church to gather on the Rogation Days to ask God to bless the crops being sown. Often the prayers would have been said (or sung) as the church processed around the boundary lines of the parish. This ensured that everyone knew the boundaries of their parish. How many of us know the boundaries of our parish today?

It is from the rogation day prayers (as found in the Sarum Sacramentary) that Archbishop Cranmer formulated the Litany in 1545, which was his first work of liturgical reform.

Collect for Rogation Days

Almighty God,
whose will it is that the earth and the sea
should bear fruit in due season:
Bless the labours of those who work on land and sea,
grant us a good harvest
and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer 2004, page 333
(from A New Zealand Prayer Book, 1988)*

With Ascension Day in mind

What? Do we place Christ midway among the spheres? Or do we build a cottage for Him among planets? Heaven we regard as the magnificent palace of God far outstripping all this world's fabric.
John Calvin

When Jesus came to earth He did not cease to be God; when He returned to heaven He did not cease to be man.

Anon

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,
The glorious work complete;
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie
Beneath His awful feet.
Anne Steele

Our Lord is risen from the dead!
Our Jesus is gone up on high!
The powers of hell are captive led,
Dragged to the portals of the sky.
Charles Wesley

A View from the Pew

by Salters Sterling



St. John's Gospel for Lent was a great read. I hope you found it so. During Lent we in Birr had three ecumenical meetings for Praise, Prayer, Reading and Reflection. And how well John writes to encourage imagination. Nicodemus sidling in by night and engaging in a conversation about wind and then not appearing again until the deposition from the Cross. Herself at the well and a conversation about water and partners that ends in a great group-conversion event.

Imagination is hugely important as a partner to scholarship when we read much of the Bible's literature including the Gospels.

Pondering the whole business of false news which has emerged in the world of Trump my imagination becomes active. Previously the adjective false in my world had been reserved for such like things as alarms and fur and here it is applied to news. Spin yes, false no, at least not on any scale since the Second World War. And now I have to believe that I shouldn't believe almost all I read in the newspapers particularly if its source is the world of politics. I won't continue with the meanderings of my mind at this point save to tell you that they arrived in Jerusalem some 1985/6 or thereabouts years ago. At which point the imagination really took off. Empty tomb! Stone moved! Body gone! Grave clothes in a neat pile! Guards slept! Body stolen : Friends pretend innocence! What's going on behind locked doors? Corpse walks and talks! Nail holes and spear wound clearly visible! Mealtime guest disappears! New fishing technique advised from beyond the grave! Seashore breakfast gives new meaning to living and dying! It would have been a bean feast for headline writers if such had existed. For rumour mongers who have always existed it must have been a field day. There was even a possibility for the scientific sceptic. Thomas saw and believed. I like it that the Good News can embrace many of this generation.

My imagination ran on - Wind and fire leave no trail of devastation! Abandon language learning and join the new movement! Race and Nation no longer matter! Women and men have equal opportunities in new religion! Young people listened to! Be careful God at work! Rather than allow my imagination to become overheated I decided to note that a good idea for another time and place might be to introduce a competition in 'the Bible in sound bites' and to ponder for now what my imagination was telling me.

From what we know a handful of men and a few women experienced a number of encounters with their friend whom either from closeup or from afar they had seen crucified and buried. Within days his body was no longer in its grave clothes or its tomb. The experience of those encounters caused them to continue to be faithful to his instructions of where to go and what to do. Their obedience paid dividends and within a short space of time they were enabled to become publicly assertive about events upon which they were able to put an entirely different interpretation than those offered by any other interested parties, the religious and civil leaderships. Against all the odds of being few in number, of being thought potentially mad or drunk, of being powerless against the strength of religious derision or the might of empire they grew outrageously in numbers

and in faith, spreading like wildfire over the face of the Empire and dealing with dissensions among themselves. In a matter of some ten generations they had conquered the Empire having overcome persecution with the response of, what today we rather feebly call, Love. That's the true story. That's the real story. It's the story worth living for and still for many worth dying for. It's the story of Good Friday, of Easter Day and Pentecost stitched together. For me it's the story worth living for. Is it such for you? It's easy to say a thing's a fake. It's equally easy to say a thing's a fancy. Discerning the truth of a thing takes a little more effort, courage, imagination, call it what you will, but it is worth it.

Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 10th May
Peter Sebestyen (cello), David Szabo (piano).

Wednesday 24th May
Lorna Moore (soprano) and colleagues

Wednesday 31st May
String Trio plays Beethoven and Kodaly

Wednesday 7th June
Daniel Battle (organ)
The famous Sonata on the 94th Psalm (Reubke)

Wednesday 14th June
David Simon (organ)

Wednesday 28th June
Frank Schaefer (cello), Ethna Tinney (piano)
Music by J.S. Bach and Beethoven

Just pretend...

Although the married couple enjoyed their new fishing boat together, it was the husband who always managed the outboard. But then he became concerned about what might happen in an emergency. So one day out on the lake he said to his wife, 'Please take the outboard, dear. Pretend that I am having a heart attack. You must get the boat safely to shore and dock it.' So she drove the boat to shore.

Later that evening, the wife walked into the living room where her husband was watching television. She sat down next to him, switched the TV channel, and said to him, 'Please go into the kitchen, dear. Pretend I'm having a heart attack and set the table, cook dinner and wash the dishes.'

I was a refugee

by Rev Janet White Spunner

Editor: Many parishes in our United Dioceses joined in the Joy Bells bell-ringing initiative on March 19th. The initiative came from Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford and was launched by former President Mary McAleese, triggering bell-ringing around the country and the world in solidarity with immigrants and to raise a voice against racism and xenophobia.

As I listened to the church bells being rung, I came to the realisation that I have something in common with today's refugees, and maybe I should be more understanding.

There are differences of course, but also similarities. I was fleeing from a war zone, the only belongings we had were what we could carry, and we didn't know where we were going. We had no money. I was only 4 years old at the time. We were in Malaysia, where my father was a rubber planter when the Japanese invaded Malaya.

My mother had died when I was 2 and my brother and I had been sent home in the care of another couple, to my grandfather and aunt. My father and stepmother (always Mummy) had been married for 20 months. My father broke his leg playing rugby and Mummy nursed him! But when the war in Europe commenced, she was called up, returned to England and was sent to France as an army nurse. They corresponded regularly and they got engaged via censored letters! She was at the evacuation of Dunkirk and said the hardest thing was obeying military orders and leaving wounded soldiers behind, knowing they could not survive. So leaving a country that was coming under enemy occupation, was not new to her.

Mummy came to England and picked up my brother and I, two totally strange children, and took us with her on the boat to Malaya, where she and my father were married 2 days after we arrived. She had a lot of explaining to do on the boat! Miss Markby with 2 children calling her Mummy in 1940!

Daddy, as all the men were, was a volunteer, so was not with us. He was taken prisoner without ever firing a shot. The guns in Singapore were fixed to repel a sea attack and could not be turned to be used against invaders coming down the peninsula on land. I have a memory, true or not, of hearing the Japanese in the jungle behind us as we made our way to Singapore.

The big difference with our refugee situation was that we were legal, supported by the British Government and Commonwealth. We did not have to find money to pay racketeers to take us on overloaded boats to countries that would not welcome us.

Mummy had friends in South Africa and hoped we would go there. Women were being evacuated, pregnant women first, then 'mothers and 6' and so on - we were 'mothers and 2' and we arrived in Australia. The Victoria League (Red Cross equivalent) were very good to us. They gave us 2 knitted and crocheted rugs which we kept in the family for years.

Mummy got work in Australia and after 3½ years when the war in Europe was over, we headed back to England in convoy. I have a

memory of one of the oil tankers being blown up by a depth charge, and Mummy saying to us look at the lovely fireworks an amazing woman who saved my life when I was 4 and had acute appendicitis, and the doctor said children of 4 did not get appendicitis! Remember this was before antibiotics. I think she is responsible for much of my outlook on, and attitude to, life.

Australia and South Africa and other countries were willing to give us refuge, but we were only small numbers of people who shared British passports. The people were kind and generous and made us welcome.

Today's refugees should not have had to leave their homelands. The fact that they have risked so much to do so, should be explanation enough as to why we should hold out the hand of Christian friendship. Please God the time will come when they too can safely return home, as we did.

Eaten bread can soon be forgotten. Sometimes it takes something like the ringing of church bells to jog the memory of friendly hands that were part of our past.



Refugee children: Janet with her brother in Australia – the creases are because it is the actual photo that her father received in POW camp, kept with him and brought home at the end of the war (she still has them).



Refugee Janet with her cat in Australia.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

KILLALOE & CLONFERT DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZE DAY 2017

The Annual Diocesan Service & Prize day took place on Saturday, 1st April 2017 in Borrisokane Church with The Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe; Dean Gary Paulsen; Revd Canon Jane Galbraith (GFS Diocesan Chaplin); The Venerable Wayne Carney and Rev'd Terence Mitchell, Rector, in attendance.

The girls took an active part in the Service - carried banners, received the collection and Mission contributions from each branch. Cloughjordan girls lit the GFS candles as a symbol of 'The light of Ideals of GFS', Roscrea girls read from Samuel 1; Nenagh girls lead the service in the Psalm taken from 'Hannah's Song' and Birr girls acted out the story of 'The Widow's Two Mites'.

This was a very special occasion as this year GFS celebrates 50 years since it was re-started in the Diocese. The 1967 opening service was held in Borrisokane Church so this year GFS returned there to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. It was wonderful to see many members and leaders (past and present) renewing old friendships and celebrating together. It was a very uplifting day of celebration and a great occasion to rejoice in the many accomplishments of GFS in the Dioceses and also an opportunity to look forward to the future together.

An Anniversary Booklet was created by leaders in the Diocese led by Betty Delahunt, Yvonne Shaw, Diane Dagg and Freda Kenny. This is a wonderful memory of the last 50 years and GFS thanks the Diocesan Council for assisting with its publication.

**Celebrating
50 Years
of the
Girls'
Friendly Society
in
Killaloe & Clonfert**



1967 to 2017

GFS Anniversary Booklet

After the service Bishop Kenneth & Mrs Kearon awarded the Bible Study prizes. Central President Mrs. Sylvia Quinn awarded the Craft prizes to girls and leaders. Some items were chosen to represent the Diocese in the All Ireland competition. Congratulations to all our girls for taking part in the competitions. A full list of Bible Study and Craft results will be published next month.

Thanks to Ivor Hayes for playing the music in church, Sandra Hayes and Angel Donovan for the flower arrangements and Carol Talbot who provided a wonderful Anniversary Cake which was enjoyed by everyone. The Diocese sends a big thank you to the ladies of Borrisokane and Cloughjordan for preparing the church, the hall and providing wonderful refreshments.

