

NEWSLINK

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

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This sculpture of a Tree, created by artist Lynda Christian for St Flannan's Cathedral using scrap metal, expresses the Christian hope of resurrection into a new reality.

Rev Charles McCartney welcomed to Clonfert Group



Rev Charles McCartney and his wife Cecilia

On Friday 20th September 2017 a Service of Welcome to Clonfert Group of Parishes was held in St. Paul's Church Banagher for Rev Charles McCartney. The well attended service included clergy and Diocesan readers from throughout United Diocese and beyond, family and friends of Rev McCartney, local community representatives and parishioners of Clonfert Group of Parishes. The service was conducted by Bishop Kenneth Kearon. The preacher was Dean Gary Paulsen. Following the service a reception was held in St. Paul's Parish Hall Banagher.

Rev McCartney grew up in Belfast, where his father worked in Belfast shipyard during the Second World War. In conversation since arrival in Banagher he has noted that throughout his childhood and into adult life involvement in Church was a way of life in his family and Sunday School was an important influence on his faith journey as a young person growing up.

After leaving school Charles served an apprenticeship as a Vehicle

and Driving Examiner, whilst also volunteering several nights a week as a part time RUC Constable in the 70's and 80's. As a young adult he taught in Sunday School, sang in the Choir and became a parish visitor. Becoming a Church of Ireland Minister was a logical progression he says. His first curacy was at St Mark's Portadown, Northern Ireland. While curate at St. Mark's he met Cecilia who was later to become his wife. He became Rector of Ballygawley in Feb 1988. Charles followed the call of God into military chaplaincy with the British Army in 1989. He spent 15 years as a military chaplain before rejoining the Church of Ireland as Rector of St Donard's, Belfast. In September 2008 he became rector of Holy Trinity Aghalee, a very busy parish deep in the countryside, where supported by his wife his ministry included supporting the Boys Brigade, Girls Friendly Society, Bible Study group, teenage ministry, monthly outreach/Gospel service and also a summer children's Bible Club.

The parishioners of Clonfert Group are delighted to have Rev. McCartney and his wife Cecilia living at the Rectory and many have commented on how wonderful it is to see lights on in the house once again. It is hoped that their adult children and their families especially grandchildren will come to visit on a regular basis and join in worship and parish activities in Clonfert Group of Parishes.

Dean Niall Sloane welcomed to Limerick & St Mary's Cathedral

On Saturday afternoon, 21 October, in the middle of Storm Brian, Canon Niall Sloane was instituted as rector of Limerick City Parish, and installed as Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick by Bishop Kenneth Kearon.



The new Dean of Limerick Very Rev Niall Sloane after his installation, with the joint chapter and visiting bishops

Due to the severe storm, numbers were fewer than expected. Nevertheless many people braved the elements to be there.

The service of Choral Evensong sung by the choir of St. Mary's, under the directorship of Peter Barley, did not disappoint. The choir sang Stanford's Magnificat in B flat and also Stanford's setting of the Nunc Dimittis. The magnificent Psalm 122 was sung to a setting by H. Ley in D.

The guest preacher was The Right Reverend Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Drawing upon the Old Testament reading of the story of God calling Samuel, and the New Testament reading of the story of the Widow's Mite, Bishop Patrick gave a powerful sermon exegeting these two passages. Speaking about Samuel's response to God's call, he began by giving us some background information on Canon Niall, speaking about his approachability, dependability and excellent pastoral care - always willing to go the extra mile. However, he warned that Dean Niall thrives on order and is a stickler for detail!

Bishop Patrick Rooke cautioned us that we need to allow Dean Niall to develop and use his particular gifts, and not to expect him to do everything. As part of the ministry of the whole people of God, we all need to develop our God-given talents, playing our part to the maximum. God uses each and every one of us in the building up of his kingdom. He reminded us that, in giving God her all, the widow's humble gift was appreciated above and beyond all others, and urged us to do likewise.

Our love for God means we should listen for God's voice and follow his direction: "Come, follow me, and give the best you can", to which our response should be: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening".

