

NEWSLINK

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

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The Lampedusa Cross – made from the wreckage of boats carrying refugees across the Mediterranean



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Bishop Kenneth writes on Ecumenism

Ecumenism has been at the forefront of my mind in recent weeks. In September I had the privilege of attending the celebrations for the 250th anniversary of Ballingrane Methodist Church near Askeaton Co. Limerick, also known as the Embury and Heck Memorial Methodist Church. The church building itself has a quiet dignity all of its own, simple in style, hallowed by centuries of worship, but towering over the whole occasion was a celebration of the wonderful ministry of two people, Philip Embury, one time minister at that church and his cousin Barbara Heck. Together they went from this quiet church to found American Methodism.

The service was conducted by Revd Ruth Watt, recently arrived in Adare as minister, and we heard a wonderful sermon from the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Revd Bill Mullally. At a personal level, the service was an opportunity for me to renew friendships with Methodist friends such as Revd Tom Kingston and his wife Gillian, currently Vice President of the World Methodist Council, and with Revd Dr Harold Good, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, now ministering in Knock Methodist Church Belfast. Over the years I've shared with each of them many ecumenical occasions, so for me it was a time to reflect just how far we've travelled in our relationships with the Methodist Church in Ireland.

In the past it seemed that Methodist and Church of Ireland people were too close to be good friends! Friendship yes, but always a bit of tension, a bit of rivalry. So much has changed in recent years – relationships of

trust and sharing are deepening, and we now have a Covenant urging us to seek out even closer relationships and sharing in mission and witness.

A second strand to my recent ecumenical experience took place in Canterbury and Rome, when I joined with Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick in a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and Pope Francis, and being commissioned by them both for further ecumenical work.



Again the sense of having travelled so far from the days of social division from our Roman Catholic neighbours which I knew in my childhood. Living side by side but never really engaging with people of a different church denomination – thankfully those divisive days are past. While differences are still there, we realise today that differences don't mean division, and that through co-operation and mutual support we can move forward into the future, through recognising the importance of a shared Christian witness in Ireland today.

Ecumenism is about the future, and that's also in the title of the report from Archdeacon Linney and Canon Hyland whose report "Forward Together" was presented to Diocesan Council recently. I hope you'll find the time to read the report and to discuss it at every level in the diocese. Members of Select Vestries will each receive a copy and will have the opportunity to discuss it together. The full text of the report is available elsewhere in Newslink.

Archdeacon Linney and Canon Hyland said they were delighted to meet so many people in the diocese and to discover signs of hope and enthusiasm in our parishes. We too are encouraged by their report, which contains many proposals and suggestions to help us express our Christian witness and mission more effectively in this part of Ireland.

So, the last few weeks have been times of great encouragement for me, both ecumenically and in our own diocese. May we all share a sense of hope and confidence in the future, knowing that it is God's future, and our calling is to be faithful.

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

Holiday Cottage in Kerry

Would anyone with a holiday cottage in Kerry consider lending it to a couple and their 4 children from 15 May to 1 August 2017?

The father is a priest in the Diocese of Louisiana coming on sabbatical to work with us in our Diocese.

Please let me know asap if you're able and willing to make this generous offer.

Ven Simon J Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick & Aghadoe

Email: archdeacon@limerick.anglican.org, Tel: 086 870 3997

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sun 6th November, 4pm Festival Eucharist for Bicentenary of St Brendan's Church, Birr (preacher: Archbishop Richard Clarke, Primate of All Ireland)

Wed 9th November, 8pm DBoM Mission Evening, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

Fri 11th – Sun 13th November UDYC Junior Weekend, Durrow Centre, Durrow, Co Laois (age 10-13)

Sat 12th November, 11am-2pm Christmas Fair fundraiser for LCP, Villiers School, Limerick

Sun 13th November, 1.30pm Sunday Lunch in Aghancon Hall (note change of date)

Sun 13th November, 5pm Service of Commissioning for Keith & Lyn Scott, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 19th November, 7.30-9.30pm UDYC Fellowship Group, Richmond Terrace, Henry St, Limerick City (2nd level students)

Sun 20th November, 11.15am Celebration Eucharist for 50th anniversary of Very Rev Maurice Sirr's ordination, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 26th November, 2.30-5pm GFS Diocesan Christmas Craft Day, St Kieran's Hall, Cloughjordan

Sat 26th November UDYC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance with Fundraising Raffle, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare (5th year upwards)

Sat 26th November, 3-4.30pm MU Vigil against Gender Based Violence, St Brendan's, Birr

Sun 27th November, 7pm Advent Carol Service by candlelight, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 10th December, 5.30 pm 'Come & Sing Carols', St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 10th December UDYC Secondary School Overnight Trip to Dublin

Sun 11th – Sun 18th December 2016 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Nenagh

Editorial

Separation and Togetherness

Deep within our human psyche there is a tension between forces which seek to separate us into mutually antagonistic groups and forces which draw us together in recognition of how alike we are.

In the realm of politics, the forces of separation appear to be winning: they are driving the Brexit and Trump phenomena, and so much more. I personally hope and pray that they will be defeated by kinder forces leading us to join together in loving one another better.

But in the realm of Christian faith, I think the forces working for togetherness are slowly but surely eroding sectarian division, despite the efforts of fundamentalists in different traditions to prevent it. This issue of Newslink includes many examples:

- The patient work over many years of the Oak House Ecumenical Fellowship.
- The new Churches Together initiatives bearing fruit in Birr and Roscrea.
- Retired RC Archbishop Dr Dermot Clifford preaching at the Bóthar 25th Anniversary Service in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- And last, but by no means least, the joint commissioning by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis of Bishop Kenneth and Bishop Brendan Leahy for further ecumenical work under the IARCCUM umbrella.

I detect the Holy Spirit at work in this, thanks be to God!

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.*

God bless, Joc Sanders



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 2nd November

Aldo de Vero & Giuseppe Camprisi (piano duo)

The first visit to Limerick by this Italian duo on tour in Ireland

Wednesday 9th November

Robert Crowe (male soprano), Simon Harden (piano)

We explore the intriguing musical world of the Italian male castrato

The lunchtime concerts return in 2017. Thank you to the many people who have supported the concerts in St Mary's in 2016.

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

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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Deadlines

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All material must reach the Editor by Friday 18th November 2016 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2016

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2016

(UNCHANGED from 2015, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - November 2016

Each Sunday in November

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and Bishop Paul Colton.

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

6th November, 3rd Sunday before Advent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Lusitanian Church (Portugal) and Rt Revd José Jorge De Pina Cabral, Bishop of the Lusitanian Church.

Diocese: In the week of the presidential elections in the United States of America we pray for the leaders of every nation, that they may be guided by your Holy Spirit.

13th November, 2nd Sunday before Advent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and their Bishop, Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano.

Diocese: For the work of Doras Luimní, the Tralee International Resource Centre and all who make refugees and asylum seekers welcome and foster their integration into our communities.

20th November, The Kingship of Christ, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Parish of the Falkland Islands and Rt Revd Nigel William Stock, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands.

Diocese: As we discuss the report of our diocesan review, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to move forward together to renew Christ's Church in our dioceses.

27th November, 1st Sunday of Advent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kansas in the Episcopal Church and Rt Revd Dean Wolfe, Bishop of Kansas.

Diocese: As we look forward to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in a stable because there was no room in the inn, we pray for the homeless in our communities and those at risk of becoming homeless, that their short and long term needs may be met.

4th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Violet

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert and Bishop Kenneth Kearon.

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Karnataka North in the United Church of South India and Rt Revd Mohan Manoraj, Bishop of Karnataka North.

Diocese: We pray for those in poverty in our communities and for agencies such as Protestant Aid and St Vincent de Paul who work to ease their distress.

A November Field

The tractor ploughs a lonely field
Seen through November mist;
Which, to the rising sun doth yield
The earth is gently kissed.

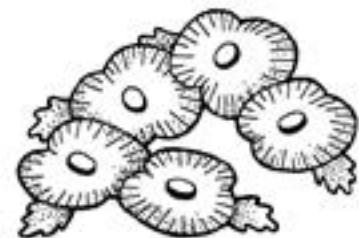
The earth is gently kissed,
And melts remaining frost
But yet a chill does still persist
For thousands here were lost.

For thousands here were lost.
They fought for this same soil
These thousands paid the awful cost
In blood, and pain, and toil.

In blood, and pain, and toil,
'Gainst shell, and gun, and bomb
They fought, these men, courageous, loyal
The Battle of the Somme.

by Nigel Beeton

Nigel Beeton writes: November is the month for Remembrance, and the 16th November marks the centenary of the end of one of the most protracted, most bloody, and least successful military battles of all time. I pity those who have to tend the fields where so very many died.



Oak House Reunion 2016 by Claire Besnoye

Oak House Ecumenical Fellowship gathered on Saturday 24th September 2016 for its annual Reunion at the guesthouse of Mount St Joseph Cistercian Abbey in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

This was the continuation of a twenty-year-long tradition of autumn retreats organised by Claire Besnoye and Brigid O'Higgins, a one day reunion which offered the group spiritual refreshment in a familiar and welcoming monastic setting. The guest house is set among green fields, wooded hills and imposing monastic buildings. There is a fine church, a secondary college for boys, playing fields and a milking herd of some 300 cows.



Fr Gerard McCarthy with some of those attending the Reunion

This year we welcomed Fr Gerard McCarthy SVD as our speaker and celebrant, on the theme of Finding Faith and Hope in the Scriptures for Our Troubled World. After returning to Ireland from missionary work in Africa, and new to us, Fr Gerard has earned for himself a firm reputation for his spiritual gifts of leadership, teaching and for preaching inspiring retreats. His gifts are extraordinary – we were both astonished and inspired.

He is a vibrant speaker, convincing in his sincerity, illuminating his thoughts with rich biblical insights and lively anecdotes, in all giving us a most refreshing, uplifting and memorable September day. Fr McCarthy encouraged his listeners to see themselves as disciples of Christ – living lives of faith and hope and shining the LIGHT and LOVE of Christ to those around them.

Oak House/Dairtheach is a group of confessing Christians, firmly rooted in their respective traditions, who seek to proclaim and share the joy and healing power of Christ. Based in Co. Galway, the contact phone number is 091 843 004.

Solution to the October Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

A View from the Pew – Small is beautiful

by Salters Sterling



I am most grateful to those who have spoken with warm appreciation of what I wrote about our visit to China in the last issue of Newslink. There is so much more to tell but almost all of it will have to wait.

There is, however, something which all of us need to ponder. The Cultural Revolution in China was traumatic for individuals, for communities, state-wide. Many died. It was not possible to enquire about the Cultural Revolution in conversation with the many highly educated

folk whom we met and talked with in the metropolitan cities that we visited. Opportunities didn't arise and certainly weren't given. There was a strong sense that any enquiry would be an unwelcome intrusion. In the rural world it was quite different. Conversations about what it was like growing up in rural China 50 years ago - What was school like? What methods of farming were being used? What were roads like? - and so forth, produced responses from the outset which indicated that those with whom we were speaking had not been going to school and could not read or write. In other words that cultural revolutionary period had been so disruptive that an entire generation of children had lost out on their educational opportunities. There was no apology. It was a fact of life. Water under the bridge. And as we walked the land with them, noting with amazement the skills of their manual husbandry and the magnificence of the produce that resulted, and had explained to us in elaborate detail the reasons for everything they did, we could recognise that these were highly skilled and intensely thoughtful people in spite of, or could it be because of, their illiteracy. They are the bedrock of much of Chinese agriculture and the pioneers of the newly heightened awareness of its role in the conservation of their natural environment. So impressive were they that I have been unable to avoid living with the questions which, without asking and just being, they articulated.

METROPOLITANITIS

Central to those questions is the sense that too great a preoccupation with the experiences, perspectives and perceptions which are peculiar to the Metropolis can very effectively distort and even conceal the fundamental issues and questions about the art of life and living and loving. The busyness, the bustle, the noise, the anonymity of metropolitan living discourages both reflection and response. And yet we increasingly accept it as normative with the whirlpool effect of the city sucking under more and more of the rural world with the consequence that quantity becomes the yard stick of all measure. Chinese cities are busy, busy places but it was easy enough to identify in them practices of behaviour manifestly relating to rural values. The sanctity of the leisurely shared evening meal, course after course of delicious food being interspersed with good conversation and the exchange of information is a very good example.

I write of this because our own Church is not immune from the quantitative judgements of metropolitanitis, most recently visible in the rash of diocesan boundary change. For the moment shock treatment has reduced the symptoms and it just so happens that the good doctor Ken and his wise Councillors have been able to produce a report of diagnosis and remedial action which if taken seriously is likely to have major consequences for the whole of the Church of Ireland and not just our Diocese. The Report is included on pages 19-22.

If I interpret the vibes of the report correctly it could be summed up as small is beautiful - provided that they don't become disconnected, learn to work together, share leadership responsibilities, are Jesus and worship centred, are world focussed, never give up learning and are forever young. I am excited, cannot wait to get my hands on a copy, want to discuss it and learn from others, want to put its recommendation into action and hope to experience a renewal of Church in the service of Kingdom. Christmas is coming!

.....

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Bóthar

On 23rd October, St Mary's Cathedral was privileged to host an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the 25th anniversary of Bóthar. Retired Archbishop Dr Dermot Clifford, and Canon Tom Sherlock, both Bóthar board members, took part in the service, with the former preaching and the latter leading the prayers.

Bóthar had its origins in 1989 in Limerick. It began as an enterprise with the aim of sending as many dairy cows to Africa as possible in the year 1991, in conjunction with the civic celebrations to mark the tercentenary of the signing of the Treaty of Limerick. However, as the months passed and as more people were informed about the project, it became apparent that this endeavour had far more potential than a local and temporary programme. It was decided to invite prominent national figures to form a Board of Directors of a new Third World Development Agency, which would specialise in the use of livestock in developing countries.

The national launch of Bóthar, in 1991 was attended by, among many others, Archbishop Dermot Clifford and Bishop Edward Darling. After three months of very hard work the first Bóthar Airlift of 20 in-calf dairy heifers left Shannon Airport for Entebbe, Uganda on 10 December 1991. One week later these animals were distributed to 20 individual families. In the following few years many subsequent shipments of heifers were sent to East Africa. Bóthar also began a dairy goat programme, and became involved with supplying 4 W-D vehicles, large supplies of veterinary drugs and many thousands of AI straws to project countries.

To celebrate the organisation's 25th birthday, a special anniversary airlift of 5,300 animals, entitled 'Bóthar's Ark' left Shannon for Rwanda on 10th October where the livestock will be distributed amongst Rwandan genocide widows. The cargo included 37 in-calf heifers, three bulls for the Rwandan Government National Bovine Breeding scheme, 260 pigs, 100 goats, and 5,000 chicks. Also on board were 5,000 doses of Bovine Semen for the Rwandan Breeding Programme run by Bóthar's sister agency, Heifer International. Almost half the in-calf heifers were hand-reared by inmates at Shelton Abbey Prison and Loughan House Open Centre as part of their restorative justice programme. The rest were reared by Irish farmers, some of whom have been supporting Bóthar in this way for over 20 years, and who see in this rearing a practical way to help others.

This is a gift that spreads! The first female-born calf is always given away to another family - that is a condition of receiving an in-calf heifer, and ensures that the opportunities that owning a heifer gives are shared with other families.

Gender Justice: Still an Issue?