After the prizegiving and photographs everyone moved to the Parish Hall for refreshments. The wonderful work of the girls was displayed for all to enjoy. Bishop Kenneth blessed the new GFS Banner. Special thanks to Yvonne Shaw, Diane Dagg and all the leaders involved in the creation of this wonderful banner.

Thanks to all Leaders who organised the Sales Stalls which were well supported and provide much needed funds to GFS. WELL DONE to everyone involved in this special occasion for GFS girls, leaders and families.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM SYLVIA QUINN, CENTRAL PRESIDENT
It was lovely to be invited and to attend Killaloe & Clonfert annual Festival Service in Borrisokane Church on 1st April. This occasion also served to celebrate fifty years of Diocesan GFS life which was re-started there in 1967. I have to compliment all concerned on the huge effort they made to mark this anniversary. A banner was made by twelve ladies; a cake was made by another and a beautiful picture booklet was compiled giving us a glimpse of GFS happenings down the years.

UP COMING EVENTS

Roscrea Enrolment Service will take place in St Cronan's Church at 10.45 on Sunday 7th May

Camp Meeting will take place on 11th May in the Rectory, Birr at 8pm. All leaders attending camp are welcome to attend.

All Ireland Council Meeting will take place on 13th May in Dublin. Results of All Ireland completions will be announced at that meeting.

GFS 140 YEAR CELEBRATIONS 1877–2017

This year is the 140th anniversary of GFS in Ireland. The first meeting of GFS in Ireland took place in the Marine Hotel, Bray on 22nd February 1877. Seventeen Working Associates were appointed with five more appointed at a later date. The first President was the Countess of Meath from the nearby Killruddery Estate (the home of the Brabazon family, Earls of Meath) and she was in office from 1878 –1894.

On the 21st May 2017 at 3pm there will be a Celebration Service in Christchurch Bray, Co Wicklow. Girls would need to be at the church by 2.30 and workers/helpers would need to be there prior to that. Final details will be available soon. Please contact your Branch Leader or Norma Jean Carney if you wish to attend. A bus will be organised depending on numbers wishing to attend. This is a wonderful celebration for GFS in Ireland and promises to be a great day out.

Cloughjordan Branch Parents Evening will take place in St. Kieran's Hall on 26th May at 7.30 pm

CAMP

Diocesan Camp has been confirmed to take place 23-25 June in Bandon. Further details will be available from Branch leaders following the Camp meeting.

Well done to everyone involved in GFS celebrations this month. We all look forward to many more years of this wonderful organisation in Killaloe & Clonfert Diocese.

Boys' Brigade



ROSCREA BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys Brigade in Roscrea have been busy over the last month we had a science night , where the boys did a few experiments ; a lot of fun was had by everyone . We also had a nerf gun shoot out in the Methodist Hall , this was the highlight so far this year .We will also be meeting up in Killavilla soccer field to have a kick about . We have a few more activities left before we break up for the summer.

1ST TRALEE COMPANY OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE

On Friday April 7th members made resurrection gardens to celebrate Easter. These were then placed in the church for all to see.



Resurrection Gardens by Tralee Boys' Brigade

Mothers' Union



ADARE, ASKEATON AND LIMERICK BRANCHES

On Monday 27th of March a very special joint service with Adare, Askeaton and Limerick branches was held in St. Mary's Church, Askeaton to celebrate Lady Day which was led by Rev Canon Patrick Comerford. Rev Canon Liz Beasley, Adare, preached a beautiful sermon reflecting on her calling to serve. Rev Liz reminded us that we are all called to serve in any way that we can, and she told us that she was marking the 18th anniversary of her ordination on that day.

The service was made even more special as three members from Adare Branch were enrolled to the Mothers 'Union by Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh.

Following the service a lovely supper was served up in The Rectory, and our thanks go to all those who brought along goodies and to Askeaton Branch for hosting the evening, and of course Rev Patrick who hosted the supper.

On 10th April two members of the Limerick City Branch treated us to a lovely evening of flower arranging for Easter. Patsy Pomeroy and Elizabeth Bovenizer put their expertise together to create some beautiful arrangements which were then raffled, the proceeds of which will go to our Overseas Fund.

We had a great crowd who also bought lots of our Mothers 'Union cards including our 130th Anniversary Notebook. Branch Leader, Margaret Schutz, gave us a rundown on upcoming events, but especially our Festival Service to be in Kenmare on 21st May at

12pm to which we hope as many members and friends will come along.

As always this was followed by a lovely supper and a chat and our thanks go to all those involved.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION, BALLINASLOE

In April the St. John's Branch hosted a talk by Linda Tiley, Team Leader, from the Women's Refuge "Esker House", in Athlone. Linda talked about her work as a Police Officer in the Metropolitan Police Force in London for 24 years before moving to Ireland with her husband and family to take up her post in the Women's Refuge. She described the heart-breaking plight of women and their families who need to avail of this service. The four units within the Refuge are constantly filled to capacity and they also provide outreach advice services in the area. At the end of the evening Jackie Eastwood the new Branch Leader, thanked Linda for a most informative and though provoking talk. For information about Esker House please phone 090 6474122 and all details can be found on their website eskerhouse.ie

The St. John's Branch is currently planning its new exciting programme for 2017/18 and to finish off our season we are planning an outing on May 13th to the Woodville House walled garden followed by a meal in the Loughrea Spa Hotel. Please contact Jackie on 087 2341535 if you would like any details about forthcoming events.



From left Lucy Kavanagh, DP with the new members, Caroline De Burca Murphy, Olivia Gardiner and Pearl Mitchell.jpg



L-R Margaret Ollett, Penny Kearney, Jenifer Wakefield, Linda Tiley (Women's Refuge, Athlone), Jackie Eastwood Branch Leader, Josephine Murray, Valerie Swanwick and kneeling Pauline Bannerton.

United Diocesan Youth Council

DIARY DATES

Fri 2nd June - Mon 5th June

Diocesan Confirmation Weekend with Tuam Diocese
Esker Youth Village, Esker Athenry, Co. Galway
2016 & 2017 Confirmation Candidates

Fri 30th June - Tue 4th July

Summer Madness
Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, Co. Antrim
14 Plus Year Olds

Sun 16th July - Fri 21st July

Junior Summer Camp
Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry
10-13 year olds

Sun 20th August - Fri 25th August

Senior Summer Camp
Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Sligo,
Secondary School Upwards

FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

On Saturday 1st April the first of our fundraising events for 2017 took place at the Methodist Hall in Adare. The coffee morning and cake sale raised just over €700 giving us a positive start to the income for the year. On behalf of the Youth Council thanks to everyone who supported the event in so many ways with particular thanks to Beverly Callendar and Eleanor Walker for organising the event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Diocesan Youth Council A.G.M. also took place at the Methodist Hall in Adare on Saturday 1st April. Prior to the meeting a short time of prayer was led by Chairperson Kieran Sparling in thanksgiving to God for the year of Ministry that had ended and to mark the beginning of another. The meeting then began with the Minutes of the previous year's meeting with apologies recorded. After various reports followed by discussion the elections were held. The following were elected to the committee for the forthcoming year:

- Chairperson - Kieran Sparling (Limerick City)
- Treasurer - Edward Hardy (Banagher)
- Secretary - Ciara Fitzell (Tralee)
- Public Relations Officer - Oscar Egbulam (Limerick City)
- Newslink Correspondent: Vacant
- Limerick Representatives - Laura Cooke (Kilpeacon) and Valerie Walker (Croom)
- Killaloe Representatives - Sophia Levie (Mountshannon) and Andrew O'Brien (Castleconnell)
- Ardfert Representatives - Vacant * 2
- Board of Mission Representative - Canon Jane Galbraith (Roscrea)
- Ordinary Committee Members - Beverly Callendar (Kilpeacon), Henry Cooke (Kilpeacon), and Nikki Downes (Adare), Vancant * 2

We have a number of positions vacant and the Chairperson or Secretary would like to hear from interested potential individuals for possible co-option.

SOUTH WEST ALIVE JUNIOR WEEKEND

Our South West Alive Junior Weekend took place from Friday 7th

- Sunday 9th April at Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry. We were delighted to have Steve Grasham from Church of Ireland Youth Department as our worship speaker for the weekend. Steve used the story of Holy Week to remind us that God loves all of us, so much he sent his son Jesus to die for us and take away our sins, then rise again giving each of us a new life. We had an action packed day on Saturday at Star Outdoors Adventure Centre where we spent the morning on the water on the kayaks, water slides and banana boats then the afternoon on the land doing obstacle courses, team challenges, archery and crazy golf. We concluded the day in the evening with worship, charades and a disco. On Sunday we attended St Mary's Church in Killarney where we got to participate in waving palms for the Palm Sunday service. We took a tour around Muckross Traditional Farm in the afternoon before coming back to the centre to end what had been a fantastic weekend.



Group at St Mary's Church Killarney for Sunday service with Steve Grasham - Church of Ireland Youth Department



Palm Sunday at St Mary's Church Killarney



The Easter Story

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our United Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will take place this year from Friday 2nd – Mon 5th June 2017 (June Bank Holiday Weekend) at Esker Youth Village, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway. This event is hoped to be a joint event with Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry. We do hope that it will be possible to offer transport to those attending from our Diocese this year from the following locations: Farranfore, Newcastlewest, Adare, Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea and Birr.

Who can come? Anyone who was confirmed during 2016 or 2017 as well as anyone awaiting Confirmation this year from throughout either United Diocese and beyond. If anyone feels that it might be easier to come with a friend from their local area even if not for Confirmation that would be fine too. The weekend will be an ideal chance to get to meet other Confirmation Candidates from throughout either United Diocese and possibly from other Dioceses!

Why come? Confirmation is a time to stand up and be counted; a time to make a clear statement about who you are and whose you are; a time to make a serious commitment about your place in the Family of God. To help you make your commitment, an exciting, dynamic and enjoyable worship programme will be on going throughout the weekend. We are delighted that Simon Henry (National Youth Officer) with Church of Ireland Youth Department has agreed to come to lead teaching times during the weekend.

What else is on offer? This weekend also includes a splendid line up of other activities including: Icebreaker Games, Watersport activities at Baysports (www.baysports.ie) Watersports Centre, Athlone to include Chinese Dragon Boating, Pedal karting obstacle course, Bushcraft survival techniques, Pedal boat safari, Stand-up paddling, Kayaking, Land and water challenge course and Ireland's largest inflatable water park. Karting at Galway City Karting, Swimming, Slides and Inflatable Obstacle Course at Leisureland Galway, Manhunt, Campfire, Disco, Table Quiz, Charades, Bingo, Games ,Good Food ,And much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine.....