After the service, everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and sumptuous refreshments in the Cathedral.

Bishop Kenneth writes – Hallow E'en

We've just celebrated Hallow E'en, which has grown in recent years into a major event for children, not only in Ireland but worldwide. Today it marks half term in school, a time to tell ghost stories and dress up as witches and goblins, and a significant marketing event with shops decorated in orange and black, and pumpkins (not a very Irish plant!) in every supermarket and shop.

Hallow E'en, the 31st October, is the evening before All Saints Day, the Christian festival which celebrates all saints, known and unknown – the day "when God gives thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints", including those who are "famous or obscure." In past centuries All Saints Day was also known as All Hallows Day or Hallowmas, and so the Eve of All Saints Day came to be known as All Hallows Eve, or Hallow E'en.

The church has always had a wish to celebrate the heroes and martyrs of Christian history, and as well as the usual biblical saints (St Matthew, St John, St Paul and so on) lots of other saints are commemorated with their own day and traditions, especially in Ireland where there are literally thousands of saints commemorated locally each year.

Alongside those heroes of the faith, All Saints Day is an opportunity to remember all who in their own quiet and modest way, really are saints – many of whom we know or have known, people who have been a blessing to all who know or knew them, and for whom we wish to give thanks to God.

All Saints Day also reminds us of the meaning of the Communion

of Saints, our belief that all, both living and dead, are part of one community of faithful people, seeking and knowing God today and down the ages. It's often a time when we especially remember members of the family and friends who "have gone before us", "who have departed this life and are now in closer communion with God."



Remembrance Sunday fits well into this – the day when we remember those who died in two world wars, and in subsequent wars and peace-keeping operations.

Commercialisation has taken over Hallow E'en today, but it's important to remember that in the Church it begins a season of remembering, focussing on All Saints Day on November 1st, when we remember all those, known and unknown who are saints, especially those who "have blessed us on our way".

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

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Diocesan Calendar

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

- Mon 6th November** GFS Diocesan Council, Cloughjordan
Thu 16th November, 4pm Finance Committee
Fri 17th – Sun 19th November UDYC Junior Weekend, Castledaly Manor, Athlone, Co Westmeath (10-13)
Sat 18th November, 10am Parish Clergy & Treasurers meeting, Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare
Mon 20th November, 11am–3pm CME - Preparing for Advent & Christmas, St Mary's Rectory, Askeaton, Co Limerick
Thu 23rd November Joint Property & Glebes Committees 6.45pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm, Woodlands Hotel, Adare
Sat 25th November, 2–4pm MU Vigil against Gender Based Violence, St Cronan's Church, Roscrea
Sat 25th November UDYC Annual Christmas Dinner with fundraising raffle, Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare (18+)
Sun 26th November Mission Sunday
Sat 2nd December GFS Christmas Craft Day, Birr
Sat 9th December UDYC Overnight Trip to Dublin, St John the Baptist Parish Church & Centre, Seafield Ave, Clontarf, Dublin (2nd level up)
Thu 28th December UDYC Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10+)

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



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 8th November

Academos (Irish World Academy Strings)

Iconic Octets by Mendelssohn and Shostakovich

Wednesday 15th November

Celia Donoghue & Michele Sanzo (winds), Ethna Tinney (piano)

Music by Glinka, Arnold and Weissenborn

Wednesday 22nd November

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

Music by Schumann and Lalo

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

*Thank you to all our loyal audience over the past year. Concerts will
recommence in the New Year.*

Editorial – Using social media

Do you use Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp or other social media and digital communication? I blog, and I use Facebook to see photos of my grandchildren, but I mostly lurk!

Social media can be a lovely way to keep in touch with family and friends, but it can also be ugly and dangerous – if we aren't already wary of 'fake news' and internet trolls, we should be. So it is timely that the Church of Ireland has produced some guidelines for using social media well. They encourage us to use them to engage creatively and positively with others, and to share stories about parish and diocesan life, and our Christian faith. The guidelines advise us always to exercise courtesy and responsibility, and they suggest we take a moment to think before we press send, because it is next to impossible to take back a misjudged post.