Report by Dr Marty Sanders, Nenagh Union of Parishes

Rev Terrie Robinson of the Anglican Communion Office led us in wildly unlikely directions on Saturday, 24 September 2016 when she presented a workshop on this theme in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare. She started with two simple questions: *When do we see gender inequality as normal?* and *What do you do to avoid sexual violence?*

We had several answers to the first question: language (when God is male, male is God), sport and physical strength, midwifery, who makes the tea or does the ironing, inheritance, wages, and most telling from a young woman—the need to apologise and say, 'Sorry!' when telling a man or boy, 'No'.

To answer the second question, we were divided into men on one side and women on the other. When we came back together again and the men were asked what did they do to avoid sexual violence, the answer was: 'Nothing'. In the women's group we had plenty to say: walk purposely, guard your personal security, don't dress provocatively, don't go out at night, don't make eye contact with men, be careful with taxis, and some real eye-openers. Don't challenge men because they might come back with 'What do you know?', with the unspoken words, 'because I'm a man and you're a woman'. And, if you are in a bar, get something in a bottle, not a glass, and even keep your thumb on top of the bottle and don't accept drinks from someone you don't know. Avoiding date rape drugs, you see?

Perhaps that shows the fear we women have because men can do such damage to us, sometimes without even thinking too much about the consequences. The subject of women's violence to men was briefly discussed but according to research Terrie cited, that is nearly always because of continual abuse by the man and the woman just snaps. In general the same kind of violence just doesn't work the other way.

But what about the Bible? In some sense, one can quote anything if

certain verses are pulled out and used. Men are dominant, women submissive, men should rule, women should obey. The stories are many and women are seldom given the dignity of being named.

Of the Gospel writers, Luke is the most inclusive (the angel comes to Mary) and Matthew the most male oriented (the angel comes to Joseph). The stories about Jesus are all male it is true, but Jesus himself shows all types of behaviour. He treats the sick woman and invites a woman to a session where only men have been before. He weeps. He isn't confrontational or argumentative. In other words, he might be the best role model of all for how men can behave in an inclusive way where women are concerned.

The church has generally ignored the subject but not anymore. Terrie herself has the title of Director for Women in Church and Society; our own Girls' Friendly Society and Mothers' Union are being very active on gender inclusiveness Also, to help address her final statement: Think about what you can do now to take this forward.



Rev Terrie Robinson & Bishop Kenneth Kearon

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

BIRR BRANCH

Birr branch held their opening service on Sunday 2nd October and all the girls participated by reading lessons and prayers, collecting, bringing up the bread and wine and setting and clearing the table for communion. And of course we had our banner bearers helping too. We have since started on our crafts; our younger girls are decorating masks, making a decoration with a paper plate and decorating a box and our older girls have started their bible study work for the diocesan competition in April. After Christmas the groups will swap over activities. We would like to welcome all our new members to the branch this year.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The theme for this year's Bible Study is "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." We have explored The Story of Dorcas and Hannah the Prayerful Woman and completed our

booklets based on these stories. This has encouraged us to think of how we can use our own gifts to help others.

Girls and leaders spent a most enjoyable afternoon working on crafts for Hallowe'en. With more crafts in mind, everyone eagerly awaits the Christmas Craft Day which will be held on Saturday, 26th November in Cloughjordan. This is a lovely opportunity to meet friends from Birr, Nenagh and Roscrea branches while making festive crafts together.

The Branch wishes to acknowledge receipt of a grant from the Tipperary Education and Training Board. This grant is of great assistance to the work of the branch and for which we are extremely thankful.

NENAGH BRANCH

Girls started their Floral Badge work on Saturday, 15th October, when they learnt how to create a floral display using fresh flowers. All their collective work looked amazing when it was displayed in one of the church windows for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The Branch has received confirmation of a grant from the Tipperary Education and Training Board as part of the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2016. The Branch is very grateful for this funding as the work of GFS in the Branch could not continue with it.



Nenagh GFS with their Harvest Window display

ROSCREA BRANCH

The Branch held their Opening Night on Friday 7th October. It was lovely to welcome new members and original members. Everyone had a fun night of games, crafts and song.

Lavinia Kenny (nee Read) has returned to Roscrea Branch after many years. Some of the older girls were quite young when Lavinia was last a leader and everyone welcomed her back to the branch. Madeline Hodgins has resigned (for the time being!) and all in the branch wish her well.

Meetings will be held fortnightly until Christmas. The venue may change to facilitate crafts and badge work. Leaders will keep girls informed of changes. For further information please contact Karen St Leger 0872302791.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Council Meeting will take place in the Back Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Nenagh on Wednesday, 9th November at 8pm. Apologies please to rose.langley@gmail.com

Christmas Craft Day will take place on Saturday, 28th November in St. Kieran's Hall, Cloughjordan (not Birr as previously mentioned). Cost per girl is €5. All proceeds from this event go towards GFS Diocesan Camp in June. This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends from all the branches for an afternoon of exciting Christmas craft making. It is always a great start to the Christmas season.

Diocesan Service & Prize day

The Annual Diocesan Service & Prize day will be on Saturday, 1st April 2017 in Borrisokane Church. This will be a very special occasion as this year GFS celebrates 50 years since it was restarted in the Diocese. In 1967 the opening service was held in Borrisokane Church so this year GFS will return there for the Diocesan Service & Prize Day which will also be a celebration of the 50th Anniversary. We look forward to welcoming members past and present to renew old friendships and celebrate together. Please note this date in your diary for next year. A committee are currently compiling a short history of GFS in the Dioceses which will be available on the day. More details will follow in the coming months.

All Ireland Crafts

All Ireland crafts will be judged in Dublin on the 18th April.

Upcoming Dublin Meetings

Central Council Meeting, 12th November at 11.00 am.
World Council in Australia - Closing date for receipt of Booking Deposit and registration forms is 30th November.

Mothers' Union

MothersUNION
Christian care for families

I am delighted to announce that Canon Jane Galbraith has been appointed as our Diocesan Chaplain. Jane, being a member of Mothers' Union, has a great insight into the work, vision, hope and faith of Mothers' Union and we greatly look forward to her inspiration and spiritual guidance in the future.

I would especially like to thank Canon Ruth Gill who was our Diocesan Chaplain for the past year. Canon Ruth led us with her wonderful spiritual gift and encouraged us all to maintain the vision of Mary Sumner.

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President

On Thursday 3rd November the Limerick & Killaloe Diocese hosted Holy Communion in the Mothers' Union Chapel in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and it was great to see representation from the diocese.



MU members with the Celebration Cake



Margaret Crawford, All Ireland Indoors members contact, Lynne Tembey World Wide President and Lucy Kavanagh Diocesan President.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Vigil against Gender Based Violence – 26th November, St. Brendan's Church, Birr from 3 – 4.30pm. Please also remember to bring along a donation of toiletries or children's toys or clothing to be donated to a Women's Refuge.

Tickets for the Big Sing on 9th September, 2017 at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, will go on sale late November, so look out for the posters!

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

Our opening service at the end of September was well attended with members from Adare, Askeaton and Limerick joining together to celebrate the opening of the new season. Canon Marie Rowley-

Brooke conducted a very beautiful 'alternative' service of Holy Communion which she had prepared and which was greatly appreciated by all present. The reflection was given by Lucy Kavanagh who spoke of how much she likes this time of year when we enjoy the bounty of harvest. She told us of her visit to the General Meeting and spoke of Lynne Tembey's address in which she outlined some of the wonderful work being done by Mothers' Union both at home and abroad.

We would like to express our warm thanks to both Canon Marie and to Lucy for a very special start to our season's activities.

On Tuesday 25th October we visited Adare for a Harvest Supper which was a fund raiser for the work of Mothers' Union Worldwide and on Sunday 13th November we invite Indoor Members, Past Members and Friends to join us for afternoon tea in Richmond Terrace.

Margaret Schutz

BIRR BRANCH

An evening of fun and fashion was held in Birr in October. Hosted by Birr Branch this was a joint meeting of Roscrea, Aghancon/Shinrone, Borrisokane and Cloughjordan branches. Rose Harding, Branch Leader, had invited Pamela Quirke to come along and share her ideas on how to rejuvenate our wardrobes and she gave plenty of handy tips on how to alter items of clothing. This was followed by a lovely supper including fabulous Mothers' Union cake made by a very talented Norma Jean Carney. There was an attendance of about 50 people and the proceeds will go to our Overseas Fund.

GERMAN GROUP VISIT

From Wednesday 5th to Saturday 15th October a group of young Germans visited Ireland with their leaders from German Lutheran Church. The main leader was a friend of UDYC for many years Pastor Reinhard Stolz. The group were welcomed very much to Sunday service in Ennis church on Sunday 9th October by Canon Bob Hanna and the parishioners of Ennis. Later that day Edward Hardy had the opportunity to lead a discussion with them at their house in Corofin on the Church of Ireland, Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe, Youth Ministry in the Church of Ireland and his own faith journey and experiences of church.



Some of the German visitors at St Columba's Church, Ennis with Canon Bob Hanna

JUNIOR WEEKEND

Our Junior Weekend for 10 – 13 year olds will take place from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November at Durrow Centre, Knocknagarry, Durrow, Co. Laois. The splendid facilities of this centre located just outside Durrow, Co Laois await our Junior Weekend 2016 and our action packed programme will include the usual mixture of games, exciting activities, worship & workshops, a bit of sleep and much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine..... There will be return transport again to and from the event from Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall & Roscrea. The cost will be €80 with an additional €20 for return transport from all locations. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Monday 7th November 2016.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP (by Oscar Egbulam - Limerick City)

The October fellowship group took place on Saturday 15th October and the evening was led by Dean Gary Paulsen. It was a relaxing session where the group had an encouraging conversation on "Our Calling" to being a Christian. The next fellowship group meeting will take place on Saturday 19th November from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm at the Dining Room, Basement, Richmond Terrace, Henry Street Limerick and is open to all secondary school students and anyone older.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

Our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will again take place this year at Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick on Saturday 26th November 2016. The evening will commence a reception followed by full dinner at 8.30 pm sharp. The Entertainment on the evening will be with DJ Dave. The ticket price is €5 and must be booked no later than Wednesday 23rd November 2016. Neat dress is essential. The evening is open to all those in 5TH Year Secondary School and Upwards.

FUNDRAISING WITH UDYC

U.D.Y.C have held a number of fundraising events during 2016 and we have appreciated the help and support by many to date. We have received many personal donations and to these people we are really grateful. It would be also appreciated if there are any parishes or other individuals that would like to make donations between now



The full gang at MAD

and the end of the year please do not hesitate to contact Edward Hardy at 087 290 7553.

We are again holding a raffle this Christmas with tickets at €2 each or a book of six tickets for Euro Monospace 10. The prizes are Euro Monospace 150 for 1st prize, Euro Monospace 100 for 2nd prize and Euro Monospace 50 for Euro Monospace 3rd prize. The draw will take place on Saturday 26th November at Annual Dinner Dance. We would really appreciate if people could volunteer to sell tickets and of course if people could buy tickets.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 290 7553 or Oscar on (086) 2476327, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 133 9996

Diocesan Board of Mission

Church of Ireland

LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER

IN

THE WOODLANDS HOTEL, ADARE

at 8.00 P.M.

MISSION

as seen from the

ROMAN CATHOLIC TRADITION

**SPEAKER: Fr Tom O'Halloran, Parish Priest of
Borrisokane**

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

Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

This year the colours of Autumn have been vivid around the school and along the riverbank as all our beautiful trees change colour. Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service in St Nicholas' Church. This year the pupils sang a very lively song 'Harvest Samba' and as usual the church was decorated beautifully. Everyone retired to the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea, some delicious cakes and the auction for charity.

Thanks to our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne, our pots are ready for Autumn planting and the Infant pupils have been busy filling them up with lots of bulbs.



Planting bulbs for spring time

At the moment we are enjoying Book Week in school when we concentrate on the joy of reading. All classes have made trips to our local library and because the weather has been lovely the senior pupils have taken the longer route to the library, along the river walk. We will have Dress Up Day when pupils and staff dress up as their favourite book character. That always results in some interesting photographs! This should keep us entertained and of course there will be lots of good books to read as well!

Pupils have been filling up some wellington boots with coins in aid of some local children's charities. This is organised by Limerick 95FM. Some of their team paid us a visit last month to launch this year's appeal. The smiling faces of our Junior Infant classes featured in the West Limerick Observer newspaper in early October. Thank you to the outgoing committee of the school's Parents' Association under the guidance of chairperson Angie Fitzgerald. We welcome Eve Gardiner to the role of chairperson this year and look forward to the many activities she and her team have planned for the coming months. The first activity will be a Mad Hair & Pyjamas Day in November!

Pupils enjoyed some fun Maths classes during Maths Week in October and swimming classes finished up on the 28th.

Oireachtas na Samhna 2016 - Dáta do do Dhialann

Beidh Seirbhís Mhachnaimh ag Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise le linn Oireachtas na Samhna, in Óstán Gleneagle, Dé Sathairn, 5 Samhain ag 5.15pm. Beidh an tUrr Tony Murphy ó Chorcaigh i mbun seirbhise. Fálte roimh chách.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise is organising a Reflective Service during Oireachtas na Samhna. The service will be held in the Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney on 5 November 2016 at 5.15pm and Rev Tony Murphy from Cork will be presiding. Everyone is welcome.

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

Russet and orange: all things now decay;
Long since ye garnered in your autumn sheaves
And sad the robins pipe at set of day.

-Excerpt from October, by Siegfried Sassoon.

The month of October was a busy one. Several activities kept us on our toes. Classes First to Sixth visited the Garda station where they learned so much about the workings of a busy station. Nobody was detained and we had a fantastic afternoon. We are grateful to the Gardai for inviting us to visit.



Outside Nenagh Garda Station

The children celebrated the 'bringing in of the sheaves' by decorating the church for Harvest celebrations. They brought a colourful and bountiful harvest of fruits and flowers for the church windows. Well done to all of the children who attended Harvest Service. You sang very well. A special thanks, too, to Harry Powell who did a reading.

We jumped in to National Maths Week with great enthusiasm. There were games and quizzes with a mathematical twist. The children were engaged in some serious computation, reasoning and logic which felt more like fun.

In sporting news, our Senior class will be joining up with St. Cronan's for a soccer blitz on Tuesday 25th October. This will be a great afternoon of activities, games and good sportsmanship with our friends from Roscrea. Our thanks to Sylvia Gee for helping to organise and run the day, with special thanks to Karen O'Donnell, principal of CBS Secondary, for offering us the use of the pitches.

On Friday the 28th of October our pupils were invited to dress up for a spooky afternoon of traditional Halloween stories, games and treats. This is part of the 'Trick or Treat for Temple Street' programme. St. Mary's has participated in this event for a few years now, and it is a wonderful way to raise funds for a deserving charity as well as to learn about social responsibility and sharing.



Ciara who did so well in the Dromineer Literary Festival Competition

We had some lovely news last week. Our own Ciara Drummond from Sixth Class won a Highly Commended for her original poetry submission in the Dromineer Literary Festival Competition. Congratulations, Ciara!

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

WELCOME

We are delighted that our new pupils – Abbie, Ella, Julie, Ben, Tom and Amelia have settled in well and are enjoying life in St. Cronan's N.S. Rosemount. We also warmly welcome Ms. Lupton to our staff and hope she will be very happy with us as she takes responsibility for Junior Infants to Second Class during Mrs. Hogan's Maternity Leave. We wish Jennifer and her family every blessing as they await the arrival of their new baby.