How Much? The weekend will cost €80 per person and this will include all transport during weekend, food, activities and accommodation. Return transport is available for an additional €20 to and from event. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 26th May 2017.

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

Until next month,
Oscar

Diocesan Board of Mission

REPORT ON MISSION EVENING 05-04-17

The evening opened with prayer.

The Chairman & Secretary informed those present that due to unforeseen difficulties, there had been no Mission Sunday Project selected in 2016. However the Mission Board had given a donation to Rev Keith & Lynn Scott prior to their departure to take up mission work in Zambia, as well as giving to both Christian Aid and to the Bishop's Appeal for the emergency in East Africa; as a result funds are now very low! However at the next DBM Committee meeting scheduled for 27th April, we are planning for a major effort with Mission Sunday 2017.

'SPIRITUAL TOURISM', (OUR MISSION TO VISITORS).

Archdeacon Simon Lumby commenced his presentation by listing the things which inspires the tourist or visitor. Apart from the physical senses of sight, sound, smell and taste , there was the more abstract ones of , a story connected with a particular place or person, memorabilia in the form of banners leaflets and guide books and other interpretative information using modern systems of communication.

We must assist the visitor to be aware of God as the, ' source of

creation' and to distinguish between things that are theological and those that are spiritual. The instinct of God being present in all creation, features strongly in Celtic Spirituality, a concept which we read in 'St Patrick's breastplate', Christ everywhere and in everyone. In this country we have a rich heritage of early Christian sites, each one has its own story to tell, relics to see, spirituality to ' absorb'. It is up to us as inheritors of such 'treasurers' to show them to our visitors so they can get some appreciation of why Ireland was once called the 'land of saints and scholars' and more importantly that there is and can be a spiritual dimension to modern society.



Loch Linn 'Mist-ified' - © Paul Garnett 2016

The writing on a banner which stands in the porch of the church in Killarney to greet the visitor, reads as follows:

*When we visit an inspiring place,
or see something beautiful,
it plucks at our heartstrings.
This feeling is the voice of the Divine Creator
speaking to us through our senses.
It is this ability to see God everywhere,
that marks Celtic Spirituality
as the distinctive capacity in all people
to touch the divine in the ordinary.*

The evening closed with prayer and the Grace, followed by refreshments kindly supplied by the ladies of Tralee parish.

Our next Mission Evening is scheduled for Thursday 15th June at 8 p.m., in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, when Salters Sterling will speak on his recent travels in China.



Priest's Leap, on the Kerry Cork border - © Paul Garnett 2016

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Thanks to the Parents' Association Committee who organised a very successful Table Quiz in the Woodlands Hotel on Friday 24th March. Many thanks to all who supported the evening.

Geoff Hunt's visit to the school has become an annual event and everyone looks forwards to the activities. This year Geoff brought pupils from 1st to 6th class up to the stream in Adare Park for a spot of 'fishing'!



Looking for something interesting in Adare

Pupils and teachers donned their wellington boots and were armed with nets and buckets. The stream is very healthy and produced a vast amount of tiny creatures, some of which were brought back to the classroom to observe under the microscope.



What did we find

Geoff also prepared a science activity to go along with the field trip. All the creatures were returned to the stream afterwards. The Infant pupils were taken on a nature walk and explored the wild flowers growing locally. They also brought some samples back to the classroom for further examination. This really brought science to life for all the pupils.



Checking out what was caught in Adare

We always take part in An Taisce's Spring Clean every year and once again we put on our wellies and gardening gloves and headed out around the school and church grounds for a tidy-up. We also used the opportunity to do some planting in the school garden under the watchful eye of our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne Benson. The final day of term before the Easter break brought everyone out to the school grounds for an Easter egg hunt. The senior pupils helped to hide the eggs for the junior pupils and there was great excitement and running around to find as many eggs as possible!

Cloughjordan No 1 National School

Congratulations to Tabitha Larke in Third Class who achieved a high praise certificate in the Féile an Aonaigh Art Competition organized by Conradh na Gaeilge an tAonach, and was presented with her certificate in the Arts Centre, Nenagh.

Much fun was had by our First and Second Class pupils at the non - competitive Gaelic Football Blitz in Dr Morris Park, Thurles at the end of March. Thank you very much to Paudie Malone, Games Development Officer with the GAA for the kind invitation to participate in this great event.

Well done to Lucy Fitzgerald, Lisa Mooney, Ava Austin, Alison Grant, Andrew Hayes, Ross Austin, , Stuart Fox Powell and David Persse who represented the school at the Munster Schools Table Tennis qualifying competition for the All Ireland Schools Table Tennis competition in Kinsale in March. The girls had great success on the day and emerged as Munster Champions and go on to represent Munster at the All Ireland Primary Schools Team Table Tennis Finals in Dublin at the end of April. Best of luck girls!

Well done to Ross Austin, Tom Austin, Cathal England, Andrew Hayes, Scott Kenny, David Persse and Alex Ryan who were part of the Cloughjordan National Schools team which played a hurling blitz in Toomevara last month. The Cloughjordan team had great success on the day beating Lorrha, Birdhill and Dunkerrin National Schools. The team now goes on to play in the North Tipperary final-best of luck boys! Thank you very much to Mr. Dooley, Mr. Hassett and Mr. Casey for the kind invitation to join with St. Michaels' N.S., once again, in sport.

Fri 31st March, 2017 was a very special occasion at our school when we officially opened our extension. It was a great pleasure to welcome so many from our school and the wider community to this celebration.



Cutting the cake!

It was a particular pleasure to welcome our patron, the Rt. Rev'd Kenneth Kearon, to bless our extension and Rev. Stephen Neill, Canon Ruth Gill & Rev Terry Mitchell to officially open it.



Cutting the ribbon!

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Dooley, Mr. Hassett and Mr Casey from St Michael's N.S. and the members of the Gaelic Football team from both schools who won the North Tipperary Final and the County Semi-final last October, and played in the County Final last November. We were honoured to welcome Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Chairperson Tipperary Football Board, who presented medals to the team.

The school is grateful to so many people for their valued contribution, not least: Paddy Fitzpatrick, and the IRFU, for the tag rugby training which our 3rd – 6th Class pupils enjoyed last term, Joe Cahill, Roisin and Lisa for the camogie training which girls from 2nd – 6th Classes are really enjoying, Brian England for hurling training which our boys are really enjoying, Patsy Farrell for the basketball training to 3rd – 6th Class pupils, last term, Declan Gaffney for continuing basketball with 1st – 6th Classes in March and April and for his weekly visits to our garden tunnel, showing us all how to plant and care for our plants in preparation for Mother's Day, Wendy Bailey, Veronica Ryan, Joy Wakefield and helpers for resuming gardening with the children, Super Valu in Roscrea for the generous donation of a giant Easter Egg to our school and to Centra and the Post Office in Cloughjordan who sold lines on behalf of the school. Special thanks to Mrs. Esme Grant who once again arranged the donation from Super Valu for us – we really appreciate it. We very much appreciate so much kindness to our school and the commitment made by so many people.

The last term promises to be equally busy as we begin swimming lessons in Birr, look forward to athletics competitions, the annual Primary Schools Sports Day at Villiers, School Tours and much, much more!

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

Term 3 looks to be a very exciting and busy time in Kiltallagh with lots of things planned.

All the children will commence a 5 week swimming programme in the Killarney Aura Sports and Leisure Centre, Killarney which began at the end of April.

On Wednesday May 17th children from the senior room will travel to Villiers in Limerick for a much anticipated Sports Day.

Peter Clendennen in conjunction with the Parents' Association has organised a cycle event in aid of the school, on Sunday May 20th 2017. There is a choice of two routes. The first one is 45 KM while the second route is for the more adventurous cyclist taking in a more challenging route over a distance of 90 KM. There will be food stations along the

way with refreshments and entertainment at the finish line. There will also be activities for the children on the day. Further information on www.castlemainecycle.com

Castlemaine CYCLE
in aid of **Kiltallagh National School**

20th May 2017
Sign on open 8.30am
Starts 10.00am

Two Routes to choose
ROUTE 1 - 90km & ROUTE 2 - 45km

Feed stations provided along the route
Food & Entertainment at finish - Activities for Kids on the day
A great family day out

www.castlemainecycle.com

Cycle event

On Thursday June 1st, our school will embark on their school tours. Our senior room will travel to Fota Island Wildlife Park in Cork and will follow on to the Cobh Heritage Centre in Cork. Our junior room children will stay nearer home with a trip to Knockreer House and Gardens and Killarney Playground.

Our End of Year Service will be on Monday June 19th when we will say farewell to our sixth class pupils.

Our Sports/active day on Friday June 23rd will see the children of Kiltallagh head off on their bikes to Muckross House and Gardens, a climb of Torc Waterfall and a picnic in the grounds of Killarney National Park.

Here comes the summer!

Villiers School

CAMINO TRIP

The Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) is a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St. James (Santiago in Spanish) in Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain.

Annually hundreds of thousands of people of various backgrounds walk the Camino de Santiago either on their own or in organised groups.

Congratulations to our TY Community group and staff who have just completed 117kms of the French camino route to Santiago de Compostela. We arrived in Santiago on Saturday 8th April and were transferred by bus to Sarria where we began our hike on the Sunday

morning. Our trip to Santiago lasted five days, averaging 23.4kms per day.

We were up for 6.30am each morning for breakfast at 7am and on the hoof thereafter. The scenic terrain of Galicia comprised of rolling hills, forest trails, and pockets of fertile ground amongst gorse, forestry and scrub land. Our hike was all the more enjoyable due to the excellent weather throughout. We stopped over-night in the following towns en route to Santiago - Sarria, Portomarin, Palas de Rei and Arzua.

We finally arrived in Santiago on the Thursday afternoon - tired but happy to have reached our destination. What a beautiful historic city Santiago is, with cobbled streets and the world famous town square. We were there to witness the pomp and ceremony on Good Friday. Overall a very worthwhile and enjoyable trip. I have no doubt we will return.



SENIOR BOYS HOCKEY

Congratulations to our senior boys who have finally lifted the senior A Munster cup after a long wait of 24 yrs. We faced Newtown School from Waterford in the final in Villiers and came out 5-2 winners. 2-1 up at half time, the game was still in the balance. We came out all guns blazing with three quick fire goals early in the second half to lead 5-1. Newtown grabbing a late consolation goal toward the end of play. Our scorers were James Hopkinson with a double, Stephen Tutty, Gerard Hopkinson and Yannis Von Maydel. What a performance and we are so proud of the boys and special credit to the coaching team of Brian Gray and Declan O'Brien who have put in so much hard work throughout the year.

Our senior B's were also victorious and won their cup beating Midleton College 7-1. Congratulations to them also in a senior clean sweep!

We now look forward to our annual past pupils match on Tuesday 9th May in Villiers at 5.30pm



PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

We welcome 4th, 5th and 6th class from in excess of ten primary

schools from the diocese and beyond to Villiers on Wednesday 17th May. Our TYs are already planning and all visiting students will take part in tag rugby, soccer, basketball, orienteering and fun games in an action packed and enjoyable day.

JUNIOR AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE

We wish all our junior and leaving certificate students well as they complete their project work in many subjects as well as their orals and aural prior to their written examinations in June.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

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

Mothering Sunday saw the Union of Parishes come together at St Flannan's Cathedral for one joint service. Each year we try and have this on Mothering Sunday to highlight the role of the cathedral as mother church. That afternoon we had a talk by Freddie Bourke in Clonlara (Kiltenanlea) Church. Freddie has great knowledge of the place its history and people. It was lovely how he brought the memorials on the walls and windows to life and connected it with the history of Ireland and its families. Freddie sold copies of his book on the day and all the proceeds were donated to the church. Our thanks to the organising committee, to Freddie and the musicians who provided some lighter entertainment.



Freddie Bourke



Nicola and Craig

Craig Cullen and Nicola Bouchier were married on 31 March St. Molua's Church Oggeneloe. Dean Gary Paulsen did the homily and marriage ceremony while Fr Donagh O'Meara did the Eucharist service. The reception was held at the Killaloe Hotel on the beautiful lake. We do wish them well as they make their home in Waterford but they hope they will return to beautiful Killaloe one day. Our congratulations also to Richard and Avril Cullen, the parents of Craig, who faithfully serve the church in Killaloe.

The Kincora Traditional Music Weekend was 7-9 April. As has become the custom they started off in the St Flannan's Cathedral on the Friday evening with Mná na hÉireann. The emphasis on women was beautiful as they told stories in between of the women in Ireland; Deidre Scanlon was the narrator. The young girls Cailín Óga Cheann Choraidh opened the evening and were a great hit with the audience. The other women were, Brigid Delaney, Aoife Granville, Ciara O'Sullivan, Deidre Scanlon Noreen O'Sullivan, Eileen O'Brien, Jennifer Minogue. The Tuamgraney Harp Festival took place over the same weekend and we were again glad that the church in Tuamgraney could be open for this event for the community.

Continued on page 19

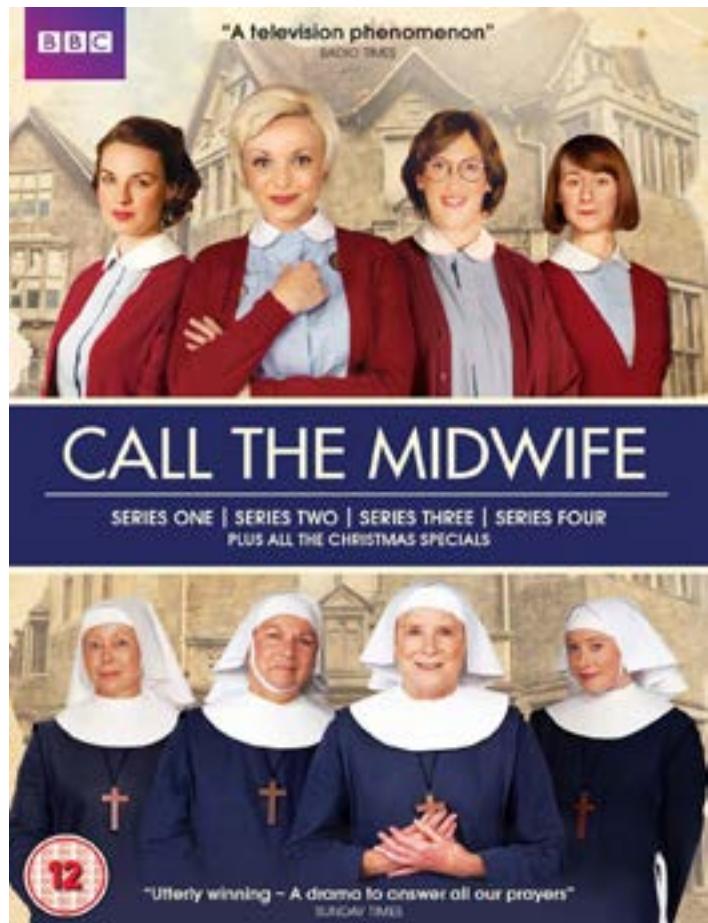
Why 'Call the Midwife'?

By Canon David Winter

For months – indeed for years, apart from the 'Bake off' phenomenon – the BBC's most popular television programme by some distance has been the Sunday night 'Call the Midwife'. The competition for top spot encompasses the whole range of human obsessions: comedy, drama, murder, rape, quizzes, food, fashion and sport – something for every taste. Yet a homely drama about some midwives working with an Anglican order of nuns in London's East End 60 years ago beats them all. The BBC clearly recognises its value – several more series have been commissioned. I think it's worth wondering why.

The first two series of 'Call the Midwife' closely followed the best-selling books by Jennifer Worth about her experiences as a young midwife in precisely those circumstances. Someone recommended the first book to me and I found it compelling reading, and said so in print. To my surprise, I got a letter from the author, answering a question I had posed. She told me that the example of the sisters in the Order and their unquenchable faith amidst the squalor and poverty of the area in those post-War years eventually led to her embracing the Christian faith herself.

Sadly, Jennifer Worth died just as the first series was being aired, and I feared the story line might lose its authenticity. But it hasn't. These are stories of some nuns and midwives struggling to help people in need. Without ever being preachy, it faithfully depicts a very mixed group of people putting faith into practice. I think the nine million viewers, most of whom are probably not regular church-goers, appreciate seeing prayer, faith, hope and love at work, even if not every practitioner is saintly, not every sick baby saved, nor every human problem solved.



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Co-Educational Boarding and Day
Founded 1641
Principal: Ian Coombes, B.A., H.D.E., M.Ed.

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Website: www.bandongrammar.ie
Twitter: @bandongrammar



GFS Annual Service and Prize Day



Candidate Bible Study prize winners with Bishop Kenneth & Mrs Kearnon.



Cutting the Cake - Bishop, Carol Talbot, Sylvia Quinn (Central President), a young member of GFS, Norma Jean Carney (Diocesan President).



Craft Prize Winners with Mrs. Quinn



Craft Work



Craft Prize Winners with Mrs. Quinn



Craft Prize Winners with Mrs. Quinn



Craft Work



Craft Work



GFS girls in Borrisokane Church.



Past GFS leaders



Leaders who created the 50th Anniversary Banner (Diane Dagg missing from the picture).



Junior Bible Study prize winners with Bishop Kenneth & Mrs Kearnon.

St Brendan the Navigator

by Trevor Giles, Tralee

Tuesday 16th May is the Feast Day of St Brendan, Patron Saint of Ardfert and Clonfert, listed for commemoration in the BCP on that day, when he will be remembered in many churches and by a walk on Mount Brandon in Co Kerry.

One of the greatest Irish Saints, St Brendan was born on the western sea coast of Kerry c. 484 AD, baptised and educated by Bishop Erc near Kilmolely, Ardfert, who also ordained him a priest. One of the 'Twelve Apostles of Ireland' tutored by St Finnian of Clonard, he gathered many followers and helped to establish the monastic movement in Ireland.

St Brendan had a monastery and settlement in Kilmalkeder, west of Dingle under the great Mount Brandon. He and his companions watched and prayed, viewing up to 100 miles distance in clear weather, planning a voyage over the sea. This took two attempts in a specially made boat with a crew of monks travelling over rough seas 200 miles a day. Their visits included Iceland, Greenland and even America, it is said. The entire trip, we are told, took seven years. This voyage was repeated by Tim Severin and his crew in the 1970s – his book, *The Brendan Voyage*, is a wonderful, true story.

In 557 AD St Brendan, now an old man, again started his travels over Ireland by sea and the River Shannon. He tied up his boat at Banagher and found a wood at Clonfert to light a fire and pitch tents. The monastery he founded there became the seat of a bishopric with a cathedral.

Today St Brendan is remembered in Co Kerry by the part-ruins of the Cathedral at Ardfert, in the hands of the OPW, and in Co Galway by the lovely, small Cathedral of Clonfert with its magnificent Hiberno-Romanesque doorway, the conservation of which has been funded by the Heritage Council.

St Brendan died c. 587 AD at the age of 94 at Annaghdown, Co Galway, where his sister Brig presided in a convent.

Editor: St Brendan's life of mission links the two ends of our United Dioceses – let us be sure to remember him in our prayers around his Feast Day. A wonderful way to do so would be to organise an annual pilgrimage from Ardfert to Clonfert, part of which might be by boat along the River Shannon – a kind of Camino by water.



Statue of St Brendan by Tigue O'Donoghue, at Fenit

Irish Palatine Association

FIELD MEETING & PALATINE SITES TOUR

**IPA members and friends are invited to join
the Adare and Ballingrane Circuit
at the annual Field Meeting on Tuesday, 6 June,
2017, at 11.30 a.m.**

This open air service on the Adare Manor Golf Course commemorates the visits of Rev. John Wesley to the area in the eighteenth century.

A tour of local sites of Palatine interest is planned for the afternoon commencing from the Irish Palatine Centre followed by dinner at Rathkeale House Hotel

Details from: info@irishpalatines.org
Telephone: 087 249 6627



Methodist Church in Ireland

L I M E R I C K



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Good Friday Walks



Nenagh



Nenagh - Rev Rod and Fr Des in Bamba Square.



Rev Rod leading the Good Friday Walk in Nenagh.



Roscrea Walk of Witness



Roscrea Walk of Witness The cross in St.Cronans Roman Catholic Church Stop.



St Cronan's Church



Tempederry Stations.



The Cross in Saint Mary's Church in Rathkeale during the Ecumenical reflections on Good Friday.

Maria Ischner died on 3rd of April just some 15 months after we buried her husband. A service took place at St Caimans in Mountshannon and her ashes was then buried in Tuamgraney Cemetery. Our condolences go to Ute and Kayt on their loss of their mother.

During Holy week we had services each day of Holy Week in one of the churches starting off with Centering Prayer in Clonlara, Tuesday Evening prayer in Mountshannon, Wednesday Tenebrae at Castleconnell and Maundy Thursday Eucharist and stripping of altar in Killaloe. Good Friday we ventured into something new: a pilgrimage and reflection around the cathedral. Jessica Brown compiled a text for us to use going around the cathedral stopping at various points, reflecting and praying. It is now our hope to have this as a permanent feature for all visitors to engage in on their visit to the cathedral. We were grateful to have Rev Lucy back on Easter Day to help with Eucharist services and hope this loan spell to our sister cathedral will not be too long.