P.E.

Many thanks to Sylvia Gee who will continue to coach soccer until Halloween. We really looked forward to a fun day on 25th of October when we joined St. Mary's N.S. Nenagh for a Soccer Blitz and an opportunity to practise some of our skills on the pitch. Mark Lohan is coaching Tag Rugby in the Senior Room and we are very grateful to the IRFU for covering the cost.

ST. ANNE'S SPECIAL SCHOOL NEW PLAYGROUND

Sixth Class pupils attended the Official Opening of the New Playground in St. Anne's School in recognition of the funds raised during our Lenten Project earlier this year, when St. Cronan's N.S. Rosemount presented them with a cheque for €600. A great achievement and a very deserving recipient.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Sixth Class pupils, Ben, Dylan, Emma and Stewart who hosted a very successful Coffee Morning and raised the impressive sum of €360 for The North Tipperary Hospice. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a worthwhile event.



The fundraisers for North Tipperary Hospice

Congratulations, also, to Eve and Adam, who will be taking to the stage again in the Cinderella Pantomime in Roscrea in December and to Danny on his FAI selection for the Tipperary U12 team. We wish you the very best of luck.

Our School Harvest Thanksgiving Service took place on 28th October in St. Cronan's Church. We welcomed families and friends to share in this special occasion.

Many thanks to Canon Jane, and Rev. Shannon who lead our Assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to join together in prayer and praise every Friday.

FUNDRAISING COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

Our Parents' Association are very busy organising a Cookery Demonstration by Ailish Hennessy of Fiachri House, which will

take place in Rackett Hall on November 30th at 8pm. This promises to be a fantastic night with plenty of tips and treats to enhance our Christmas menus, and stalls and mini-shops providing lots of inspiration for our shopping lists.

Huge thanks are due to the Parents' Association for their genuine commitment and dedication to our school and we look forward to sharing an entertaining evening with lots of families and friends.

Happy Halloween to all.....

St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

The School is delighted to welcome Ms. Treacy to our Staff this year along with Ms. Moira and Ms. Nuala from Caherleahean N.S.

The pupils enjoyed a number of visits recently including to "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" at Siamsa Tire, Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre where they planted a tree on National Tree Day and to Lee Strand Creamery where they make the best milk!



Visit to the wetlands



Visit to Lee Strand

The pupils have also been busy planting bulbs in the school garden this autumn and look forward to the results next spring.

The School re-opens on Monday 7th November following the midterm break during which building works are being undertaken by Boyle Homes Developments. We look forward to the provision of new Resource Room, Multisensory Room and Office and thank the Parents Association for their fundraising helping us to achieve this.

A Parent / Teacher Meeting will be held on 23rd November from 2.40 to 5.20pm.

The School looks forward to participating in a Christmas Service at St. John's church on Sunday 18th December.

The School will hold an Open Day on Saturday 28th January at 1pm at which prospective pupils and their parents are invited to attend.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

We recently had a Green Flag renewal visit from the Green School Co-Ordinator at Limerick City and County Council with responsibility for Biodiversity. She met with our Green School Committee to explore their work and to evaluate how well they are doing. We're delighted to say that she was very impressed with all the work that the committee have been doing, are still doing and the plans they have for the rest of the year. All the pupils then joined together to meet with the co-ordinator who questioned them on the theme of Biodiversity. The visit ended with some members of the committee showing her around the school grounds and showing what we've done in the school.

Our action day for the Green Schools Programme took place on Friday 21st October when Geoff Hunt joined us to teach us more about biodiversity. We explored the habitats in the school grounds and discovered many different minibeasts that make our grounds their home. Geoff then helped us construct a bug hotel which we hope will provide shelter for many different species over the coming winter months.



Buiding the Bug Hotel



Searching for mini beasts with Geoff

In conjunction with Limerick City Community Safety Partnership we had a presentation about water safety from a member of the Irish Water Safety Association. We thank the co-ordinator, Yvonne who has delivered different interesting programmes to the pupils over the past few months, for organising this visit and we look forward to more guest speakers in the coming months.

We're looking forward to some folk dance workshops with specialist teachers in November and December. This will be a new venture for us.

We were sad to say goodbye to our school secretary, Sinead recently and we wish her well. At the same time we welcome our new secretary, Sharon who has just begun working with us.

We will also be saying goodbye to Ms Looney at Hallowe'en as she begins her maternity leave and we will welcome Ms Rachelle Robbins who will be covering the maternity leave.

Villiers School

LAURA COOKE

Congratulations to Laura Cooke who graduated from Villiers in 2016. Laura achieved seven A1s in her leaving certificate examinations. She was first in Home Economics in Ireland and won the entrance scholarship to UIG for medicine. Well done and we all wish her well in her studies in Galway and beyond.



Laura Cooke celebrating her Leaving Cert results

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

A special mention to both Vita Soldatkina and Megan Coleman who attained 11 A's each in their junior certificate examinations. Well done to them both and to all our current TY's who attained excellent results.



Vita Soldatkina & Megan Coleman show off their results

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER

Villiers third open day was held on Saturday 8th October. We had a total of six hundred visitors to the school. All were greeted with a formal presentation in the sports hall, followed by a tour of the school and its grounds. The boarding houses were open and perspective parents and guardians were treated to demonstrations and displays throughout the school, giving them a taste of school life both inside and outside the classroom. The feedback has been excellent and many thanks to the PTA and all who helped and made the day a wonderful success.

OPEN HOUSE

We were delighted Derravaragh House was chosen as part of the Limerick 'open house' initiative on the Saturday of open day from 2pm – 5pm. This was run by architects in the region. Houses were chosen due to both their historical and archaeological importance in the Limerick area. There were many talks, tours and exhibitions taking place throughout the city and beyond. It is testimony to the excellent refurbishment of Derravaragh House which is now back to its former glory and becoming an integral part of Villiers.

PRIZE DAY – WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Our annual prize day was held on Wednesday 28th September. Claire Hartigan, a past pupil, and renowned local artist was our guest speaker. Claire was added to our roll of honour alongside her mother. Claire's works are currently the bestselling in and around Dublin. She was recently the artist in residence with a display at the electric picnic concert in Stradbally, Co. Laois.

We also welcomed members of the board of governors, members of the PTA and Councillor Daniel Butler representing the Lord Mayor of Limerick.

Prizes on the day covered all academic achievement, Gaisce awards, scholarship winners and the governor's awards. Well done to all who achieved success and prizes on the day.

ALL IRELAND SCHOOLS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

We wish our senior boys well in the upcoming All Ireland tournament in Dublin from Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th October. They have been training hard and find themselves in a very tough group with Banbridge, Methodist and High School. We wish them well.

News from the Villiers Sanctuary

Greetings from the Sanctuary here in Villiers. It has been a hectic and busy time here and everyone is looking forward to the mid-term break. The TY community group took over the school for a day and used it to promote mental health and well-being. Everyone from a dietitian to an addiction counsellor and talks on internet safety and a visit from Limerick Social Services were among the guest speakers during the day. This was a wonderful event and I am grateful and incredibly proud of the Community Group for being so professional and organised on the day.

They are also organising an Antiques Fair in aid of Zest4kidz and the Kumi Orthopaedic Hospital in Uganda. The fundraising efforts on behalf of Zest4kidz will continue through the year and will culminate on the group going on pilgrimage to the Camino in Spain next Easter. An incredibly wonderful and dedicated group and I am privileged and blessed to be able to work with them.

I often get asked how I get teenagers to connect with God and spirituality and I usually answer by saying that they generally teach me rather than the other way round. Allowing young people the space to explore what God means in their lives and that is what the Sanctuary is for. The CU group meets here at Wednesday lunchtime and they always end with a prayer that is

inclusive of everyone. I have always found this to be a wonderful way to close the gathering. Imagine what I felt like when a small group approached me to ask if they could make a box and ask if people would like to place their prayer requests in it. They also want to meet separately as a special prayer group after school on a Thursday to put all these prayers, as they say, into the 'hands of God'.

I am so blessed to be able to be a part of this journey with these young people and to encourage them to continue with their engagement with God. I always start assemblies by saying 'this is the day the Lord has made, let's rejoice and be glad'. My heart rejoices every day and I want to thank God for all the young people who continue to inspire and teach me about the work of the Holy Spirit here in Villiers.

Until next time.

Blessings and peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair

we had the opportunity to celebrate with Dora Benson on her 99th birthday. It was wonderful for her to be surrounded by four generations of family. We wish her well and all look forward to the big 100th celebration next year. We wish her continuing good health and strength.



Four generations of Bensons with Dean Gary, celebrating Dora's 99th birthday

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

Anneke Hodnett and Robert Tyrwhitt were married in the St Flannan's Cathedral on 17th September. Anneke who plays the harp in an orchestra in London had some of her colleagues play at the wedding and it was the most amazing music at a wedding. The bridal couple arranged for a boat to take the guest from the pier below the cathedral to the hotel and the couple boarded a speed boat and certainly arrived in style at the Killaloe Hotel. We wish them a happy life together.

Alexander Muir and Misha had their wedding blessing at the Cathedral and it was wonderful to have David Muir a retired clergyman at the cathedral with his family, some of whom travelled from many parts of the world to be with them at this special time in their lives. Good wishes and blessing to them.

It's been Harvest season in all the churches and Mountshannon had its harvest with the usual teas and eats afterward. It is always a welcome sight to see the visitors at our harvest service in Mountshannon. The hard work that the faithful put into preparing the church for the service is highly appreciated and it made a wonderful spectacle for the eyes.

Gillian Kingston was the preacher at the Killaloe harvest service and she represented Christian Aid and reminded us of the work they continually do bringing relief and help to those who so desperately need it. What was particularly moving was her account of meeting with a Syrian boy in Germany who has been adopted by a family there and she shared some of his story as she heard it in her encounter with him. We are grateful to all who so generously contributed to the work of Christian Aid.

At the teas and cake after the Killaloe Cathedral Harvest Service

Bishop Kenneth was the preacher at the harvest service at Clonlara. It was highly appreciated that +Kenneth had come and visited this church as it was a church that was closed and to have the bishop's presence affirmed the community in Clonlara. In spite of Clonlara Hurling team playing in the final as we had our harvest we still had a good turnout from the community with 75 people present. Some members of the local choir did some pieces for us and altogether wonderful community singing did crown the service. Many pitched in not only to prepare the church for the service but also provide an array of eats.

Cont. on page 16



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NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sunday 11th December to
Sunday 18th December, 1-7 pm
at

St Mary's Church, Nenagh

*Admire the trees,
enjoy the amazing Afternoon Tea (€5)
purchase seasonal produce & craft items
enjoy scheduled events & prize raffle*

Admission €3 (accompanied children free)

Carol Service on Sunday 18th at 6 pm.

All Welcome

*Groups of 8 or more welcome
– pre-booking helpful for catering.*

For more information call or email:

086 820 6514

nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com



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Harvest fare in Clonlara

It was sad news for Killaloe and the country hearing about Anthony Foleys death. The town came to standstill for a couple of days with thousands of mourners coming to the village. We continue to pray for Olive and the children.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

BIRR BICENTENARY EVENTS

On Saturday, 1st October we held our first 'BirrPraise' – a service of Contemporary Worship, with some 40 people in attendance, including one couple who had come all the way from Killaloe. Many thanks to the Revd Terry Mitchell, our speaker, and Ed Hardy, who helped with the audio-visual presentation.

The book "Heart and Soul, A History of St Brendan's Church in Birr" by Stephen Callaghan and Caimin O'Brien will have been launched by David Sweetman, retired Chief State Archaeologist in St Brendan's on Saturday, 5th November . This is a short illustrated history of the old St Brendan's Church and graveyard and is being published by the Offaly County Council Heritage Office with support from the Trench Trust.

Sunday, 6th November will be the centrepiece of our Bicentenary year, with the Festival Eucharist beginning at 4:00 pm. The Celebrant will be Bishop Kenneth Kearon, and the preacher will be: Archbishop Richard Clarke, Primate of All Ireland. A Reception will follow in Birr Castle.

The following Sunday, 13th November we will have a special Remembrance Sunday service beginning at 11:30 am. Members of Leinster Regiment Ireland will take part in the service, and a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the bicentennial, and the parish's connection with the Leinster Regiment and the Crinkill Barracks.

On Saturday, 10th December, there will be a performance of Handel's Messiah with the Guinness Choir and the Birr Choral Society, beginning at 7:30 pm. Tickets at €20 are available from Trax, Tullamore, and the County Arms, R.J. Barber and Son, and Mulholland's Pharmacy in Birr.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Harry Andrew O'Leary, who was made a full member of Christ's Church by his baptism in Lockeen Church on the 22nd of October. Harry's parents are Monica Barnwell and Niall O'Leary. Archdeacon Carney conducted the baptism, assisted by Fr John Moorhead, Parish Priest in Eglish parish.

Congratulations aswell to Oliver Kinsella and Orela Gill, of Annagh, Birr on the birth of their son Michael, grandson to Anne and Henry Gill of Ross House.

BIRR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Birr Churches Together are hosting a series of weekly talks entitled, "Explorations in Scripture" on Wednesday nights in the County Arms Hotel, starting at 8:00 pm. Speakers so far have been the Revd Clodagh Yambasu, Archdeacon Carney, and Fr David Carroll. On the 9th of November, the speaker will be the Most Revd Kieran O'Reilly, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel and former Bishop of Killaloe. The series will end on the 16th of November with Fr Michael Reddan, Curate in Birr. Claudia Meium, facilitator of Birr Churches Together, is the Moderator. Each evening will begin at 8:00 pm and last an hour, including time for tea and coffee. All are welcome.

HARVEST SERVICES

Many thanks to our Harvest preachers, Canon Jane Galbraith in Lockeen, the Revd John Godfrey in Lorrha, Canon Liz Beasley in Birr, and the Revd Terry Mitchell in Dorrha, and all who decorated our churches so beautifully.



The presentation of a cheque for €4000 from the proceeds of the 2016 Flower Festival in Birr to Dóchas Cancer Support Group in Birr.

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

FROM THE REGISTERS.

We record the death to this world and deeper journeying into God's loving nearer presence of three longstanding members of St.Cronan's Church.

Mervyn Thomas Tyndale September 1st. 2016

Eric George Newman September 13th. 2016

(Elizabeth) Violet Duke September 26th. 2016

We offer our deepest condolences to all their loved ones and to all those who at this time are feeling lonely at the loss of loved ones.

Cont. on pg. 26

Diocesan Clergy Conference 2016

The L&K Diocesan Conference was again held in the beautiful surroundings of the Dingle peninsula, posing the perpetual question why anyone would ever want to live anywhere but Kerry.

The Conference theme was based on the report commissioned by Bishop Kenneth Kearon entitled 'Forward Together'. The document, based on a comprehensive series of discussions with both clergy and congregations across the entire Diocese – no small task! – was introduced by its co-authors, Canon Cecil Hyland and Archdeacon Gordon Linney, supported by The Very Revd Maria Jansson, Dean of Waterford, and Foster Murphy, the well-known Consultant and advisor to a number of charities.



Foster, Maria, Cecil and Gordon

Introducing the report, Cecil spoke of the privilege and warm welcome which he and Archdeacon Gordon Linney experienced in the Dioceses. He said we were all challenged to look at the role of the Church and he illustrated this by means of 4 points of a star – Worship; Growing in Faith; Fellowship; and Service. It is the responsibility of every Church and every Parish to maintain these four aspects of Christian life.

In the context of the conference, he drew attention to that part of the report which deals with ministry. The need for ministry to be shared was stressed. Clergy need to support one another, parishes need to co-operate, denominations must work together and lay people must play a more active role in the ministry of the Church.

Maria's brief was to offer her personal perspective on ministry and so she rooted everything in the ministry of Christ- His calling, temptations, imaginative teaching, profound healing of others, the mounting opposition to His ministry, radical table fellowship, His apparent abandonment on the cross by all - even God - and His victory in the resurrection. In Jesus we find not just inspiration but direction and encouragement. As He walked with and engaged with our humanity, even at its most broken and ambiguous, we are called to do so with each other.



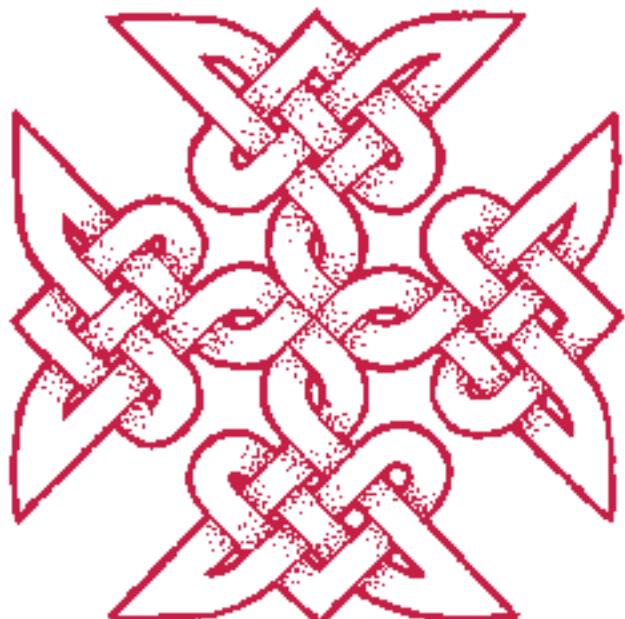
Leaning on each other for support, Diocesan Clergy attempted to channel St Paul to the Galatians, Ch.6 v.2

Foster began by discussing the absolute vastness of the universe and the infinitesimal smallness of the elementary particles, from which all is made. Ireland was separated from the main landmass of Europe when the last Ice Age remitted about 10,000 BC. (Fortunately, not as a result of a referendum. Ed.) He moved on to a Christian theology based on 'Original Blessing' where God caused the emergence of the world – as Hildegard of Bingen wrote "God hugs you, you are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God". Having considered some 26 nouns (A to Z) as a description of ministry Foster settled on the key ministry role of being a mentor, helping each individual discover, in their own terms and over time, the meaning of life.

Summing up, Gordon spoke for all when he said that it had been a privilege to spend time at the invitation of the bishop with the clergy and people of the dioceses of the South West. Perhaps like many Church of Ireland people, he said he had a very limited understanding of church life in that part of the country but was much encouraged by the loyalty and devotion of the people and their natural friendliness. They are refreshingly honest about the challenges they face, challenges not confined to their dioceses. In conclusion, he emphasised that the review process we have just completed was never intended to be a case of 'experts' from outside telling locals what to do; rather it has been a listening and learning exercise, encouraging the people, clergy and lay, to celebrate the diverse gifts they have and consider how they might better use them. We would do well as a church to treasure more the witness of these faithful people.



Somewhere slightly West of Eden



Bishop Kenneth in Canterbury and Rome

'IARCCUM 2016 has been an extraordinary, historic summit, rich in symbolism and significance for the Anglican Communion and Catholic Church.'

It brought together 36 bishops from around the world for a week in Canterbury and Rome to celebrate the deepening relationship between the two traditions over the past 50 years – and to find practical ways to work together to demonstrate that unity to the world and address its social and pastoral issues.

The highlight was the mandating of the bishops by Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at a service they jointly led at the church of San Gregorio al Celio. The service also saw the Pope and Archbishop exchange gifts as a sign of friendship – echoing the moment in 1966 when Pope Paul VI presented his papal ring to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey – a moment that ushered in a new era of dialogue.

The days in Rome also saw the formal presentation of a document detailing 20 years of work on reconciling the two traditions by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. And the bishops attended a symposium on current relations between the churches and the possibilities of future co-operation and dialogue.'



Archbishop Justin Welby and Pope Francis, pictured during Vespers at the Church of Saint Gregory, Rome, have issued a Common Declaration in which they say that "serious obstacles" to full unity will not deter Anglicans and Roman Catholics from working together in joint mission

So read the official communiqué from a very significant event which I had the honour of sharing in a week or two ago. I was one of those 36 bishops, equal numbers Anglican and Roman Catholic, who met first in Canterbury, enjoying the warm hospitality of that great and ancient cathedral and sharing in its worshipping life over several days. We met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and dined with the Dean in his splendid deanery; we lived in the Close and worked in the shadow of that splendid building. Then on to Rome, to meet with senior figures in the Vatican, worship in St Peter's, join in Anglican Morning Prayer at the tomb of St Peter, and then participate in a service conducted jointly by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin, with whom we shared the Peace and received a commission for further ecumenical work, and were given a gift of a Lampedusa Cross.

Many of you will know of the work of ARCIC, a theological commission between Anglicans and Roman Catholics addressing major theological issues which have divided us down the centuries. IARCCUM (the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission) is a parallel body to ARCIC, seeking to find ways in which theological agreement can be translated into practical actions. Bishop Brendan Leahy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick and I are the two members of IARCCUM from Ireland.

+ Kenneth



Two Bishops of Limerick at the Vatican: Bishop Brendan Leahy & Bishop Kenneth Kearon

The Lampedusa Cross

Lampedusa crosses are made by Francesco Tuccio, an Italian carpenter, from the wreckage of boats washed up on the shores of the Italian island of Lampedusa, located in the Mediterranean Sea close to the shores of Africa. This is the place many refugees fleeing their countries have tried to reach, often in flimsy and overcrowded boats, many drowning on the way. The island is also the first port to which many of those rescued from the sea are brought. The Cross is a visible reminder of the terrible suffering of these people, in life and in death. One of the crosses has been given to Pope Francis, who bore it in the Good Friday procession this year. Another graces the altar in the chapel of the Anglican Centre in Rome.



Lampedusa crosses are being given to each of the Catholic and Anglican bishop pairs of IARCCUM and to the Anglican primates attending the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome in October 2016, as a sign of the plight of refugees all over the world, and of the call to the church to respond with the death defying compassion of Christ.

Forward Together - A Review of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe

FOREWORD BY BISHOP KENNETH

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to change often"
(Newman)

When Newman wrote this he was speaking of individuals, but what he says is as true for the church and for our diocese. This united diocese has been through many changes over the years, and as we look back at them almost all have been to the benefit of the diocese and its parishes.

We live in a changed and fast-changing world and if we are to thrive we need to seek out those changes and developments which will strengthen our church and its witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our homes and communities into the future.

But which changes are best? How do we discern those developments which will enhance our common life?

With this in mind the Diocesan Council earlier this year agreed to invite Archdeacon Gordon Linney and Canon Cecil Hyland to undertake a review of the diocese. Both are experienced priests of the Church of Ireland, but with little prior experience of Limerick and Killaloe, and so were able to look at us with fresh eyes. For six months they have shared in the life of our diocese – visited churches and participated in worship, met individuals and groups, shared coffee and meals with us.

This report is the fruit of their work, and gives us a map for the future. Their recommendations are realistic and practical, and it is now up to us to consider them and take those proposals forward.

On behalf of us all, I thank both Gordon and Cecil for what they have done for us, and for the spirit in which they have worked. Above all, I want to thank you, parishes, clergy and individuals, who were prepared to meet them and share with them your hopes, frustrations and aspirations for the diocese.

In a very real way this is your report. Thank you all.

Yours in Christ, + Kenneth

SETTING THE SCENE

These are challenging times for the church countrywide and at every level – national, diocesan and parochial – and it can be difficult to see a way forward. In town and country there are huge demographic changes with young people going abroad and many not returning; immigrants moving in and bringing with them their cultures and traditions. According to the recent census most town and city populations have increased whereas in rural areas especially, in the West and South West, numbers are virtually unchanged and in some cases actually in decline.

This affects the whole of society as we see in the closure of Garda stations, banks, small shops and post offices. In some areas it is difficult to field a GAA team. These social and economic changes affect all the churches but the difficulties are more immediate for a minority church like the Church of Ireland.

The challenges facing us are not just about numbers. An increasingly secular society questions the need for the Church; faith is challenged and belief undermined. Sundays are no longer Church centred for people as they once were and Sunday sport has played havoc with attendances especially among young people.

THE CHURCH'S ROLE

The Church is not a club, or a gathering of like-minded people but the Body of Christ. It is universal and we are all members through baptism.

The main objectives of the Church are to offer worship to God; to help people grow in their understanding of the faith (adults & children); to create fellowship and to serve the community and the world. {These ideals are mentioned in the report of the "Long Term Church" committee to Diocesan Synod 2016.} It is the privilege of the committed local faith community to 'keep alive the rumour of God' for those who lose touch. The importance of this is seen every time there is a major tragedy locally or internationally when people invariably turn to and expect to find in their local faith community support and comfort.

It is important to remember that if we believe what we claim to believe then the future is in God's hands; all that is required of us is that we be faithful.

PARISH LIFE

While every Diocese and every Parish has many similarities there are particular issues facing the church in rural areas. Parish groupings and unions cover huge areas and this involves clergy and people having to travel long distances. In some places the population is ageing and attendances are falling with the result that some parishioners feel isolated and concerned for the future. At the same time we were impressed in our visits across these Dioceses with the commitment and confidence of many of the people we met. We sense a general willingness to embrace change where the Parish "system" isn't working but proposals for change must be realistic and owned by the people. While valuing the past and preserving our heritage it may be necessary to find new ways of doing things. We need to take risks and not to be afraid of failure.

Parochialism is sometimes seen as a negative influence but there are positive sides to it: commitment to the church in a particular place and generous financial and other support gladly given. There are often long standing family bonds where past generations have worshipped and been buried; what has been inherited is important. That needs to be understood and respected but if the commitment is only local and there is no appreciation or understanding of the Church beyond that place then parochialism poses real dangers. The parish next door becomes a competitor, the Diocese can be seen as remote and uncaring and the result is that people who isolate themselves feel neglected. We found some evidence of this in our visits.

SYSTEMS FAILURE

In many places the Parish system is under strain especially where there are groups/unions with several churches. It is important to acknowledge the commitment of parishioners who, sometimes in very small numbers, have a deep affection for 'their' church which, as has already been said, has been part of the family story for generations. Some parishes have concerns about their future financial viability.

At no stage in this review have we had any intention of advocating church closures. Exercises in reorganising parishes in other places have often resulted in church closures but we are more interested in sustaining meaningful presence in a way that is positive and facilitates mission. Buildings properly and effectively used, can be signs of that presence. The present system of one priest being solely responsible for a large area with several churches is increasingly unworkable. It would be worth trying to create team ministries in some parts of the diocese on an area basis centred on one of the larger parishes which would serve as a 'hub' parish lead by a stipendiary priest supported by non-stipendiary and part-time clergy and by Diocesan Readers.

Recommendations (1) Parish Life

- Consider the setting up of Team Ministries where appropriate.
- To strengthen a sense of belonging we recommend that on occasions the Dioceses might work on an area basis (e.g. for training courses, study groups, retreats, conferences and social activities etc.) so that people can come together more easily thus reducing travel. These areas would have to be agreed within the Dioceses using local knowledge.
- To develop links at parish and diocesan level with other churches.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

A real challenge faces the Church in terms of its duty to promote an informed and intelligent faith. Many people today struggle with their faith. They are bombarded with negative comments in the press; the secular movement with its anti-spiritual agenda often goes unchallenged; and many good people find it difficult to understand the Bible and see its relevance to everyday life. This is an issue requiring attention throughout the Church of Ireland. It can best be done in small local study groups although there could be a value in 'big' occasions from time to time centred on a cathedral or university making use of well-known speakers. These could be ecumenical depending on the subject matter.

Retreats and pilgrimages appeal to many people as a means of renewal and deepening of faith: a number are organised within the Church of Ireland each year.

Recommendations (2) Faith Development

- Promote groups for prayer or bible study within parishes and designated areas. These could be ecumenical.
- Promote talks on faith and moral issues in a cathedral or university.
- Publicise retreats and pilgrimages, and organise some.

WORSHIP

There is a desire among some parishioners for a regular Service of Holy Communion. Some parishes have Holy Communion most Sundays. This is impossible in single clergy parish unions or groups covering large areas and with several churches in use. The difficulty is exacerbated at Christmas and Easter when people have a reasonable expectation that Holy Communion is available. One possible solution is the use of previously consecrated elements which could also be helpful in ministering to the housebound or nursing homes. Where there are non-Eucharistic Services there is a need to vary the way Services are structured.

Occasional Area Festival services with visiting choirs/preachers promoted and organised on a cross community basis could be beneficial on a number of fronts. It could also be helpful to invite clergy from outside the Dioceses to preach on occasions.

Youth/children's worship is extremely challenging and a concern for many. There are no easy answers but purposeful involvement can be encouraging. This can make demands on traditional congregations but Dean Tom Gordon urged us at the Collaborative Ministry Conference not to use children to satisfy our needs as pew fillers; rather we should be trying to identify their needs and address them. [See Youth Section]

MINISTRY TO TOURISTS

There are significant opportunities for ministry to tourists to the Dioceses. We noted the workshops on Spiritual Tourism and commend this work. Practical matters such as publicity in hotels and guest houses is important. Information on church notice boards is vital and should be accurate. Dean Tom Gordon advised us not to refer to visitors as such but to welcome them as fellow Christians. They should receive a warm welcome in our Parishes and be made feel part of our worship.

Recommendations (3) Worship

- Consideration be given to administration by Diocesan Lay Readers (with appropriate training) of previously consecrated elements.
- Review policy on children receiving Holy Communion.
- More training and better resourcing of those taking non-Eucharistic Services.
- Active involvement of laity in Services – readers, intercessors etc.
- Provide training and material for child friendly liturgy, and engage more fully with the work of the Children's Ministry Network.
- Provide accurate information for tourists

MINISTRY

All ministry is a vocation. Our life as the people of God is a response to God as revealed in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit who equips all his people for a variety of roles.

The Church is not an organisation primarily concerned with management skills – but we do need to work efficiently.

THE ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Ordained ministry [stipendiary and non-stipendiary] has very specific roles which are clearly set out in the ordinal and can be summed up in these terms: liturgical, spiritual leadership and pastoral. Such ministry has been defined as 'thoughtful liturgy and systematic visiting'. Too often in the Church of Ireland clergy are expected to 'run' the parish which is essentially an administrative role. In some parishes that includes the oversight of numerous buildings, churches in use, redundant churches and other buildings. {See property section}

The dioceses are fortunate to have many hard working and dedicated priests some of whom have come from other parts of the world and whose experience is an enrichment of the Church. Inevitably there can be cultural differences and an awareness of these is important. An issue that has been raised again and again is the matter of parochial visiting. The Church of Ireland has always seen itself as a pastoral church and the visiting of people in their homes by the priest is seen as an important manifestation of that. This is implied in the Ordinal where a candidate priest is asked: 'Will you be faithful in visiting the sick, in caring for the poor and needy and in helping the oppressed?' This is 'hands-on' ministry.