The Darkness to Light walk takes place again in Killaloe this year on 6 May and we hope many of you will take part highlighting suicide prevention in Ireland and we commend the work of Pieta house. Pieta offers free counselling to those suffering from suicidal ideation, those who have been bereaved by suicide and people who are engaging in self-harm. Help promote suicide prevention and to tackle the stigma that leads people to the doors of Pieta House centres. Please join us on Saturday 6th May this year at 4.15am !

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

PRAYERS

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to George Dempsey Flanagan on his recent successful appearance on Dragon's Den. Congratulations, too, to our GFS girls who did very well at the recent Diocesan GFS 50th Anniversary Service and prize-giving in Borrisokane.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways to make our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful. Special thanks to our organists Deirdre, Maureen, and Peter, who faithfully led the singing at all our services.

FAMILY EUCHARIST AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our monthly Family Eucharist continues on the second Sunday of the month, with Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month.

ASCENSION DAY

On Thursday, 25th May, our Ascension Day service will be held in Dorrha Church at 8:00 pm. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION

A reminder that the Confirmation Service will be held in Birr on Sunday, 18th June at 11:30 am. Any young people of at least 12 years old who want to confirm their Baptismal vows and make a sincere commitment to follow Jesus should contact

the Archdeacon. Time and place for Confirmation classes will be announced soon. It is hoped that candidates would also be prepared to attend the Diocesan Confirmation Weekend, to be held on the 2nd to the 5th of June.

PARISH FETE

We are planning to have our Parish Fete on Sunday, 11th June in Oxmantown School. Please pray for good weather, and not the deluge we endured last year!

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday, 1st July, we are planning 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.

JOINT SERVICE WITH BIRR METHODIST CONGREGATION

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

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourne, 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

HOLY BAPTISM welcome into the Church and the blessing of God Anthony Lester Roe; baby son of Marta and Edward Roe and grandson of Lester and Olwen Roe. Anthony was Christened in St.Cronan's Church Roscrea on April 2nd. 2017.

Rebecca Frances Mary Davis was baptized on Easter Day 2017 in Christ Church, Corbally. Rebecca is the baby sister to James and daughter to Mary and Clive Davis and granddaughter to Rosemary and Dick Davis.



Forget gardening, relax!



CONGRATULATIONS to Evan Lewis who will take on for himself membership of The Church of Ireland, being confirmed in St.Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny by Bishop Michael Burrows.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES were observed on Sunday especially in St. Cronan's with the very long Gospel being read by ten people. Activities ended on Saturday with Easter Vigil readings and the lighting of the Paschal Candle in St. Molua's Kyle, where Gemma St. Leger read several of the scripture passages. All our churches were made the more beautiful with flowers springing everywhere.

MANY THANKS to those who supplied and or arranged these Spring additions to our Easter proclamation that Christ is Risen!

Thank you to the St. Cronan's Sunday School for providing us with a vibrant Easter Garden. When the stone was rolled back from the tomb...there were the grave clothes neatly folded up! St.Burchin's had their now traditional Easter-egg hunt. Despite wet grass, bulging bags of assorted sized eggs were hauled into waiting transport.



St Cronans Sunday School Easter Garden

The Easter-themed Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday after Easter took place in Christ Church Corbally where Megan Mooney was first back with a complete find of all sixteen objects. Phoebe and Stuart Hodgins won the prize for the most original contribution. It was great to welcome visiting cousins and friends to the event. Very many thanks are due to those who helped with catering afterwards. Ecumenical Walk of Witness escaped the rain on Good Friday with participants being welcomed in St.Cronan's Roman Catholic Church before walking to the Methodist Church on the Mall and finishing up in St.Cronan's, Church St. We gained some pilgrims and lost some ... as is the way on pilgrimage, however long or short the way is. It was, as always, a great blessing to be able to begin Good Friday together, sharing the central message of our faith.

Concert featuring Simon Casey promises to be an evening of entertainment not to be missed. Friday May 19th at 8.00p.m. St.Cronan's Church, Church St. For details contact Revd. Shannon DeLaureal.

VISIT OF BISHOP KENNETH TO CORBALLY AND BOURNEY. It was a great pleasure to welcome Bishop Kenneth for Mothers' Day 2017 and to celebrate Holy Communion with us. People remarked on his warm and friendly disposition. The bishop remarked on the striking beauty of Corbally and the well kept, good feel, of both churches. It was good see him clutching his copy of 'Human Voices' and indeed hear the bishop speak about Roscrea Group's united effort at staging the exhibition. Many thanks to all those who helped in providing hospitality on the day. St. Molua's Kyle remains in our Group to receive our bishop. ... plans are in hand.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Evensong, that most exquisite form of Anglican worship, sung in many of our cathedrals, at least weekly... will be heard in Roscrea. St.Mary's Cathedral Choir Limerick are coming to St.Cronan's Church Roscrea on Sunday June 25th and will sing Evensong at 7.00p.m. Come and listen and so worship through the music-making of this great choir under their choirmaster and organist Mr.Peter Barley.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

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

Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479

Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

The run up to Easter was, as with all groups and unions, very busy in the Nenagh Union. We have been enjoying the delights of the 'Pilgrim Course' throughout the Lenten season. About a dozen parishioners met each Thursday night to work our way through part six of the Pilgrim Course which is centred around the Eucharist. Parishioners welcomed the opportunity to learn more about their faith and to share experiences with one another. It is hoped that, in future, we can tackle some of the other parts of the Pilgrim Course, and, perhaps to invite our Methodist and Roman Catholic neighbours to participate.

During Holy Week each day began, as it always does, with Matins at 9.30am. Then on Monday to Wednesday there was a celebration of the Eucharist in St Mary's with the office of Compline at 8pm. The meditations on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday took as their theme, 'The Sounds of Holy Week, concentrating on the sounds of the crowd, the sounds of the Temple and the sounds of the Trial.

On Maundy Thursday, we were delighted to welcome Readers and Priests of the diocese for the annual Chrism Eucharist, during which ordination and commissioning vows were renewed and the Bishop blessed the holy oil for use in the diocese in the coming year. This was a truly memorable event, and everyone enjoyed the soup, sandwiches and tray bakes afterwards. On Maundy Thursday evening, there was the liturgy of Maundy Thursday with the stripping of the altar and the watch.

Good Friday was also a busy day with the three hours between twelve and three in the afternoon, followed by the ecumenical walk of witness and stations of the cross in Nenagh at 5.30pm. It was good to join with Father Des and his congregation in this event and then, at 7.30pm there was the walk in Templederry. This started in the Church of Ireland Parish, where a large congregation from both the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Parishes, who then walked to the Roman Catholic Parish Church for prayers. Thanks again to Father Willie Teehan and his parishioners for their warm welcome in Templederry. After the three hours in St Mary's Nenagh, the flower guild decorated the church for Easter. Burst of colour and light after the drabness of Lent. This made such an impact on Easter morning. Thanks to all who decorated the three churches for Easter including girls from the GFS on Saturday morning.

On Easter Day, we had a service of light including the Easter Ceremonies, the lighting of the Paschal Candle and Eucharist in Templederry Parish Church at 9.30am, St Mary's Nenagh at 11am and Killodiernan Parish Church at 12.15pm.



Killodiernan - I know there are Easter Eggs in here SOMEWHERE!

Confirmation classes have also been going on during the season of Lent and we look forward to Sunday 28th May when our three candidates will be confirmed by the Bishop. Please pray for Ciara and Shea

Drummond and Colin Walsh. As well as working hard in confirmation class, the three candidates have been training to be servers at the Eucharist in the not too distant future.

It was with deep regret that the Union learned of the death of Elizabeth Stephens on Thursday 20th April. Elizabeth was a very quiet, retiring individual, reflected in the fact that she did not want any fuss about her funeral, yet at the same time leaving detailed instructions, so that no one would be perplexed by any of the arrangements. Elizabeth was a long-term resident of Sue Ryder in Nenagh, where she had a few close friends. She had suffered ill health for many years. It was always a joy to take the sacrament to Elizabeth and her friends at Sue Ryder each month, and she will be sadly missed by everyone there. A retired nurse, she had trained in England and nursed for several years in Ireland. After the service, the committal was at Modreeny Cemetery, Cloughjordan.

Congratulations to Betty and John Powell on the birth of their grandson Rufus Caleb, son of Barry and Liz Powell.

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

Congratulations to Michael and Melissa Foley upon the occasion of the baptism of Abbie on the 9th April at the parish of Borrisokane. It was a lovely opportunity for all of us to share in this service with them and their families.



Abbie with her parents and big brother Noah

It was with great pride and joy that Cloughjordan No. 1 National School recently held a dedication service for the new extension of the school. The school's Patron Bishop Kenneth officially opened the new extension. In attendance were the two previous chairpersons of the Board of Management Canon Ruth Gill and Revd. Stephen Neil, as well as Revd. Shannon DeLaureal from the Methodist Church in Cloughjordan.

The headmaster Mr Ivor Hayes thanked them for their contribution to the school, as well as welcoming the school family and wider community, including the headmaster of St Michael's, Mr Viv Dooley and Minister of State for Health Promotion - Mrs Marcella Corcoran Kennedy. Mr Hayes also thanked his staff for their dedication and commitment to the school and to the pupils entrusted to their care. The day was a celebration of all that is good in a school and was enjoyed by those who attended.

GFS held a Diocesan Service at Borrisokane Church of Ireland on Saturday the 1st of April at 2:30pm. The first enrolment service was held in the Church as they celebrated 50 years in the Diocese. It was a celebratory occasion as the Chaplain Revd. Jane Galbraith, welcomed Bishop Kenneth, Archdeacon Wayne Carney and Dean Gary Paulsen to the service. Also in attendance was the All Ireland President of the GFS

- Mrs Sylvia Quinn. Mrs Norma-Jean Carney officiated at the prize-giving with tea served in the Hall after the service.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a success and thank you to the GFS leaders for all the good work they put in each week.

The Mothers' Union at Cloughjordan held an end of year Communion Service at Ballingarry on the 20th March, followed by lunch. Thank you to Mrs Eileen Armitage and to the members Mothers Union for your faithfulness and commitment over the course of the year.

The Confirmation Service will be held at St Kieran's in Cloughjordan on the 14th May at 1030. Over the last eight weeks the confirmands have covered a variety of topics including- who is God, the work of Christ, the sacraments, prayer and worship. We have also discussed the Bible, the Church and serving others as we look to share our faith.

We are looking forward to the service and to welcoming family and friends to St Kieran's.