Visiting is a way of getting to meet and know people on a personal basis; it is a way of keeping in touch, especially with young people; it is a way of signalling to irregular attenders and non-attenders that they belong and that they are valued by God. To free the clergy to do this important work something should be done to ease their administrative burdens.

Because they are few in number almost every cleric in the Dioceses is on a committee or committees at Diocesan level. Given travel distances this can be very time consuming and even wasteful. Some new thinking on this matter could be useful e.g. the use of teleconferencing. Of course diocesan meetings do allow clergy to meet which is good. There are however, few opportunities for clergy to meet socially giving them the chance to develop a support network. This is an important matter as isolation and loneliness are not conducive to good ministry.

Clergy need time to develop their own faith journeys through prayer, study and retreats etc.

There is also a need for in service training at Diocesan level. And very importantly, time must be allowed to attend to family and other personal responsibilities.

It is standard practice among most other professions to facilitate job review and career development. Clergy are usually left to get on with it until there is a crisis. The church at large and clergy in particular could benefit from some system of review.

NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTRY. [NSM]

It is important to recognise that there are no grades in the ordained ministry. NSMs have exactly the same status and authority as stipendiary clergy.

It may well be that in the future there will be more opportunities and needs for the services of NSMs in these dioceses. But it is essential that expectations are managed given that they may well have outside jobs and other responsibilities. They should not be asked to do a fulltime job in their spare time. It is worth noting that NSMs in secular full time employment are not always able to attend diocesan events held during daytime working hours, and can therefore feel left out.

On a more general point it is worth considering how best to use the gifts of NSMs.

Recommendations (4) The Ordained Ministry

- *In service training at Diocesan level.*
- *Systematic programme of parish visiting by clergy for each parish.*
- *Induction for all incoming clergy.*
- *Occasional social gatherings for clergy.*
- *Review Diocesan Committee structures to ease administrative demands on clergy.*
- *Review role of NSMs.*
- *Recognise time constraints on NSMs.*

DIOCESAN LAY READERS

The ministry of Diocesan Readers should be seen as a specific and valid ministry and not just as something to be availed of when there are no clergy available.

Pre-commissioning training is in good hands. A Guild of Lay Readers would be helpful to bring lay readers together for fellowship and to share ideas and experience. Because of the desire for regular Services of Holy Communion we suggest that consideration be given to allow Diocesan Readers, following training, to administer Holy Communion by extension using previously consecrated elements.

Recommendations (5) Diocesan Lay Readers

- *Form a Diocesan Guild of Lay Readers for study and mutual support.*
- *Consideration be given to administration by Diocesan Lay Readers (with appropriate training) of previously consecrated elements.*

PARISH READERS

Parish Readers are a vital support in parishes but it seems that in some cases they have been chosen in an ad hoc manner and some have received no training in leading the liturgy. Training is desirable and should be undertaken at local level. There is a need to have Parish readers organised and officially recognised by the Dioceses.

Recommendations (6) Parish Readers

- *Review the role of Parish Readers.*
- *On-going training programme.*
- *Register of Parish Readers.*

LAY MINISTRY – THE PEOPLE IN THE PEWS.

It is sometimes said that confirmation is the ordination of the laity. Lay people generally need to be encouraged to see that they are part of the ministry team with gifts which can enrich church life. It is seen all over the Church of Ireland but not recognized often enough. In some churches they act as readers and intercessors and ministers of the Eucharist. Their gifts of hospitality, of music making, of leadership in Sunday School and other activities are very important. Questions have been asked about lay involvement in pastoral ministry. This already is the case in hospital chaplaincy and there is

no reason why, with proper professional training, it should not work at diocesan or parish level.

Lay-led Organisations such as Mothers' Union, G.F.S, Boys' Brigade and Diocesan Youth Council make an important contribution to the life of the dioceses and should be supported.

Recommendations (7) Lay Ministry – the people in the pews

- *Celebrate and develop the gifts of the laity.*
- *Identify and use lay people who have leadership qualities.*
- *Encourage a more active lay role in liturgy.*
- *Consider the possibility of lay pastoral workers, trained and qualified.*

YOUNG PEOPLE

We have frequently been told that more needs to be done for young people. In our opinion the appointment of a youth worker is not the way forward. The area is too big for any regular meaningful contact, and schools, local and boarding, have the resources to provide more than enough extra-curricular sporting and other activities. If a Diocesan youth worker is appointed there is a danger that parishes will feel someone else is looking after the young people and therefore the parishes and especially the clergy have no further obligations. Engagement with young people should take place primarily within the home parish. At Diocesan level there may be opportunities to arrange for special times of gathering young people. We commend the Confirmation weekends organised by the Diocesan Youth Council, and suggest further similar opportunities be sought. The focus of youth work should be to give young people a wider experience and better understanding of Church and community. Such special activities will cost money if they are to be done well and it is suggested that consideration be given to prioritising funds to that end.

There is also a real ecumenical opportunity in this area. Some parents have pointed out that their children attend local community schools and do not like being separated from the friends they meet every day. It would be worth considering some kind of ecumenical activity at local level or possibly trips to places of interest. We have to be creative in this area of work. We have mentioned elsewhere the possibility of young people fund raising for an overseas project and the associated travel possibilities that go with such activities.

Recommendations (8) Young People

- *Care for young people in the parish and local community.*
- *Pastoral visiting to make contact with young.*
- *Arrange occasional diocesan events.*
- *Engage young people with diocesan overseas projects.*
- *Prioritise funding for youth projects within the Diocesan budget.*

PROPERTY

We understand that the Dioceses have responsibility for some 345 properties. Some are no longer in church use but still have to be managed. Under the Constitution of the Church of Ireland Select Vestries have responsibilities for churches and rectories that are in use and required by the church.

The provision of coffee/tea making facilities is often a first step in making the church buildings more adaptable for other uses. In some areas it would be worth encouraging the wider community to take a more active interest in the building and explore what other uses might be found for it – for example as a heritage/exhibition centre or for occasional cultural events. The building would remain a church used for worship thus maintaining presence, but it would also secure its future as a community based facility. It is worth noting that when many of these churches were built the Church of Ireland was the established church and the whole community had a

right of access to churches and their graveyards.

Looking after property can be a real burden for Select Vestries and the clergy in particular who often are the ones who get the phone calls when something goes wrong. Diocesan bodies have responsibilities and decision making powers in certain cases - for example the Glebes Committee deals with Rectories vested in the RCB.

Where buildings are no longer in use by the church the diocese with professional advice would do well to play a more active role in management and thus relieve the parishes and especially the clergy from an unnecessary burden. Buildings that fulfil no useful purpose in the life of the church and are not expected to be required in the future should be considered for disposal. Independent professional advice is essential in such matters.

We noted that an updated schedule of Parish Properties has recently been completed. Any decisions to share or let properties need to be carefully assessed to ensure that rights of ownership etc. are not compromised. Furthermore, public liability and other insurances need to be checked. Where local trustees are named they should always be indemnified against claims for damages.

Recommendations (9) Property

- Continue to maintain an Updated Schedule of properties.
- Protect Church interest in any lettings.
- Ensure appropriate insurances are in place for all buildings.
- Ensure local trustees are indemnified
- Encourage the move towards vesting in the RCB as a continuing trustee.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Diocesan magazine "Newslink" is well produced and serves as a most important means of communication within the Dioceses. However, in addition, there needs to be other structures created to improve communications in the Dioceses. The use of modern technology is important. However, there is evidence to suggest that although communications are sent out by the Dioceses they are in some cases overlooked and in others ignored. Improvement is needed here.

At Parish level it is helpful to have a regular newsletter / parish magazine however simple to keep regular parishioners and less active parishioners informed as to what is happening. This is an opportunity for lay ministry – all the clergy need do is to pass on relevant information.

Distribution to the housebound and non-attenders is recommended. Keeping the Church of Ireland in the public eye is an important means of demonstrating commitment to the wider community. Links with local radio and local press are important.

Recommendations (10) Communications

- Promote parish Newsletter.
- Respond to Diocesan and other communications.
- Develop links with the secular media.
- Appoint a Diocesan Communications Team, including a Diocesan Communications Officer.

ECUMENISM AND THE WIDER CHURCH

To counteract feelings of isolation it is important the Church looks outwards and values its place within the Anglican Communion. However, it is vital that Church of Ireland Parishes become more comfortable working closely with Roman Catholics, Methodists and other denominations in their areas. We have discovered that members of the other Churches appreciate and value the presence of the Church of Ireland at local level and it is clear that in some areas there is a real desire within communities to be involved. We need to build on these relationships.

Links with the Church overseas should be fostered – a new diocesan overseas project is needed, not only for the benefit of the church overseas but also for its impact on the diocese. Ventures of this kind can have a special appeal to young people by engaging in fund raising and possibly travelling to see projects in situ.

However, ecumenism is not just a matter of supporting one another but rather of coming together to initiate programmes / events in the name of the whole Church. Parishes need to be rooted in partnership in local communities.

Recommendations (11) Ecumenism and the Wider Church

- Develop good working relationships with other churches in the area.
- Promote joint ecumenical activities spiritual and social.
- Develop overseas interests.

EPISCOPAL MATTERS

Although the role of the episcopate is not within our brief our work in these dioceses suggests that the Church of Ireland nationally ought to consider the reorganisation of the episcopate in a more imaginative way, not only in financial terms but also in terms of mission.

We have seen distance as a challenge when it comes to parochial ministry or diocesan events. No one is more challenged by this than a bishop who is also expected to attend to other matters in central church committees and even outside the country. The proposals for the West and Southwest seem to take little account of the significance of presence and the fact of distance. A diminishing episcopal presence especially in rural Ireland will not serve the church well. We need a new model of episcopacy based on mission rather than money.

To that end we would suggest that there is a need for an imaginative whole church approach to episcopal ministry with a reduced number of diocesan bishops supported by Suffragan or assistant bishops strategically placed. The latter could be based in parish churches or cathedrals and paid an incumbent's stipend plus normal allowances. Additional vouched expenses would be payable. Such a scheme could have significant cost savings. The idea might well be tested in these dioceses together with Tuam. The alternative is to drift on through the decades reorganising dioceses and reducing the number of bishops every few years because we cannot afford them. A lead from the House of Bishops would be helpful.

Recommendation (12) Episcopal Matters

- There is a need for an imaginative whole church approach to episcopal ministry.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate the welcome, hospitality and help we have received wherever we went in the course of this review. We particularly appreciated the invitation of Bishop Kenneth Kearon who is so clearly committed to the future of these Dioceses. While time did not allow us visit every parish in the United Dioceses we feel that those we did visit gave us a good insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the Church in this part of the country. We have been impressed by so many of the laity and clergy we have met and acknowledge their devotion and loyalty to the Church.

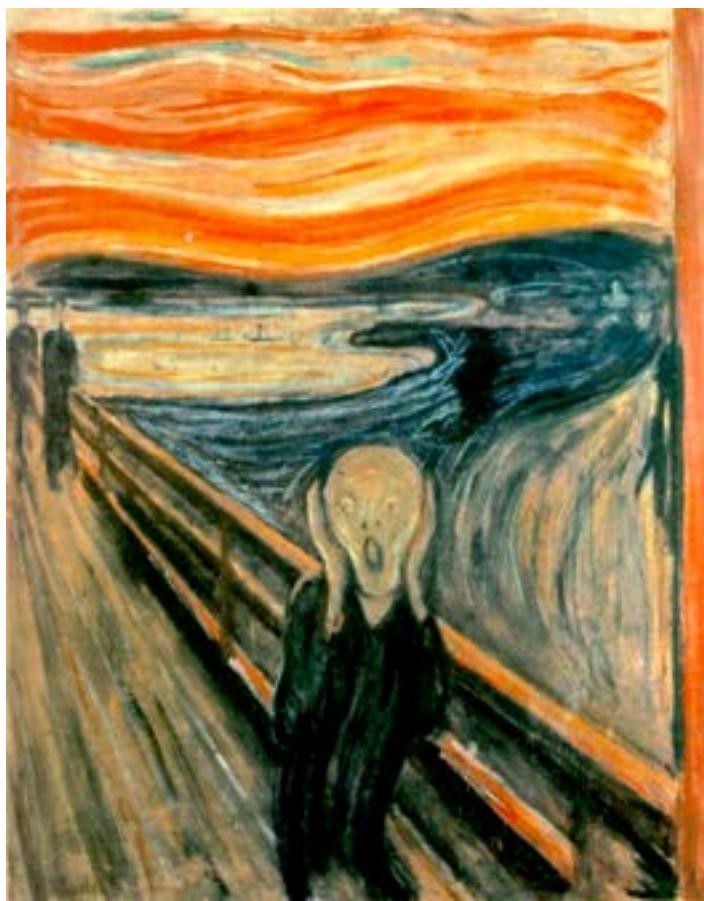
We do not claim to be experts but we do have many years of ministry experience to draw on and of course we learnt a great deal during our time in these Dioceses. In submitting this Review we hope and pray that our comments and observations will be helpful and encouraging as you plan for the future.

Cecil Hyland and Gordon Linney, September 2016

Responding to Suffering – Part 1: Framing the problem

The first in a series of 3 articles by Rev John Godfrey.

"Is this where the priest lives?" asked the workman as I opened the door to him. As he went about his work, it took some time before he realised that the young man in hoodie and jeans, with whom he had been chatting so freely, was in fact the priest himself. He took the opportunity to drop into the conversation the kind of tough question you don't normally get the chance to ask a real live priest. "Does it ever test your faith when you see the terrible things that happen in the world, you know, like Syria and all that?" We began a discussion about the problems of the world, and what God might have done with it all. But as the conversation continued, he started to hold up the deepest tragedies of his own life to the same line of questioning. I was careful not to offer any easy answers, but instead to allow him the time and space to name the wounds that had been inflicted in his own life by undeserved suffering, and to give permission for him to articulate his complaint: "Why did God allow these awful things to happen?"



Edvard Munch, *The Scream*

Many people of faith are afraid to ask the hard questions raised by the problem of suffering - we think we are not allowed to. Many of us have bought into the unhelpful idea that being a Christian means having unshakeable trust that every last detail of our lives is exactly the way the God wants it to be. We think, therefore, that our job is to defend God's providential goodness, no matter what, and to push on with praise even though our hearts are breaking. Glossing over our experience of suffering to defend God's goodness, actually ends up inflicting further violence on us. At best, it confines our relationship with God to that polite space where we constantly avoid conflict. At worst, it ends up destroying our relationship with God altogether and leaves us, as victims, nursing the scars of blame and guilt.



Marc Chagall, *White Crucifixion*

However, our faith tradition actively encourages us to confront the problem of suffering. We have a long history of wrestling with the question: "How can we say, without contradiction, that God is good; that God is all-powerful; and that evil exists in the world?" Over the centuries, different ideas have been offered in response to that question, and each offers us spiritual resources to draw from. But we need to be aware that the problem of evil and suffering is one that resists easy answers.

For example, there is deep wisdom to be found when we accept that death and decay are shared experiences for all created things; and that God's gift of life is precious precisely because it is finite. Yet we always need to balance that understanding with the reality that, for each individual, the experience of suffering and death is a tragedy.

Similarly, the Christian hope of life after death can bring us great comfort, because it sets our suffering in the context of the eternity of God's love; and it places the injustice of our fate in the light of God's ultimate saving purposes. Yet for many, the reality of their present suffering feels too high a price to pay for the promise of paradise to follow.

Our scriptures offer us great insight into the pitfalls that come with God's gift of freewill. It is clear that a huge amount of unnecessary suffering in the world is caused by human violence, greed and selfishness. The biblical witness constantly challenges us to root out the attitudes and behaviours which inflict suffering on others. But floods, earthquakes, storms, and natural disasters remind us that a portion of the world's suffering is not our fault.

There comes a point when the sheer scale of suffering in the world is so awful that it would simply be wrong to try to find an explanation

for it. In the twentieth century the holocaust forced us to change for ever the way we think about suffering. It would be morally obscene to attempt to justify that suffering as somehow necessary to God's purposes. Indeed, any attempt to do so would inflict further suffering on the victims, because it would silence their legitimate complaint.

In that context, the faithful response to suffering is not to look for explanations, but rather to stand alongside the victims in the place

of lament. A wise person once put it like this, "No, God did not want that, even less did God want to punish you. I don't know why things happened as they did, chance and accident are part of the world." Faced with innocent suffering, the most faithful thing we can do is to actively protest against God for permitting the wrongs that we have suffered: "Why me? Why my beloved? How long, O Lord?" Complaint is the place from which healing must begin if we are ever to adjust to our new reality; and learn to believe in God in spite of suffering.

The Samaritans benefit from Adare Harvest gifts

A large congregation was present in Saint Nicholas' Church Adare for the annual Harvest Festival. The lovely atmosphere in the church was added to by the children from the primary school who were in fine voice and performed beautifully accompanied by their teachers. A most lovely array of light refreshments was served after the service in the old school hall. The finale of the evening was the auction of the bounty of the produce of the earth. A large amount of fruit and vegetables, baked items, jams, honey, eggs etc - provided by the congregation - were laid out and the auction commenced. Kieron Brislane was the master of ceremonies and his comments and encouragements to bid was a cause of great amusement. People outbid each other in great humour. Reverend Liz Beasley had decided that the proceeds were to be donated to the local branch of the Samaritans. The fantastic sum of €556 was raised, which reflected the esteem in which the Samaritans was held by the bidders. Thanks to all who assisted in making this a most enjoyable and successful evening.



(L-R) Kieron Brislane, Rev. Canon Liz Beasley & Philip Bray of Samaritans

A large portrait of a young girl with blonde hair and blue eyes, looking directly at the camera. To her right is a promotional graphic for the Samaritans. The graphic features the text "SAMARITANS LET ME SAY IT MY WAY" in a stylized font. Below this, there is contact information: a phone number "116 123" with a green speech bubble icon labeled "FREE", an email address "jo@samaritans.org" with an envelope icon, a website "samaritans.org" with a globe icon, and a physical address "visit us 20 Barrington Street, Limerick" with a location pin icon. At the bottom right is a logo with the word "SAMARITANS" in green, enclosed in a white rectangular frame with a black border.

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HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian family Molly Louisa Walsh, baby daughter of Lynda and Liam Walsh, little sister to Billy and granddaughter to Margaret and Ken Connor. Molly was baptised on Saturday October 10th. by Revd. Jane in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

Thanks are due to all those already busy people in all our churches, who took the time to make our churches autumnally decorative for harvest. It has been wonderful to welcome people from other parishes to join with us as it has been for many from our parishes to travel to other parishes in praise of God of the harvest.

ST. MOLUA'S was almost a full house and welcomed Mr. Eddie Tutty who brought to life his work as a voluntary Bible planter allowing God's grace work in the lives of travellers and in schools. In St. Cronan's it was good to welcome Rev. Terry Mitchell of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane who brought all the warmth of South Africa to bear in his words. Mr. Joc Saunders in St. Burchin's, Bourneycourt brought together the two themes of spiritual harvest with the practical ways in which we contribute; Revd. John Godfrey Rector of Augrim Group was welcomed to Christ Church Corbally and playfully reminded us of our need to say thanks to God.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP will meet in St. Cronan's Church at 7.00 p.m. Wednesday November 16th.

ROSCREA CHURCHES TOGETHER held their first meeting recently. Adrian Hewson is our representative. It is planned to do something a little different and more family orientated during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017.

BOOK CLUB The next meeting of our new Book Club will take place

Come and Sing Carols



St Mary's Cathedral
Saturday December 10th
2016 at 5:30pm

In Aid of Limerick City Parish

Free admission - retiring collection

Do come and join us for this popular annual singalong with all our favourite carols.



in Racket Hall on Tuesday 15th. November, beginning at 8.00 p.m. We are beginning with 'The Gurnsey Literary Society and Potato Peel Pie Society'. The club is for anyone who likes to read and then to come along and share their thoughts and discuss the book read over the month by the group.

GALA CHARITY CONCERT Not to be missed "Show a Little Kindness" to be held in Roscrea on Sunday, November 13th. This fantastic multi performer show including the award winning Roscrea Community Choir will take place in St. Cronan's Church, Abbey St., Roscrea, at 7.00pm Nov 13th. All profits will go to The Simon Community (Midlands) for their work with the homeless, and Plan International Ireland, a humanitarian not-for-profit organisation bringing medical supplies and basic protection and support to children, particularly girls, in conflict regions of the world. Tickets €10.00.

ADVENT 2016 We look forward to a shared service with our Methodist friends in their church on The Mall. Last year they came to us. Please note there will be no service of worship in St. Cronan's that day. We will meet at 11.45.a.m. in the church on The Mall.



The happy couple are Nick Dawson and Linda Stanley daughter of Marina and Keith Stanley and granddaughter of the late Myra Stanley. Nick and Linda were married in St. Cronan's Church Roscrea on May 28th 2016. They live in the UK where they are both working in television.




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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

HARVEST FESTIVALS

September and October have been a busy time of Harvest Thanksgiving services in the Union. Killodiernan hosted the first Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 24th September. Children of the Union brought forward the harvest gifts of grain, flowers, apples and berries, which were placed on the altar. The preacher was the Rector. In a beautifully decorated church, a busy team of helpers provided refreshments after the service.

A full church in Templederry hosted the second of the three services in the Union on Sunday 2nd October. The Rector Rev Rod Smyth was assisted by Fr Willy Teehan pp, and the preacher was Mr Adrian Hewson. The soloist was Mr Brendan Magee. After the service refreshments were served in the church, which was decorated beautifully for the occasion.

The final Harvest Service was held in St Mary's Nenagh on Sunday 16th October. This was a family service of the Word. The church was beautifully decorated including window decorations which the pupils of St Mary's School spent time working on Friday morning, and members of the Girls' Friendly Society decorated another window on the Saturday morning. During the service the New Testament reading was read by Harry Powell, the choir chanted the Jubilate, and the pupils of St Mary's School, accompanied by Mrs Rosemary Smyth, sang, 'Thank you Lord for this fair earth! The Children's talk took the form of a harvest 'lucky dip', and good fun was had by all (including the adults!).

DROMINEER LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Dromineer Literary Festival held two events in St Mary's Nenagh in October. On Thursday 6th October IMRAM Irish Language Literature festival presented - Ídena Tíne – Tionscadal Joni Mitchell Sweet Fire – The Joni Mitchell Project – with Caitriona O'Leary & band, and on Saturday 8th October "Meet the Authors" with Anne Enright, Anthony Galvin, Aideen Henry, chaired by Rick O'Shea. There was a large and appreciative audience for both events, some of whom had never been in St Mary's before, and both the Festival Committee and St Mary's Nenagh hope that this is the beginning of a long and productive relationship between the Nenagh Union, the Literary Festival and the wider community.

TEMPLEDERRY MEMORIAL

On Saturday 8th October a service was held in Templederry Church to bless and dedicate a memorial plaque and set of hymn books in memory of George Dagg who lost his life while serving with the Canadian Forces in France one hundred years ago in the First World War. The service was followed by a reception with refreshments.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Plans are now well underway for the Christmas Tree Festival 2016. As a parish it has become an important event for building community, working together and reaching out to the wider community of Nenagh. The festival this year will run from Sunday 11th December until Sunday 18th December, finishing with a service of lessons and carols in St Mary's. Make your plans to attend now! (see advertisement on page 15)

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

On behalf of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to the Burn family on the death of Geraldine Burn, who passed away peacefully on the 23rd of September. The funeral service was held at St Kieran's, Cloughjordan. Geraldine will be remembered as a loving, caring and kind person by all those who were privileged to know her. May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Thank you to everyone in the Group of Parishes for helping to make Harvest Thanksgiving a delight and joy. In a very real way it is a visible reminder of God's providence and our response of faith. The services were all well attended, as visitors from neighbouring parishes also came along to show their support.

Just to reflect on some of the thoughts of the guest preachers: We were given a lovely reminder of growing up in Ireland and living in different parts of the country and the memories that this held. We also heard of life on a farm, the self-subsistence of the farmers and the importance of family'

We heard an interesting story of the history of the hymn, We plough the field and scatter, as well as the interconnectedness of the great mystery that is life and the part each one of us plays.

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We were reminded of the importance in being a mentor in the lives of others, particularly as parents and in the teaching profession. Through this role one equips others to grow into adulthood, allowing them freedom to then express what this means for them.

Lastly we heard how important it is to give people the space and the time they need to grow. Too much interference in this process inhibits growth and the fulfilment of one's potential.

Finally, we are reminded in the words of the Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving, to use the fruits of the season for God's glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being.

MOTHERS UNION

The November meeting of Mothers Union will be a Group meeting when we invite our neighbouring branches to join us in St Kieran's Hall, Cloughjordan on Wednesday 9th at 8:00pm, when Skin Consultant Brigid Doorley will speak about ailments of the skin and skin care in general.

She will be promoting some of her products and there will be free samples for everyone and a free raffle of a Hamper of Uriage Products on offer. This meeting is open to everyone (you don't have to be a Mothers Union member), so please do come along for what should be an enjoyable evening with tea afterwards.

CLOUGHJORDAN GFS

The Cloughjordan GFS meets on Wednesday afternoons in the St Kieran's Hall. They will be holding a Diocesan Christmas Craft Day on Saturday the 26th November, between 2:30 and 5:00pm, in St Kieran's Hall Cloughjordan.

ADVENT COURSE

An ecumenical Advent Course, with the Methodist Church, will start on the 23rd November at 8: pm in the Rectory. All our welcome as we prepare ourselves, to remember the birth of Christ.

Please come along to support Borrisnafarney's fuel and fodder auction on Saturday the 26th November at 2:00 pm at Moneygall.

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Many thanks to those who contributed in so many way in making the harvest thanksgiving services such meaningful and happy occasions. Thank you to visiting preachers: Mr. Adrian Hewson in Aghancon, The Revd. John Godfrey in Kinnitty, (who literally provided a bun fight!) and the Revd. Terry Mitchell in Dunkerrin. The main message we have been asked to remember is to thank God for everything he provides for our needs.

MUSICAL EVENING

It's fair to say that the evening lived up to its expectations and more. Congratulations to Ina Blackwell and the many helpers who made it such a great success. A sincere thank you especially to all the talented people who came and sang: Roscrea Community Choir; Mr. Jonathan Carter; The Kinsellas; Miriam and Lorraine Smith; Anthony

Burke and Bill Smith; and Mr. Ian Callanan, who among his many musical talents also composes liturgical music.



Mr. Peter Maley, accompanist with Roscrea Community Choir



Enjoying the concert

AGHANCON PARISH LUNCH

The date of the Sunday lunch has been changed to the 13th November. This means that the weekly service will be held on Saturday, 12th November at 8 p.m.

MOTHERS' UNION

The opening service was held in Aghancon on the 6th October and an interesting programme of events has been planned for the new season. The first area meeting was held in Birr when members and friends were given hints on how to renew clothes with some clever uses of cut and paste! The next area meeting will be held in Cloughjordan on Wednesday, 9th November. 22nd November will be a Branch meeting at 8 p.m. when Mr. Peter Whyte will give a talk on Bees and Honey.

A vigil will be held in St. Brendan's Church, Birr on Saturday, 26th November from 3 – 4.30 p.m. to which members are invited.

Members and friends will meet to sing carols in Clover Lodge on the 1st December.

CLOVER LODGE NURSING HOME

It's wonderful how a service of Holy Communion takes place weekly on Thursday mornings. Thanks to the Revd. Janet White Spunner, the Revd. Tom Kingston and the Revd. Denis Sandes. Mr. John Armitage provides the accompaniment to the hymns which are sung with great gusto.

CLOUGHMOYLE SCHOOL

Many thanks to the Revd. Janet for providing a lovely sign to go outside the school advertising that coffee is available. Do drop in if you're passing and see the sign!

CRAFT DAY

A Craft Day will be held in Aghancon Community Hall on Sunday, 20th November from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis continues in Shinrone on Monday and Wednesday nights. The Junior Table Tennis is on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 8 p.m.

"FORWARD TOGETHER"

Members of the Select Vestries will have received a copy of the Diocesan report prepared by the Revd. Gordon Linney and the Revd. Cecil Hyland. There will be a joint meeting held on Tuesday, 15th November in Cloughmoyle School for vestry members and any others who are interested in exploring ways in which we can together make the church a place of welcome and witness.

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

KILFENORA'S St Fachnan's Cathedral Church became the centre of things—rightly so at All Saints Tide and Samhain when the Burren Beo organisation held the Winterage Festival talks in the hilltop village and the Saturday Night lecture (on the Bank holiday Weekend) on the High Crosses of Kilfenora by Dr Peter Harbison.

Peter Harbison , the expert on Irish high crosses, refers to Kilfenora as the high cross capital of Ireland. His links with the Burren are close. He spent many of his childhood summers in Corofin, a gateway village to the Burren and its treasures of holy wells, medieval churches, round towers and high crosses.

There his interest in archaeology blossomed when reading through the library of his granduncle-in-law Dr. John Macnamara. He has written many articles on Clare topics for various local journals – along with over 20 books on Irish art and archaeology. He is now Honorary Academic Editor in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin .

Dr Harbison recently spoke on the high crosses of Clonmacnoise during the annual Pilgrimage. (see last edition of NEWSLINK).

HEAD GIRL

High achieving Wilson's Hospital School student Sophie Gibbons notched up another medal for Ennis, Clare and her parish Drumcliffe when she was appointed Head Girl of the Boarding School for this new year. Daughter of Tim and Miriam Gibbons and granddaughter of the late Sadie Champ of Shinrone and her husband the late Cyril Champ, Dean of Killaloe, Sophie is seen receiving the Woolington Shield for Senior RE at the school prize day from Mr John Twomey, Ireland's Flag Bearer at the recent Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (John represented Ireland in the Olympics first in track and field and became a model of perseverance for any young person when after suffering disability he turned his attention to sailing, competing around the world and recently in Rio.)



Sophie Gibbons with John Twomey

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Congratulations also to Kilnasoolagh member Edwin Bailey on receiving an award at the 34th National Audio Visual Championships held in Áras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúrtha, Clondalkin, Dublin on the 15th and 16th of October last. Edwin won 'Best Photography' for his entry 'Youthful Reminiscing' which is a look around Bunratty Folk Park while associating what he saw with experiences of his youth. This is the 3rd time that Edwin has won the Best Photography award. Since he retired in 2007 he has taken a keen interest in photography and is currently chairperson of Shannon Camera Club where he leads workshops in Audio Visual creation annually. Edwin has also created an interesting Audio Visual on the history of Kilnasoolagh church. Congratulations are also due to Edwin and wife Frances on the recent birth of a third grand daughter –Bébhinn-- to Ruth and Anthony who are living in Shannon.