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

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Maundy Thursday was observed with a service of Holy Communion in Aghancon which was well attended. Good Friday was special as we were invited to join with the Methodist congregation in Shinrone for a Tenebrae service which was led by the Revd. Shannon De Laureal. The readings centred on the events of Good Friday and candles were

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extinguished after each reading until eventually, all lights were switched off and the church emptied in silence. The singing was superb. Many thanks to the Revd. De Laureal for her kind invitation.

EASTER DAY

Many thanks to the Revd. Denis Sandes for conducting the services in Dunkerrin and Shinrone. This made it possible for Holy Communion to be celebrated in all four churches. There were eggscellent goodies supplied by kind parishioners in Kinnitty and Aghancon (a generous thought –thank you).

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

These have all taken place. Many thanks to those who have held office for the past year and for their continuing commitment for the year ahead and a warm welcome to those who haven't served on a select vestry before.

PARISH FETES

- Shinrone Fete will be held at Cloughmoyle School on Saturday, 10th June
- Aghancon Fete will be held at the Community Hall on Sunday, 2nd July
- Dunkerrin Fete & Dog Show will be held on the 16th July at 2 p.m.

PASTORAL

It's such a pleasure to see Mrs. Jackson back attending church. Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill, especially those who are concerned for the welfare of those they love. We pray that the peace of God which passes our understanding will give them courage and fill their hearts and souls and minds. Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Phyllis Grant, Banagher, who died on the 19th April. Sincere sympathy is offered to Mrs. Margaret Devenish on the sudden death of her sister in England.

Sunday, 21st May is Rogation Sunday. There will be one service in the Group of Parishes that day at 3.30 p.m., at Aghancon Hall. This will be an ecumenical gathering to celebrate and bless the preparation of the land for harvest and all are welcome. It will be a service with a difference so do come and see!

Thursday, 25th May is Ascension Day. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Kinnitty at 8 p.m.



The Kinnitty Pyramid

THE KINNITTY PYRAMID

The Pyramid is located on the hill behind the Church of Ireland. It's an exact replica of the Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt and was built in 1834 by the Bernard Family who lived in Kinnitty Castle. A sincere thank you to Mr. Norman Grant who looked after getting the stonework cleaned recently. Both the Church and the Pyramid look good and when I was there the grass was being attended to by sheep, safely grazing.

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

Maythorn white was aplenty all around to complement a heartening dry and calm Easter scene with its wonderful message, encouragingly shared with a full congregation in Ennis, made up for a large part by visitors , old friends and 'strangers', making up a vital and joyful gathering. A privilege to let surroundings of building, flowers-- and organ and piano (via Nigel Bridge, Thank You Nigel!) help ALL to celebrate the Apex of the Christian faith and Calendar. Christ Church, Spanish Point on the Coast had its own splendid fellowship among family and returning exiles, with Rev Dr Patricia McKee-Hanna presiding, assisted by Carol Burgoyne from Suffolk, but a regular visitor with husband Alan. To the forefront for Resurrection Day was Caroline's splendid annual offering of a built-up stone Easter Garden Tomb, open over Easter Weekend to wider community.



Easter message at St Columba's



Spanish Point Flower Display

Ms Maureen Kelly, a key figure in the Killaloe (RC) spiritual development team and a pioneer within the Clare Pilgrim Way Movement spoke on the Seven Words from the Cross on Good Friday (Noon) and local historian Ciarán Ó Murchadha (The Great Famine: Ireland's agony, 1845–1852) read a Passion Narrative over Holy Week along with community worker Heather Rosen and Ennis Hospital Staff leader John G Devitt. An intimate fellowship met in Kilnasoolagh for Maundy Thursday evening (followed on Easter Day Eucharist 10am with Rector who also celebrated at Drumcliffe 11.30am). Parish Reader Lawson Kirkpatrick did his usual splendid job leading Palm Sunday Worship, assisted by Sophie Gibbons, (Head Girl, Wilsons Hospital). Much thanks to them both.

ELECTIONS

As we complete the Easter Vestries, the Rector wishes to thank all of the office-bearers in Drumcliffe, Kilnasoolagh, and Christ Spanish Pt for their faithful service over the past year.

CONFIRMATION and COMMISSIONING

We pray blessings upon Scott Gibbons, son of Tim and Miriam from Ennis as he undergoes Confirmation in St Mary's Cathedral on

Sunday afternoon, May 28th. This should be of special Interest to our parishioners since at this occasion Bishop Kenneth will also Commission Mr Steve Fletcher for Diocesan Readership within Limerick and Killaloe diocese. (Steve who holidays in Clare regularly from his St Alban's Diocese base in Hertfordshire, helps out at Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh.) At the ceremony will be friends and colleagues from Steve's home parish, and diocesan fraternity of lay readers.

DAMAGE

So sorry to learn of a fire in late Easter Week at the home of Mr Nigel Bridge in Clarecastle, Ennis, causing substantial damage. The prayers of all the congregation are with our popular organist and vestry member.

150 YEAR BIRTHDAY

We congratulate the Order of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word on the recent Sesquicentennial celebrations of their founding in Texas. Builders of the Carrigoran Nursing Home in Newmarket-on-Fergus (1974) they are, of course close neighbours to Kilnasoolagh Church community and a number of Church of Ireland parishioners have found respite or ended their days there. It was Nursing Home of the Year 1917 for a second successive year.

CONCERT

We are delighted to learn that Mr Peter Barley of St Mary's Cathedral will be playing piano at a recital on June 1st along with soprano Helen Houlihan and celoist Peter Sebastyen in St Columba's Church.

RESCUE THOUGHTS

The tragic loss of Coastal Helicopter 116 off the Mayo Coast, with its four person crew (two bodies still missing) comes close to the hearts of many, not least in this county of Clare with its constant air-sea rescue duties from Shannon base and parishioners involved in past years involved in rescue teams.

ORGANISTS

I would like to thank our organists, Mrs Isabel Finney, Mrs Carol Underwood, and Mr Kenneth Bracken for sterling work in ensuring our liturgies were accompanied by appropriate hymns and music. I particularly wish to acknowledge how willingly the three organists are to cover the churches in the group that are not their 'home' ones. Following the Orthodox tradition maybe no one should qualify as a parish priest without an ability to perform on one, at least, musical instrument. These skills seem to some more important than having an advanced degree in Theology. Of course both would be necessary should one raise up the ranks of clergy. I am afraid I would fail the test. But I am now looking forward to worship freed from the stress of singing matins and evensong and leading acapella chants. I married a member of the Church Choir and had to promise in my vows never to sing acapella in the shower and that was soon extended to other places. However out on a fine evening as the sun goes down over the bog I like to hum along with the celestial music of the spheres!

DEATHS

Very sadly we must record the Death and Burial of Phyllis Grant of Crinkill, formerly Garbally, in Birr. Phyllis who had survived her husband by a few years died on April 19th. The funeral was held in St Paul's, Banagher and burial followed in the adjoining graveyard. We extend our sympathies to her brothers Dick and Stephen, sister Evelyn and sister-in-law Maura and her wide circle of relatives and friends. We extend our deep sympathies to the Clarke family of Garbally, Birr in the parish of St Paul's, Banagher on the death of Jean Hoaren(née Clarke) who died on April 11th 2017 in London. The date for the funeral in London has not yet been announced.

WEDDING

A few minutes after submitting these notes the Blessing of the Marriage of Maureen Moss and John Counihan will take place in Christ Church, Portumna. Maureen is the Churchwarden of Christ Church. John is, amongst a variety of skills, a musician who plays locally. We are delighted at the news of their wedding. They will be celebrating the happy event in the Lough Rea Hotel. I will try and get a picture into Newslink.

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

NO NOTES AVAILABLE.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER.

There was nothing unusual, and indeed why should there have been, over our Parish's liturgical keeping of Holy Week and Easter. The ritual re-enactment in one form or another of the Christian Paschal and Resurrection drama enlivened and enriched the parish. I would like to thank all those who helped prepare, participated in, or joined in prayerfully with the liturgies. We were pleased that our Maundy Thursday Service could start with the Reception of Oils and thank Diocesan Reader Phair for attending the Chrism Eucharist in Nenagh to receive oil blessed by Bishop Kenneth.



John celebrating the Blessing of his Marriage to Maureen in Portumna



Maureen celebrating the Blessing of her Marriage to John in Portumna

EASTER VESTRIES

We held, as we are required, to hold three Easter Vestries in three churches. The Churches were pleased to have reported that all essential work to the Rectory has been completed. And they hope that soon there will be a young dynamic modest clergyperson living in the Rectory able to preserve gravity in our often chaotic and fragmented world. Other things happened too at the Easter Vestries but above all there were thanks for the amazing churchwardens, passionate treasurers, stunning secretaries, and lots of other lovely people in our gender-fluid, lively parish.

A list of people who have helped in many cases 'marvellously', helped especially in getting the Rectory up to scratch will be published on-line through various feeds, several social network with in-detail pictures. Don't worry folk: alas that's fake news. On the other hand.....

STUFF HAPPENS IN MAY TOO

And because these notes are too long you will have to rely on my messaging service. Good luck especially to all those heading into state examinations. If you are out of this parish and want to sign up to breaking news from Clonfert. You can contact me and you will be able to sign in too.

Off to the Wedding now. Talk later. June maybe!

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Vacant

Priest-in-charge: Rev Edna Wakely
50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick
Tel: 061 302 038, Mob: 086 357 4917
Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

03 April – Maria Ischner – our deepest sympathy to Kayt Shier, her husband John, son Adam, her sister Ute, relatives and friends on the death her mum Maria.

MOTHERING SUNDAY – 25TH MARCH

Canon Marie and Patrick were delighted to be with LCP on 25th of March when they attended the United Service in St Michael's. They want to say a huge 'thank-you' for the kind words spoken in appreciation, the beautiful flowers, and the voucher for a stay at the Dunraven Arms Hotel in Adare – a total surprise and a lovely thoughtful present! They wish LCP every blessing as we begin to search for a new Rector/Dean to come amongst us to enable, encourage and enhance all the many gifts that we have, so that the body of Christ will continue to flourish and grow in St Michael's, the Cathedral, and Abington. We will be in their prayers during this time of discernment, and they both look forward to being with us all again at the future installation of our new Rector/Dean.



Colin Marsden, Canon Marie, Patrick Rowley Brooke & Victor Dreaper.

ST. MICHAEL'S CONCERT – 31ST MARCH

A delightful and most enjoyable concert was held in St. Michael's Church in aid of the church organ and Down Syndrome Limerick. Our grateful thanks to Edel O'Brien (mezzo soprano), Irina Dernova (Organ) and Reflecting Strings, Moya O'Grady (Cello), David O'Doherty (Violin) and Geraldine O'Doherty (Harp). The musicians performed well-known classical pieces and Edel sang many much loved operatic arias. Those who didn't make the concert missed a truly wonderful evening. Tracey, Gillian, Margaret, Susi and Sheelagh, provided delicious refreshments during the interval. These were much appreciated by all present. The concert raised €1,000.