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

Our deepest sympathies are with Ida Seale on the death of her sister Joan Plunkett.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Simon and Elaine Hyde on the birth of baby Patrick Louchlan. We wish every blessing to Karen Newton and her husband Cillian Thornton who were married in October. Congratulations to Vera and Peter Harte on the birth of their granddaughter Emily and to Leslie and Jennifer Wakefield on the birth of their granddaughter Georgia. Well done to Shirley-Anne Godfrey, who wrote, directed and starred in the play 'Frances-Browne: In My Mind's Eye' which premiered in the Donegal Blue Stacks Festival on October 7th, before coming to Galway on October 14th.



Shirley Anne Godfrey (centre) with the cast of "Francis Browne: In My Mind's Eye"

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to prepare and lead our harvest thanksgiving services. Those special events are the fruits of so many gifts generously offered for the glory of God. Harvest is an wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that is good in our lives together and to be fed in fellowship as hospitality is given and received. We were blessed with a fine crop of guest preachers this year. On September 30th Canon Jane Galbraith preached about the 'web of life' in Woodlawn Church, sharing inspiring insights from the world of science into the wonders of the created world. On October 9th Reverend Michael Godfrey (ably assisted by Sammy the Spider) reminded the congregations of St John's Ballinasloe and Glan Church about the hard work that goes into bringing our food from the field to the table. At the Ardrahan Harvest, on October 13th, Father Joseph Roche gave an impassioned address about farming as a vocation that is sustained by self-sacrifice, love and devotion. On October 21st, in Ahscragh, Canon Ruth Gill rejoiced in the circle of life that we see on our farms and in our families, as she shared farming insights from all corners of the country drawn from two generations of rural ministry in the Church of Ireland. Each of our guest preachers did so much to encourage and enliven our parish, reminding us of the life in the wider Church family to which we belong. The rector was offered a warm welcome as guest preacher at the harvests in Kinnity on September 23rd, in Lorrha on October 2nd and Corbally on October 16th (although that may have had something to do with the fact that he awarded iced cup cakes to the most enthusiastic members of the congregation during his sermon.)

The Ballinasloe Horse Show drew thousands of visitors to the area at the start of October and was blessed this year with glorious sunshine. The rector was delighted to represent our parishes at both the Three Fairs Dinner on October 1st and at the official launch of the Fair on October 2nd.



Ballinasloe Horse Fair

As Revd Dr Keith and Mrs Lyn Scott prepare for their commissioning as CMSI Mission Partners in the Diocese of Northern Zambia, we were honoured that they were able to join us as guest speakers at our united service in Glan Church on October 30th. We wish them every blessing in their future ministry.

Efforts to use Ardrahan Church as a cultural hub for the local community are gathering apace. We eagerly await their upcoming concert of music and prose on Friday 11th November at 8pm (donations on the door).

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

The Harvest Season for the Group is nearly over. Banagher and Portumna Harvests are passed amidst lovely celebrations with inspiring talks from Professor Ellis on Harvest Theology and from Edward Hardy on living the Gospel in Cambodia. Eyrecourt's Harvest is ahead and we will focus on the Harvest Thanksgiving of the earlier pilgrim settlers in the New World. I want to thank the people of all the Clonfert Group churches for the great preparations for these lovely services.



Portumna's Harvest Altar

PURITANISM

I warmly welcome the new spirit of puritanism that I detect throughout the parishes. Excess in words and practice seems well under control and we are enjoying (though I am keeping an eye on that emotion.) a practice of a decent reticence. We plan an Advent of where we will eschew the pre-Christmas trivia and where practices of old that have become discredited we will look at them again with fresh rigour. The Advent programme will soon be published.

ELIZA LODGE NURSING HOME

We continue to hold our monthly weekday Holy Communion Service in the Nursing Home's Chapel. I am so very grateful for those who attend from the parish thus making up a very decent congregation for the Church of Ireland patients to be part of. Some folk prefer a quiet devotional style Eucharist away from the more socially demanding energies required on a Sunday morning in a parish church.

I can understand those who prefer on a lovely Sunday Autumn morning to walk with their four legged companion around a lake feeling the reassuring presence of God and freed from the overt sociability and the plethora of notices to attend things or fill up things. The unassuming generosity and sensitivity of many of those quiet ones is never to be underestimated as such altruism is never to be mentioned.

However I do know that much joy cometh for those who like their liturgies high and rich, or with hymns and words of gusto or love

belonging to groups for study or prayer. I do myself though by nature I am shy and still after all my years when by misfortune I arrive at a church where the doors are shut and the service has begun I still feel I have not got enough nerve to go on it. To myself and to others in a similar position." Do please come in". We try and keep a few seats at the back anyhow for those who might want to just' look in'.

COMING UP

November 6th: Banagher at 12noon. Portumna at 3.30pm
Remembrance Sunday on November 13th: Eyrecourt at 10.30. Banagher at 12noon.
November 20th: Christ the King: Portumna (HC) at 10.30. Banagher (HC)
November 27th: First Sunday of Advent: Eyrecourt (10.30) Banagher (12noon)

PS: I never take pictures but if there is somebody who does the Newslink team like to receive pictures to go with the written words. You perhaps should ask a person whom you may have taken a picture of whether they are agreeable to it being sent forward.

Cathedral to give the address on Sunday 9th October, which marked the beginning of Prisons Week, a time when we remember all those in any way connected to prison life. Mr Lonergan, a previous Governor of Mountjoy Prison, spoke with his customary eloquence and passion, and gave us an illuminating insight into life in prisons and many of the issues faced by those working with prisoners.

RTE came to the Cathedral on Friday 21st to record a service for broadcast on All Saints Day.

The charity Bóthar, also came to the Cathedral on 23rd to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their founding (see separate report on pg.6).

LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST's autumn series of lectures in the Cathedral was very well attended.

BACH CANTATA

The cathedral was packed out on the night of Wednesday 19th October for a concert for Leaving Certificate students. The cathedral choir was joined by four professional soloists, An Cor Chamber Choir and a small orchestra to perform one of the set works from this year's syllabus, the Bach Cantata BWV 78. As well as thanking all our wonderful performers, special thanks are due to Anne Donegan, the Bishop's Secretary, who has in the past few years handled the many and complex bookings of schools from all round the country. Warm thanks also to Mary Howes, who assisted with seating and stewarding on the day, together with Noreen Ellerker and Keith O'Neil. Both Anne and Mary have been a huge support to musical enterprises at the cathedral in recent years, and the success of larger scale ventures simply couldn't have been achieved without their assistance, and also the support and encouragement of successive clergy at St Mary's.

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Whist Drives: Saturday 5th - St Michael's Church Hall; Saturday 12th - Villiers Square. Both start at 7.30 pm. Admission € including supper.

The LCP's annual fundraising event – the CHRISTMAS FAIR- will take place on Saturday, 12th November, at Villiers School, Limerick, from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.

All donations and all volunteers welcomed with open arms! Please contact Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 or Tracey Lytle 086-6486197. We look forward to welcoming all our friends in the Diocese.

On Sunday 13th November during Choral Evensong (5.00 pm) Bishop Kenneth will commission Keith and Lynn Scott as they prepare for their new posts as Mission Partners in the Diocese of Northern Zambia under the auspices of CMS. We wish them both every blessing in their new ministries.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY!

On Sunday 20th, at the regular service time of 11.15 am, there will be a Celebration Eucharist for the 50th anniversary of Very Rev'd

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's and Abington Churches
Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell (on sick leave)

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

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Marie Rowley-Brooke
Mob: 085-147 4792 Email: canonmarie@me.com

We welcome back our Curate, Rev'd Edna Wakely, from her sick leave.

Our Harvest Festivals have all taken place now. St Michael's Harvest saw a full church with lots of wonderful singing from the congregation, a school choir, and of course St Michael's Church choir supplemented by some Cathedral choir friends. This year for the first time, St Michael's School had its own Harvest celebration service, where 134 pupils were enabled to give thanks for God's bounty in a joyful act of worship.

A service to celebrate the opening of the new season for Mothers' Union was held in St Michael's on 27th September.

PRISONS WEEK

It was a pleasure and privilege to welcome John Lonergan to the

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Maurice Sirr's ordination. It's hoped as many of Maurice and Paddy's friends as possible will attend and join in this wonderful occasion.

ADVENT begins on Sunday 27th November with the wonderful and atmospheric Advent Carol Service by candlelight, at 7.00 pm.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Saturday 10th December, 5.30 pm – 'Come and Sing Carols' (see advert on page 26).

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

HARVESTS

We had a grand celebratory time at each of our three Harvest Festivals, held in September and October. In Adare, we welcomed the Rev. Ruth Watt of the Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit as our preacher. As is our tradition, the students of St. Nicholas N.S. sang and brought forward offerings as part of the service. These, supplemented with produce and offerings from parishioners, were auctioned off afterwards, with the proceeds going to the Samaritans. The bidding was fast and competitive, kept rolling by auctioneer-extraordinaire Kieron Brislane. A record €556 was collected for the Samaritans. The highest bids were €25 for a beautiful flower arrangement and €20 for two jars of Diana Williams's superb honey.



Kieron busy selling carrots!

At Kilpeacon, we had a song festival, singing more than the usual number of harvest hymns. In addition to lovely flower arrangements, the Sunday School had decorated the church windows in different themes, as is tradition.

The final Harvest was in Kilmallock on 23 October. We were delighted to welcome Canon Cecil Hyland and packed the church to hear him. Church members decorated the church beautifully and brought multiple baked goods to enjoy with tea after the service. Children of the parish read the readings and offered the prayers. It was a joyous afternoon on a gorgeous day.



Kilmallock's Harvest Font

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Derrick and Catriona Shine on the birth of their first child, Noah Patrick Shine, in early October! And congratulations also to Valerie Walker, who celebrated her 21st birthday!

SINGING GROUP

We are starting a music group, with the aim of becoming so familiar with some hymns that singing them together is like second nature and the group can sing them without accompaniment. This is not a choir, and it is open to members of all four of our parishes. Instead, the members serve as a strong background to the singing of the congregation. The group at first will focus on a few new songs and some familiar ones. The organizers of the group are Janet Bray and Kirk Beasley. It will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Rectory.

WORKS IN ADARE

St. Nicholas, Adare, is undergoing some refurbishment of different sorts. During October, a contractor has been onsite giving the cloisters a new roof and a new walkway. The old roof was leaking badly, and the inside ceiling and walls were suffering from moisture damage. The walkway inside the cloisters was dangerously uneven. All is now completed, and looking great. A survey of the stained glass windows now is underway, to know the extent of damage to them and what works will need to be done into the future. We received Heritage Council grants for each of these works.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Vestries both have meetings in November:

Kilmallock on Wednesday, 9 November

Adare/Croom/Kilpeacon on Tuesday, 15 November

We will also have special vestry meetings, to be arranged, to discuss the diocesan review, Forward Together.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

October is the month for harvest festivals, and our group of parishes celebrated harvest in style at Holy Trinity Rathkeale on Friday October 7th. The collection and money raised in the post-service auction of produce was passed to Christian Aid for their work in

the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. Many thanks to all those who worked hard at decorating the Church for the event, and provided produce and food for the auction and supper afterwards. Thanks also to our auctioneer, Adam Teskey.

Each year our Mothers' Union fills shoe boxes for Team Hope. This year, if you are participating, they should be ready by 7th November. November is Rev. Keith and Lyn's last month in the diocese. They will be commissioned for overseas service in St. Mary's Cathedral during a service of choral evensong at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday November 13th. Everyone will be very welcome.

Editor: The Newslink team wish Rev Keith and Lyn every blessing in their future ministry.

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

	Ballyseedy	Tralee	Ballymac	Kilgobbin	Dingle
Date	9.45 am	10.45 am	12 noon	10.00 am	12 noon
6th Nov	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
13th Nov Remembrance	Invited to join Tralee Service	Remembrance Service	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
20th Nov Diocesan Review	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
27th Nov	-----	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
4th Dec	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer

All Welcome to our mid-week service in St. John's, Tralee, each Wednesday at 11.00am followed by refreshments and fellowship.

The next Healer Prayer Service will be on Tuesday 8th November in Teach an tSolais at 8 pm. A book is available at the back of each church, so that parishioners can enter the names of people for whom prayers are requested.

All were welcomed to Killiney Church on Tuesday 1st November, when we remembered our departed loved ones.

As the season of Harvest Thanksgiving was coming to a close the parable of the one leper who returned to thank Our Lord reinforced the need to give thanks always. So, let us remember to thank all the people who labour to keep our churches open each Sunday.

Some people asked for the General Prayer of Thanksgiving to be included this week.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, And that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, And by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Jessica Linda Butler at her baptism with her parents, Linda and Aiden Butler, her sisters Alison and Hannah, and Rev Phyllis Jones

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

WEDDING

On Friday November 11th Roger Harmon will be tying the knot with his beloved Aoife Fleming at St Mary's RC Cathedral in Killarney. Roger is son to Hilda and our financial guru Bob Harmon and all at St Mary's wish the newlyweds a long and harmonious life together.

PLATFORM

At the recent Select Vestry meeting it was agreed that we need to make a move on the installation of a platform for performers in the crossing because once they're seated nobody seated in the Nave can see them. Currently we are teasing out designs and we'd love to hear from anyone who can come up with a workable solution to our quandary. The platform, or a series of interlocking platforms, will need to be able to be assembled and disassembled fairly quickly, so if there's anyone out there having a 'eureka' moment as they read this... please get in contact.

IMRO LICENSE

Speaking of concerts - and we do a lot of that in St Mary's - we've yet another added expense to consider for our 2017 concert season. IMRO (the Irish Music Rights Organisation) licenses download

rights for performances of recorded works and we need to apply for one because recordings are regularly played in the church at weddings and concerts. I suppose it's only right that musicians get paid for their efforts, but the list of things to pay for seems to be growing on a daily basis. The Select Vestry have decided that under no circumstances are we going to install Sky Sports in the church... but then again; United V City at 1:30 straight after morning service could be a right little winner - only kidding (for now at least)!

FAMILY SERVICE

Venerable Simon has always believed that family should take pride of place in any church and with that in mind it has been decided that there will be a family service on the first Sunday of each month going forward. It is hoped that all families and even extended families will make a special effort to attend.

ADVENT

Advent Sunday 2016 falls on November 27th. The season of Advent has special significance for Christians the world over as it is a time of preparation. Indeed the word itself comes from the Latin *adventus* which is itself a translation of the Greek word *parousia* referring to the Coming of Christ. The old understanding of Advent is somewhat different to what many Christians consider today. In the modern world it is thought of by many as just being a celebration of Christ's birth, but traditionally it had two distinct perspectives, the first being the old testament waiting for the Messiah and secondly the need to be alert and prepared for his Second Coming. The season of Advent has always been held as greatly significant in St Mary's and we hope for increased numbers on all Sundays in the lead-up to Christmas.



Killarney Harvest

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

SERVICES

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

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Killorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1 st & 3 rd

BAPTISM

Amanita Gillian Daughter of Aidan O' Connor and Natalie Moriarty was welcomed into the family of the church at her baptism on the 2nd October.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Peter and Sinead Clendennen of Castlemaine on the birth of their son . Eoin Arthur Clendennen , Eoin is a baby brother to Elva, Ciara and Freya.