THE LIMERICK POLISH PASSION PLAY – 8TH APRIL held in St. Mary's was a performance aiming to integrate Irish and Polish people through music. This was indeed a very special occasion. The Passion of our Lord was superbly directed and creatively and sensitively presented to a packed and overflowing Cathedral. Such was the audience appreciation that the players were given a prolonged standing ovation.



Polish Passion play

HOLY WEEK – Our services during Holy Week and over Easter were well attended. The breakfasts after the 7.30 am Holy Communion services were greatly appreciated and there was a warm feeling of friendship and fellowship that many remarked upon. Many thanks to Noreen Ellerker for organizing these breakfasts and to all those who contributed to their success.

CONFIRMATION – Sunday 28th May Please remember in your prayers the following candidates who will be confirmed in St. Mary's Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 28th May: Art O'Leary, Danielle Gaffney, Luke Moloney, Alan Hastings, Alan Scott, Stewart Scott, Dara Tinubu, Demo Tinubu, Scott Gibbons, Kingsley Unachukwu, Ernest Unachukwu, and Lillian Beamish. Please note as Confirmation will be held at 3.30pm there will be no morning service in St. Mary's but there will be Holy Communion in St. Michael's Church at 10 a.m. and Abington at 12 noon.

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ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL NEWS

General Synod will have been and gone by the time these notes are read, but the Cathedral Choir still has plenty to look forward to for later this term. The choir's activities include 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.

Limerick School of Music Pianists concert will take place on Sunday 21st May at 3pm in St. Mary's Cathedral. For more information contact LSOM on 061 417 348

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

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

We welcome the end of our Lenten observance and the beginning of the Easter season.

We had a full slate of Holy Week and Easter services. Each parish hosted at least one Holy Week service, and each celebrated a Holy Eucharist service for Easter. Kilmallock once again was the venue for the Easter Vigil, held on Saturday night, in which we heard the history of God's saving deeds and renewed our baptismal vows. The other three parishes celebrated Eucharist on Easter Day. Kilpeacon hosted a children's service on Good Friday.



Adare Easter Tree



Kilpeacon Easter Window

We also had the last meeting of our Psalms class during Holy Week, on that Wednesday evening. This was our Lenten class, in which we learned about the different types of Psalms and their characteristics. We even had practice writing a few! We had about 12 people for the seven weeks of the class, using a curriculum, "Discovering the Psalms." It comes from a company in the States, called Kerygma, that writes good Bible study programs.

On the Second Sunday of Easter, 23rd April, we had a joint Easter Vestry meeting. Normally, we would have two: for Kilmallock, and for Adare, Croom, and Kilpeacon. We combined them this year because of the need to elect people from the whole Group, for Parish Nominators and Diocesan Synod Representatives. It is also good that we all get together occasionally, and we preceded the meeting with a joint worship service, held in Adare. In the worship, we sang some of the hymns and songs that the Singing Group has been practicing.

The following people were elected at the joint Easter Vestry meeting:

ADARE/CROOM/KILPEACON VESTRY:

Adare: Olivia Gardiner, Rector's Churchwarden; Kevin deBurca Murphy, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Victor Alfred, Janet Bray, Alan Mitchell, John Scanlon.

Croom: Nuala Gardiner, Rector's Churchwarden; Helen Davis, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Robert Davis, Robert Walker.

Kilpeacon: Bobby Bingham, Rector's Churchwarden; Richard Blennerhassett, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Sylvia Cooke, Tom Peirce, Burton Smith, Norman Wheeler.

Rector's Glebewarden: James Clarke.

People's Glebewarden: Kieron Brislane.

KILMALLOCK VESTRY:

John Steepe, Rector's Churchwarden; Henry Hales, People's Churchwarden.

Members: Chris Adams, Margaret Cahill, Emily Hales, Simon Johnson, Ann Kenny-Ryan, Tabitha Lillingston, Stanley Wallace.

Rector's Glebewarden: Luke Lillingston.

People's Glebewarden: John Steepe.

PARISH NOMINATORS:

Kieron Brislane, Meriel Clarke, Sylvia Cooke, Luke Lillingston.

Supplementalists: Nuala Gardiner, Burton Smith, Janet Bray, Chris Adams.

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:

Janet Bray, Kieron Brislane, James Clarke, Michelle Hales.

Supplementalists: Sylvia Cooke, Dorothy Brislane, Helen Alfred, Ann Kenny-Ryan.

Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve the Church and our parishes in these different ways. And many thanks also to those who are going off the Vestry, for your faithful service.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

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SUNDAYS IN MAY AND OTHER SERVICES:

7 May: 9.45, Askeaton, HC, 11.15, Kilnaughtin HC.

14 May: Castletown, HC; 11.15, Rathkeale, MP.

21 May: 9.45, Askeaton, MP; 11.15, Kilnaughtin, HC.

25 May: Ascension Day: 8 p.m., HC, venue to be announced.

28 May: 9.45 Castletown, MP; 11.15, Rathkeale, HC.

4 June, Pentecost: 9.45, Askeaton, HC, 11.15, Kilnaughtin HC.

MARKING LENT AND CELEBRATING EASTER:

Throughout Lent, we marked the season of preparation for Easter with Bible studies in the Rectory, Askeaton, following the Bishop's Lenten Challenge. Holy Week was marked with special services each night, and on Good Friday, many parishioners joined the one-hour ecumenical service of 'Waiting at the Cross' in Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Rathkeale, which was led by Father Liam Enright, the Revd Ruth Watt, David Breen and Patrick Comerford (see picture on page 18).

The Easter Eucharist was celebrated in each church, beginning with the Easter Vigil in Castletown Church, and Easter morning celebrations in Kilnaughtin, Askeaton and Rathkeale. A warm thank you to all who were involved in decorating the four churches and who helped to make Easter this year a memorable celebration.

EASTER VESTRIES:

The three Easter Vestries have now met. As this is the year for triennial elections and returns, they were interesting evenings. The results of the elections and nominations will be published in Newslink next month.

SCHOOL CAKE SALE:

The School Cake School in Rathkeale No 2 National School place took in April before the Easter holiday and was well-supported. The

school reopened on 24 April. The school board of management next meets on Monday 8 May.

SPECIAL SERVICES:

There were five Sundays in April, and on the Fifth Sunday was marked by a united Eucharist for the group of parishes in Castletown Church, and Evening Prayer in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

There will be a confirmation service on Sunday afternoon, 18 June, in Holy Trinity, Rathkeale, at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

Canon Liz Beasley, Rector of Adare and Kilmallock, was the guest preacher at the Mothers' Union Diocesan Lady Service in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, on Monday evening, 27 March. A warm thank you to Canon Beasley and all who helped provide food and refreshments in the Rectory later that evening.



The Easter Vigil begins on Saturday night in Castletown Church

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Vacant

Email: tralee@ireland.anglican.org

Priest-in-Charge: 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
7th May	MP	HC	2.30pm Confirmation	MP	MP
14th May	MP	MP	MP	HC	HC
21st May	HC	HC	MP	MP	MP
Ascension Day 25th May		11.00am HC			
27th May 7.30pm		Service of Welcome for Revd. Jim Stephens			
28th May	*No Service	*HC	*No Service	HC	HC

* All warmly invited to join with St. John's, Tralee

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 2nd May 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.

SERVICE OF WELCOME FOR REV'D. JIM STEPHENS: All are warmly invited to join us for Revd. Jim's Service of Welcome on Saturday 27th May at 7.30pm in St. John's, Tralee. We pray for Jim and his family as he prepares for his new responsibilities.

ST. JAMES, DINGLE: The Choir from Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, together with the brilliant Scotia Ensemble, held a concert in St. James on 11th March. The combination of lovely voices and beautiful musical interpretation made for a concert that was an up-lifting and enjoyable experience. All were very impressed by the talent demonstrated by the young choir members.

EASTER SERVICES: Throughout the group of parishes we have enjoyed some very special Lenten and Easter Services. A service of Communion by Extension was much appreciated at Ballymacelligott on Easter Sunday. Thanks to all who prepared and led the services and to those who decorated our churches so beautifully.

THE LINKS GROUP: On Mothering Sunday, we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of sunshine and fellowship at Muckross. The April meeting was held on Monday 24th and we then finish our season with a weekend away. This year's trip will be to Cork city on May 19th, staying two nights in the Ambassador hotel. As always, everyone welcome.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: Congratulations to Annie-Mai Fitzell who was 90 years young on Monday 10th April, when she was joined by about 20 friends and neighbours for a party in her home. Her family from the UK also organised a wonderful surprise party at McElligot's in Ardfert on the following Saturday,



Mai Ann Fitzell at 90 with her nephew Roland

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: '*Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.*' Mother Teresa

Patchwork Exhibition

The Irish Patchwork Society will hold an exhibition of their work in St. James' Church of Ireland, Main St, Dingle, Co. Kerry, on Saturday and Sunday, 10/11th June, 11am - 5pm.

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

EASTER CELEBRATIONS:

The efforts put in by parishioners to celebrate the resurrection this year outdid everything we have done in the past. Venerable Simon suggested an Easter garden as a fitting decoration for the church and the area around the baptismal font looked spectacular. All services were well attended and because Killarney was thronged for the week the throughput of visitors during the week was phenomenal. Thanks

to everyone who contributed to making the church look special. As for the bonnets the ladies wore on Easter Day – it's just another measure of how determined we are to make church life meaningful and enjoyable.



Floral Easter Bonnets

CONCERTS:

The concert season is now well underway and – as always – Andrew Eadie has everyone on their toes. As happens every year, people are having to ring Andrew and excuse themselves from being rostered at the last minute, but the number of parishioners willing to fill in is very heartening.

GENERAL SYNOD:

Those of us at St Mary's who are always looking for a sustainable plan looking towards the future are waiting anxiously for the General Synod which will be held in Limerick at the beginning of May. The delegates who will attend are always driven by the greater good, but inevitably they come with parochial pressures which they have to deal with as well. Not only do they need our support, they need our prayers also so that the future of the Church of Ireland is mapped in a sustainable manner which we will all ultimately benefit from.

CONDOLENCES:

The congregation wish to extend their deepest condolences to Susan Hutchinson on the recent death of her mother and also to Mossie O'Connell on his father's recent passing. May both rest in peace and find comfort in their place with the Lord.

NATURE WALK:

The Sunday School children had their annual spring nature walk on April 23rd and if there was ever a day to see God's bounty that was the day. After the recent dry spell we were able to get down and dirty in our quest to find flowers, insects and all sorts of life forms that inhabit this remarkable planet. Each of the children took photographs of what they saw as something special and these will be put on display at the back of the church during the month of May. Seeing nature through the eyes of children is really something special and they can teach us adults an awful lot about getting "back to basics". It goes without saying that their mentors – Lynda, Noleen, Susan and Clara – should be appreciated by all of us for the tireless work they do with these children all year round! It is also critical that we understand and appreciate the tireless efforts of each of the children's parents in their commitment to raising their them in a balanced Christian ethos throughout the year. Hopefully we'll be able to include some of photographs in the June edition of Newslink.



Easter Garden

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Mob: 087 052 9107

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

Web: kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

KILTALLGH SCHOOL CYCLE,

A fund raising cycle will be held on Saturday the 20th May in aid of Kiltallagh National School.

Two routes have been selected in order to accommodate all levels of fitness. So you can choose either the 45km or the 90km option. The cycle will be followed by refreshments.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES:

Thanks to all who prepared our Churches for the various services that were held. The Easter Sunday service in Killorglin was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Church grounds, which was a big hit with the children who participated. Thanks to those who organised this event.

. EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry was held as part of the morning service in Killorglin on Sunday 23rd April.

More news next month on the elections.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Mark and Lisa Poff of Anglont, Killorglin on the birth of their second son, Jake Michael in Kerry General Hospital recently. Jake's big brother Daniel is also delighted to have a little brother to play with!.

CONFIRMATION:

Confirmation will be held on the 7th May, Please continue to remember Elbha, Robert and Gavin in your prayers.

MOTHERING SUNDAY:

A united family service was held in Killorglin to celebrate Mothering Sunday, The confirmation candidates together with children from the Sunday School participated. It is wonderful to see our young people participate with confidence. Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Linda, Shauna, Pam, Matilda and Nicole for their contributions.

The service was followed by refreshments in the hall with donations going towards Christian Aid.

ECUMENICAL WALK.

An Ecumenical walk between the two secondary schools in Killorglin was organised by Declan Crowley and facilitated by Michael Briggs of Christian Aid on the theme of Climate Justice. It was a great success. It was a pleasure to be part of it, even for a little while. The children as they walked through Killorglin town cut a dash with their high-vis vests. A short reflection was given by Rev Jim in Library Place.



Ecumenical Walk

TRIP TO UGANDA.

Katie Giles is currently in her third year of teacher training in Mary Immaculate college. As part of an alternative placement, she will travel to Uganda on 21st July, as a volunteer with Nurture Africa. Nurture Africa is an Irish organisation that runs a specialist paediatric health centre and provides the most vulnerable children in Uganda with lifesaving treatment, education and the hope of a better future.

Katie will spend three weeks in a town called Nansana, where she will mainly be involved in teaching vulnerable children in a Ugandan school. She will also be working on health and outreach projects and will work on a building project for a Ugandan community. Best wishes with the project and we look forward to hearing about your travels on your return.

EASTER THOUGHT.

'People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is shining but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.'

~Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

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 Easter Story is a drama in four parts – and we celebrate it as such. We waved palms and shouted Hosanna! as Jesus rode on in Majesty to the last and fiercest strife. After our meal with Him, overhearing His prayer for us, we went silently out into the night; and we followed His cross on the afternoon when the sky turned black. Without these three preceding acts of the drama, our celebration of His resurrection, standing at the water's edge and accepting His invitation to breakfast, would have been a somewhat empty ritual. But instead, it was a celebration of victory and rejoicing as the depth of His Glory is revealed.

The Wild South West of the Kingdom of Kerry welcomes visitors from around the world at this time of year, and it is an annual blessing to share our celebrations and worship with family from all its four corners (and Dublin as well). This is why it is so important to maintain our presence even though out-of-season congregations in some of the Churches of our Union are small; we are given a wonderful opportunity to respond to Jesus' challenge to love our neighbour by offering a warm welcome and the Gospel message to all who visit. As one German woman said after joining us for our Easter Sunday service "I came in as a visitor, I go as part of this family".



In addition to our services, we are coming into the season of music events, taking advantage of the marvellous acoustics of our Church buildings. In Kenmare, we have already hosted a concert given by the Scotia ensemble accompanied by the choir from Mercy Mounthawk School and a recital celebrating the 120 years of Kenmare's famous Park Hotel. In May, we look forward to more music from the Kenmare Chamber Choir in Sneem; later in the month our friend James Nelson, the Irish tenor, will be singing along with friends in support of Cheryl's Children's Home in Nairobi.

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

A little bit of forward notice. The Annual Open Air service on the Adare Manor Golf Club will be held on Tuesday the 6th of June at 11am. This is a tradition that goes back almost 200 years, and reminds us of the time that John Wesley visited the area and preached under an Ash tree. Wesley didn't stay within church buildings to preach God's love and salvation, he went to where the people were, the people who were hungry to hear the Word of God, hungry for a place where they were accepted and loved. Where are those people today, and why do we seem to be ignoring them? I wonder what we need to be doing to share God's love and salvation as John Wesley did in his time?

SERVICES FOR MAY:

7th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Holy Communion
14th	Rev. Ruth Watt	
20th	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	Saturday evening @ 8:00p.m. in Ballingrane
21st	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	@ 11a.m. in Adare
28th	TBC	

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

Due to an unfortunate issue with dry rot, construction work is afoot in CB1 Limerick (the gallery space in the Central Buildings Community Project) to replace the floor and get a few other jobs done while the room is closed. CB1 Limerick services and activities, however, have not stopped; instead, they have moved into Christ Church where they are operating as normal until their rightful home has been restored. Indeed, visitors can see art exhibitions hanging in the Christ Church ambulatory, avail of complimentary refreshments from a coffee dock temporarily set up in the sanctuary and attend various creative groups throughout the building, including Paul Quane's art classes (run in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) and Knitters 4 Life's knitting lessons (both free to the public).



the launch of the Community Art Group's exhibition with Tutor Paul Quane in the foreground.

As CB1 Limerick finds a momentary home within Christ Church, it joins the veritable hive of activity that the premises have become, with English lessons for migrants provided by both Christ Church and Doras Luimní and rehearsal space given to several music groups such as the Limerick Choral Union, BPS Dance and Elikya, a community band from the Congo. The upstairs hall sees the return of the art workshop Kicking the Bucket, the subject of an RTÉ One documentary last November, that will culminate in an exhibition in the Limerick City Gallery of Art later this year. Meanwhile, the construction work in CB1 Limerick will add another door to the gallery space to allow better connection between Christ Church and Central Buildings.

Christ Church is open for the public to avail of CB1 Limerick's services and activities from 11.00 to 17.00, Monday to Friday, in addition to the usual church service time of 11.30 on Sundays. We are always glad of visitors, regular or brief, and volunteers also: if you would like to get involved with the gallery or learn more about it, please call me on 085 1720747.

And as this appears in print CB1 will be hopefully open again!

World Music Cafe on May 18th at 12 noon.

Patrick Edmund Lynch, gallery manager

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



Bring & Share Meal

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

April has been a month of blessings. We give thanks to God for the birth of Abigail Rebecca Benjamin on 4th April who is the 9th child of Rachel and Michael Benjamin. Proud grandparents are Irene and James Parson from our circuit.

Holy Week was filled with special services; prayers for healing, united Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services; and ecumenical Walks of

Witness. Folks attended these services to worship and to mark the last few days and hours of Christ's life in a spiritual and significant way. The picture shows the crowd which had gathered for Roscrea's Walk of Witness with laity of all ages carrying the cross from the Methodist Church to the Church of Ireland. At our Easter Sunday morning Resurrection celebrations, extended family and visitors worshipped on our circuit. We give thanks for these blessings!

As we look ahead, we are delighted to offer a special concert with Simon Casey on Friday 19th May at 8pm at St. Cronan's Church of Ireland, Roscrea. We are raising funds for our circuit and North Tipperary Hospice. Tickets are €15/adult and €10/student. They will be available at the door but if you would like to purchase one beforehand, please contact Rev. Shannon.

Every blessing,

~ Rev. Shannon

St. Cronan's BB – The Company will meet on Saturday 6th May for an Activity Day in Nenagh; on the 19th May in Methodist Church Hall (7-8:15pm); and on Saturday 27th May for Fishing at Laois Angling Centre. Contact Rev. Shannon for more details.

St Cronan's Youth Club – club will meet next on Saturday 27th May 6-8.30 bike park. Any questions please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

Midlands and Southern District MWI 58th Annual Weekend Conference – 5th – 7th May 2017 in Castlerosse Hotel, Killarney; speaker is Shirley Alexander. Theme is "Living in Freedom." Cost = €155. If interested, contact Barbara Bryan at 021 4821589.

MWI N. Tipperary Service 21st May at 7pm- Everyone's invited to Shinrone Church for a service of worship led by the MWI.

Mission-shaped Practices – Being Spiritual Guides-Saturday 20th May – All are welcome to Adair Hall, Fermoy, Co. Cork from 10am – 1pm for teaching and reflection on the practice of being spiritual guides. Day retreat will be led by Rev. Phil and Sam Meadows from the Inspire Network. There is no fee for this retreat day.

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 offering a 4 day workshop Wednesday 16th August – Saturday 19th August for children and youth aged 3 years and up in the Cloughjordan Church of Ireland Parish Hall. Saturday night will conclude with a show! If your child or youth is interested, please let Rev. Shannon know. Cost details will follow in the weeks to come.



Bible Bite

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

A short story from the Bible

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('Grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...

Esau is older but Jacob will be more important.



Esau liked to go out to hunt, but Jacob stayed at home.



When Isaac was old and blind he told Esau



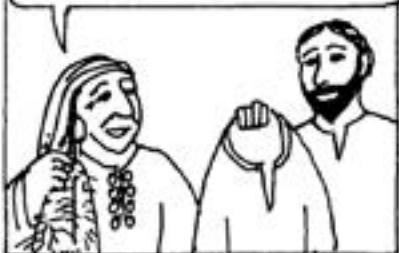
But Rebekah went to find Jacob



But Esau is hairy and I am not.



Use goat skin to cover your arms and wear Esau's clothes



Here is your food, Father



Are you really Esau? Come nearer.

Jacob was tricked by the goat skin and Esau's clothes.

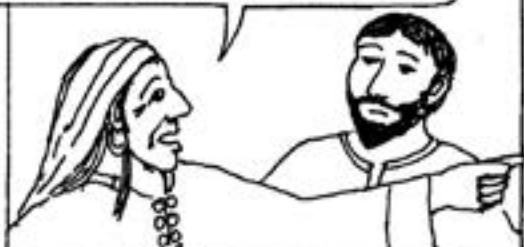


May God bless you richly, my son.

Then Esau returned



You must run away or Esau will kill you. Go to my brother Laban's home.



I'm sorry, I already blessed your brother

Jacob!



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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

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