Amanita Gillian with her family

WEDDING

Congratulations to Ashley Casey and Barry Fitzgerald who were married in St Michaels Church Killorglin on the 1st October, Ashley is the daughter of Jane and Pat Casey of Cromane and Barry is the son of Noel and Tina Fitzgerald of Glin, Ashley and Barry will live in Listowel.



Ashley and Barry with their bridal party and Rev JIm

BEST DRESSED MAN

Congratulations to John Orme of Callinagery who won the most appropriately dressed man competition at the National Ploughing competition in Tullamore. John happened to be walking along minding his own business when he was spotted in the crowd and asked to enter the competition which he subsequently won.

KILTALLAGH CHURCH LIGHTING

Exterior lighting has been installed in the grounds of Kiltallagh Church,The lighting was installed by Peter Clendennen and it switches on when it gets dark in the evening.

It creates a picture postcard impression of Kiltallagh and it enhances the building greatly.

HARVEST

The Harvest thanksgiving was held in Killorglin Church on Sunday the 9th October at 11am,The Children from Kiltallagh sang two lively hymns and as always they bring life and vigour to any service that they take part in. We also put pictures they prepared on the theme of the harvest on the walls of the Church and they certainly brightened the building.

The children of the parish presented baskets of fruit and vegetable during the singing of the opening hymn, These were then presented to the local resources centre for distribution. Many thanks to all who prepared the Church on the Saturday before the service. Jackie Mc Nair who is the Chaplain in Villiers preached on his charity 'Zest for Kids'. He was joined by three of his transition year students as they told us about their trip to Uganda.

HISTORICAL EVENING

This will begin at 7pm on Saturday the 5th November in the St Michaels Church in Killorglin,

CONGRATULATIONS

To Robert Brooks of Fossa who won a Gold medal with his team from Fossa at the All Ireland Community games during the summer,

LUTHERAN HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The Lutheran Community in Kerry will have held their Harvest Thanksgiving in St Michael's on the 29th of October, They very kindly extended a warm welcome to all those who would wished to join with them for this celebration.The service was to be conducted by Pastor Stephan Arras who ministers at St Finnians Lutheran Church in Dublin. At different times during the year he visits the various lutheran communities that are scattered around the country to celebrate the major Christian festivals with his parishioners.

DATES AHEAD

5th November , Historical evening in St Michaels Killorglin @7pm

4th December, Kiltallagh School Nativity in the context of a service of the word,

18th December Carol Service in St Michael's @ 6pm

WEBPAGE

Charlie Smith very kindly maintains our webpage which can be found at: Kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

The website contains all previous newsletters and pictures of many of our events.

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

I guess we all enjoyed our Harvest festivals – remembering that, while Paul, Apollos and farmers throughout the centuries break the rocks, till the ground, plant and protect the young shoots as they grow to give us our Harvest, it's God who waters, warms and feeds. Rather than the traditional Scripture verses, we took as our harvest theme a quotation from William Wilberforce:

"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."

We were challenged to think again of our role as workers in the fields alongside the seventy-two -each with unique gifts – not wishing we were things we aren't, but treasured for the things we are, the talents we are each given that make us an integral and essential part of the body of Christ.

On Plough Sunday, our first Church service of 2016, we brought in a plough, and surrounded by the whole congregation, we asked God's blessing on the fields, meadows and gardens throughout the parish. In a way, this was our 'Please' – putting into context the 'Thanks' of our Harvest celebration in the Autumn of the year.

Our creed was taken from a special Harvest liturgy:

*By faith I gaze up to the heavens and know within its vastness that this is your creation planned and effected within eternity
By faith I pluck an ear of corn and know within its symmetry lies the chemistry of life the potential of creation within my hand
By faith I listen for your voice and know the whisper that I hear breathed a world into existence yet listens to the prayer within my soul*

*By faith I strive to do your will and know the door that I approach may lead me to shadows where my role is to become your light
By faith I cling to your word and know the strength that I receive has its source within the love that is at the centre of all things*

And at the end, our Harvest prayer was taken from a poem by Christina Rossetti :

*'Lord, purge our eyes to see within the seed a tree,
Within the glowing egg a bird, Within the shroud a butterfly, Til,
taught by such, we see beyond all creatures, thee.'*

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

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

6th	Mrs. Siobhan Wheeler	Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.
13th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Adare 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion Ballingrane 11.45 a.m. Holy Communion
20th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Home Mission Sunday Adare 10.15 a.m. Ballingrane 11.45 a.m.
26th	Mrs. Siobhan Wheeler	Ballingrane 8:00 p.m.
27th	Mrs. Siobhan Wheeler	1st Sunday in Advent Adare 11:00 a.m.

In last month's notes I wrote about a gathering we were to have in October to reflect on where God is leading us as Christian individuals, as churches, and as a circuit. That time happened as planned and we are now pressing forward in a few areas. Please pray for us as we seek to actually do God's work and not just talk about it!

One opportunity we are exploring is the possibility of some Saturday evening services as we know that not all people can come out to worship on a Sunday morning. The first of these services has just taken place. Of course one of the difficulties is letting people know about these times as they are unable to hear about it on a Sunday! In general these services will be the same as our Sunday morning service, with us often having a united service on the circuit on the Sunday (see November 26th/27th below).

Last month we begin a Bible Study series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. This continues every Wednesday evening @ 8:30pm, usually in the Manse. We eagerly anticipate seeing how, in studying the Sermon on the Mount', God is teaching us today and how He will be challenging our lives, our behaviours, and our witness.

We are collecting for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal (Team Hope) and all boxes need to be in by Sunday 6th of November. More information can be found on the Team Hope website: www.teamhope.ie

Our annual Christmas Card Fair & Sale will be held on the morning of Saturday 19th of November in Adare Village Hall from 10:00 – 12:30. Funds raised go towards our ongoing costs.

The December MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland) will take the form of a Songs of Praise on Friday the 25th of November in Embury Close @ 8:00pm.

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

ANTHONY FOLEY

'It's fair to say that the news of Anthony's sudden passing simply took all our breaths away at the weekend. It's one of those moments we will always remember where we were when we heard the news.' I think these words from Bishop Brendan Leahy probably sum up the feelings a lot of local people had when they heard that Anthony Foley had died. There was a lot to admire about the rugby player, coach and most importantly family man and friend. Several weeks before members of our youth group had booked tickets to go on a group outing to the Munster – Glasgow match in Thomond Park which followed Anthony Foley's death, never of course imagining that on that day they would be so immersed in the spirit of solidarity that so embodies Munster Rugby. In youth work leaders often look for the message in activities and outings that inspire our young people to develop qualities that improve and enrich their lives and the lives of those around them. On that Saturday they were reminded of a leader who had made such an impact in his sport. His wife Olive and colleagues in the game made the point that Anthony was a man that was always strong in the face of a challenge with a good deal of humility thrown in. 'He was an absolute gentleman off the field,' Will Greenwood commented, 'always the first to shake your hand and congratulate you. He took defeat on his very broad shoulders in the way you would hope you could educate your children to do in terms of bearing up with defeat and with victory in the same manner.' I'm sure that afternoon in Thomond Park will stay in the hearts and minds of our young people as a celebration of a gifted man and of a genuine sporting community.

AFTER SCHOOL GROUPS

We've been trying a couple of new initiatives in Christ Church. Following on from the programmes we ran for under-eighteen migrants who weren't able to find school places we've begun after school groups with our experienced volunteers from the local community. It has been quite challenging for some young students as they've joined schools with a limited command of English. The after school groups offer support with both language practice and help in particular subjects. The main interest seems to be in maths and we fortunately have volunteers who have teaching experience in that area. If you are aware of a young person who might need support please get in touch. The sessions are free.

LAST THURSDAY WORSHIP

We've also moved our Last Thursday worship up to the Contemplative Centre in the University of Limerick. As the name suggests this takes place on the last Thursday of each month. We begin at 8pm and the fellowship lasts for about an hour. It's very informal and all are welcome. Do spread the word and by all means come along yourself!

WORLD MUSIC CAFE

Finally we had another wonderful time with the World Music Cafe. UL World Academy of Music and Dance joined with Doras Luimni and many friends in CB1. The next session is on November 10th at 12.30pm. All are welcome for music, fun and food.



Hugo, Hala & Helen at World Music Cafe

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

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

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

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm
Drop in Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm

KILLARNEY
Sunday services 9am and 11am
Prayer meetings Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 9am
Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am
Drop-in lunch 12pm
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
The Giving Space monthly as arranged on Saturdays

The Gateway KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee)
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am
Bible study Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am
Youth Club second and fourth Saturday 7pm – 8.30pm

Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

Harvest services have taken place in the three churches. Kenmare and Millstreet focussed their giving towards Help for Humans and the Simon community by collecting non-perishable foodstuffs and items of clothing. Killarney welcomed Drew Ruttle as he spoke on the work of Christian Aid.

Shoe boxes are being prepared in Killarney to be sent overseas in time for Christmas and we know that many children will be blessed by this ministry.

In the Lighthouse, Millstreet, another mural is being prepared on the wall. If you're ever passing by on a Thursday morning or Sunday evening do call in, they are worth seeing and we are grateful to the artist! Preparations were underway for the annual Light Night party which took place on 31st October, an alternative to Hallowe'en focussing on Jesus the light of the world.

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

The weather has changed: the wind is blowing, the temperature has dropped and the nights are drawing in. Autumn is in full swing and will be giving way to Winter before we know it. Even though the nights are getting longer, folks are not slowing down. There is much to do and much life to live. Let us give thanks to God for study, work and play as well as new beginnings in peoples' lives.

We congratulate Herbert and Helen Armitage on the birth of their first grandchild, Cathal Leslie Ijaz who was born in Dublin on 6 October 2016. Proud parents are Deirdre and Adnan Ijaz. We rejoice with them as they welcome precious new life into their family.

We also congratulate Peter Hastings and Maeve Toohey on their wedding 15 October 2016 in Moneygall's Roman Catholic Church. We wish them God's richest blessings on their marriage. Peter is the son of David and Daphne Hastings and grandson of Joan Hastings from our Roscrea church.

Next month we hope to have more news about a wedding, a birth and a baptism. We thank our God for these many blessings within our church family. They bring us much happiness and hope for the future.

Faithfully,

~ Rev. Shannon

St. Cronan's Youth Club – This youth club will meet on Saturday 26th November from 7-9pm in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall. €2/youth.

The Story behind the Hymn

*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure...*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.*

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton, England. At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs. As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language,

Please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 with any questions.

St. Cronan's Boys' Brigade – The Anchors (Sr Infants – 2nd Class) division of the company will meet at Roll –n-Bowl Portlaoise for an evening of fun. On 25th November, we'll have our Enrolment Service in Roscrea's Methodist Church Hall from 7-8:15pm.

MWI – Cloughjordan/Borrisokane – The group will have their Annual Sale of Work in Cloughjordan on Tuesday 15th November at 7:30pm. All are welcome!

MWI – Roscrea – A big Thank You to all who supported the Pink Party in aid of Marie Keating Breast Cancer Foundation. €335 was raised that evening. Thank you, ladies!!

Circuit Bible study: Topic = Christian Disciplines that help strengthen our Christian character and grow deeper in our relationship with Christ. We will explore connecting with God through quiet time, prayer, bible study, and worship.

Borrisokane will now meet on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm in Church Vestry, beginning on Wednesday 26th October for 4 weeks. Co-lead by Rev. Shannon and Mr. James Armitage.

Roscrea will meet beginning Thursday 27th October from 8-9pm in Church Vestry for 4 weeks. Led by Rev. Tom Kingston. All are welcome to either location.

Joint Col and Methodist 4 week Advent Bible Study will begin on Wednesday 23 November at 8pm in Rev. Terry Mitchell's Rectory in Cloughjordan. All are welcome!

Roscrea Makes Music to "Show a Little Kindness" – There will be a Gala Charity Concert on Sunday 13th November at 7pm in St. Cronan's Church, Abbey St which will benefit The Simon Community for their work with the homeless and Plan International Ireland, a humanitarian not-for-profit organisation. Guest artists include Simon Casey, successful singer from "You're a Star," and Orla Fallon, singer and harpist from Celtic Women. Concert organisers, the Roscrea Community Choir, will complete the program. Mark your calendars now. Tickets will go on sale soon in Patterson's Hardware, Main Street, Roscrea and in the Credit Union and Bernie's Super Value in Roscrea. €15/person.

learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French. He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: 'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!'



Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday.

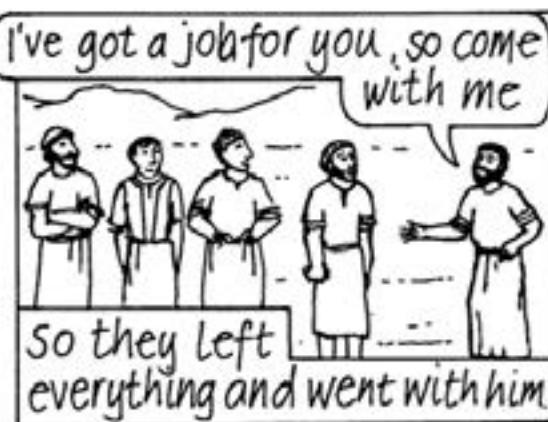
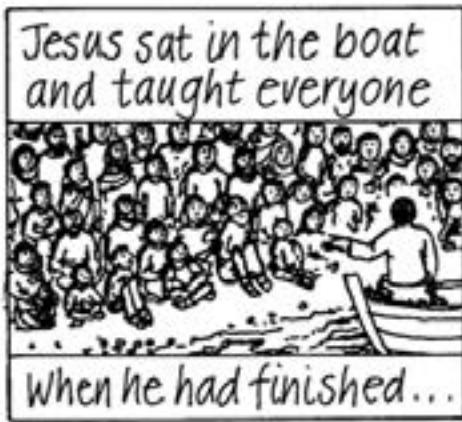
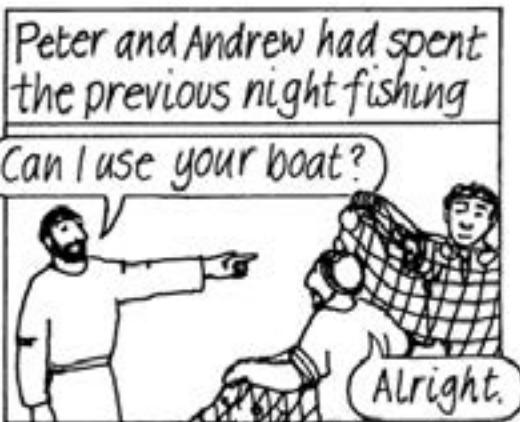
It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and the Christmas carol 'Joy to the World'.

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 5:1-11, Mt. 4:18-22, Mk 1:16-20

A short story from the Bible

On the shore of Lake Galilee, Jesus was trying to teach people but there were so many that he couldn't be heard.



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



Bursaries & Discounts

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

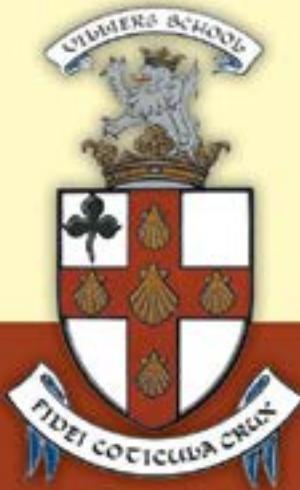
Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea. ** New route - Tralee, Killarney, Tarbert and Listowel.



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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

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