Ask yourself these questions before you post a comment or an image on social media:

- Would this breach a confidence?
- Would I want this on the front page of a newspaper?
- Would I want my family and friends to read this?
- If it concerns a disagreement, have I tried to resolve it privately first?
- Would I (in the case of clergy and lay readers/leaders in Church) say this from the pulpit or in general to members of my congregation either individually or collectively?
- Is what I'm writing reflective of a Christ-like compassion, even if challenge is present?

The guidelines also provide useful pointers to wider good practice and to safeguarding issues and the Safeguarding Trust policies. They are available at: www.ireland.anglican.org/policy

God bless, Joc Sanders, Newslink Editor



"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"

Stop Press

We have been shocked by news of the vandalism done to Holy Trinity Church, Errislannan, received as we go to press. We grieve with the parishioners of the Omev group of parishes in our neighbouring diocese of Tuam, and their priest Canon Stan Evans, known to so many in this diocese. We hold them in our prayers at this difficult time.

Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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(contact: Lawson Kirkpatrick, 39 Westfields, Clare Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. Email: ismkirkpatrick@outlook.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2017

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

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

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - November 2017

Each Sunday in October

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

5th November, 4th Sunday before Advent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Toungoo, Myanmar and Rt Revd Saw Wilme, Bishop of Toungoo.

Diocese: In the octave of All Saints, we bless your holy name for all your servants who have died in faith and we pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal kingdom.

12th November, 3rd Sunday before Advent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ughelli, Bendel, Nigeria and Rt Revd Cyril Odutemu, Bishop of Ughelli.

Diocese: We pray for peace in this broken world, as we remember those from our dioceses who have died in war, and those who love them in death as in life.

19th November, 2nd Sunday before Advent, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Uyo, Niger Delta, Nigeria and Rt Revd Prince Asukwo Antai, Bishop of Uyo.

Diocese: We pray for those suffering gender based violence, some in our own communities, in advance of the Mothers' Union vigil against such violence in Roscrea next Saturday.

26th November, The Kingship of Christ, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Wad Medani, Sudan and Rt Revd Saman Farajalla Mahdi, Bishop of Wad Medani.

Diocese: On this Mission Sunday we pray for the success of this year's diocesan mission project, to supply and install water tanks in schools in Swaziland.

3rd December, 1st Sunday of Advent, Violet

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of West Buganda, Uganda and Rt Revd Henry Katumba-Tamale, Bishop of West Buganda.

Diocese: We pray for those in our communities who are homeless, and for the agencies working to support them, that you may show us how best to respond to their needs.

Thoughts on Peace

Where people are praying for peace the cause of peace is being strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace. *John Macquarrie*

There never was a good war, or a bad peace. *Benjamin Franklin*

Peace is not the absence of trouble - peace is the presence of God. Anon

Remember me

by Sam Doubtfire

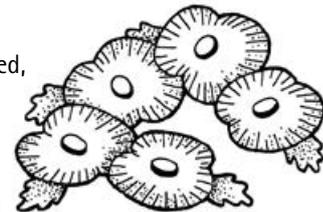
Remember me as the poppies fall
On the shoulders, heads, and at the feet
Of young and old,
All gathered for the Festival.

Remember me in the music played,
In the clapping of the audience,
Keeping time
And uniforms so proudly worn.

Remember me in the stories told,
Most from the distant past, but others new,
Each one rehearsing memories stored or
In the making.

Remember me -
And if a tear should chance to flow
Then let it flow for the world in pain,
And dedicate yourself to peace.

For you are my memorial.
And your life, if lived for others,
Is my legacy.



A Prayer for Peace

Pope Francis prayed for peace in the presence of the Presidents of Israel and Palestine at the Vatican on 8th June 2014. May it be our prayer too.

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.

Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

**Mission Sunday, November 26th
Come prepared for generous giving!**

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling – Who is the ME?



As I sit in the pew I can read the inscription carved into the reredos behind the Altar Table. Highlighted in scarlet against the off-white it reads "This Do In Remembrance Of Me". The question arises for any casual visitor to our Church and indeed to many Churches, 'Who is the ME?'. I wrote last time that I was going to examine the four great features of Church-Mission: Witness, Service, Fellowship and Unity. In this piece I am beginning with Witness - and only beginning because there will have to be at least one further article on that topic. Witnessing within the Christian Tradition means handling Good News. The Good News is the disclosure of WHO THE ME IS. So who is the ME?

I think most of those who will read 'View from the Pew' think, as I hope I do, that we know the answer. And maybe we do! However, because witnessing is about disclosure to those who may not know the answer, a key concern must surely be do I or do we have the language to speak with them about who the ME is? I think there isn't going to be much disagreement among us if we propose that the theological language contrived and accumulated over centuries is not going to be very useful. I think I hear a chorus of here, here! If I continue by saying that the categories of thought behind that language are not useful, I hear a murmur of 'what is he talking about?'. My point is proven! Christ is not a surname. Christ is a title! Messiah! Perhaps a Jew will understand! Son of God and Son of Man! That Jew would have to be a Biblical Scholar. 'Of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made'? That takes quite a lot of thinking about and most of us don't have or don't make that kind of time for such thinking.

Let's try another tack. Can we use contemporary language and

categories? How about the ME as a celebrity. We use the word celebrate when we remember him. But is the ME in the same category as a football team, a star striker or the best goalie? Perhaps not! Celebrities also appear in the world of music so perhaps the lead in a Boy Band or a Rock Group. Me thinks not! Or the world of fashion. Don't go there! Or a celebrity chef, after all he did speak about banquets quite a bit! On second thoughts no! Stardom was not upper most or indeed lower most in our ME's mind. Indeed, our ME pointed away from himself to somebody else.

Is there anywhere else we can go in search of appropriate language in which to model a description of ME. The Law perhaps? Yes indeed, a real possibility - but our ME handled the Law, which he knew well, in ways that would make our lawyers hair stand on end. I have a feeling that the Law would not want to claim ME. How about teaching? Well yes - but then there is the difficulty that our ME not only taught but also lived what he taught, so the ME doesn't quite fit the frame of our understanding of a teacher. Some kind of Churchman? I think I'll stop digging to find a contemporary role model for the understanding and communicating of ME.

If you have read thus far you may think I am being negative. Yes, indeed I am. But only to prepare the ground for being positive. There has been an accumulation of undergrowth around our ME. That undergrowth needs clearing and that is what I have been doing. There is good justification for this attempt to allow the tree to stand free of the scrub. The Reformation whose fifth centenary we are now celebrating was one such previous effort. We stand in that general tradition. It was the Bible in the vernacular that released that extraordinary spiritual energy. It is to the bible stories that we shall return next time. The stories, not the theologising. It is the stories that will give us the Grace to communicate. Prepare for those stories as you move into Advent and begin the preparations for Christmas.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN FUN DAY was held on 23rd September 2017 in St. Mary's No. 2 National School, Church Road, Nenagh. 42 girls and many leaders enjoyed dancing with Michelle Hennessey and T-Shirts decorating. A lovely tea of was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to everyone who assisted on the day and provided the wonderful food. There was amazing work done by the girls. A big thank you to all the leaders in Nenagh for organising a really fun day.

GFS REGIONAL TRAINING was held on 30th September in Newbridge. Six leaders from the Diocese attended the GFS Regional Training - Karen Alexander, Diane Dagg, Betty Delahunt, Grace Healy, Linda Gill and Norma-Jean Carney. They had an enjoyable day sharing ideas and learning new games. A new photography badge was introduced and it will be available

next year. Also there was a guest speaker who spoke about cyber-bullying.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The branch began the year with an Ice-cream Party on Wednesday, 13th September. Everybody enjoyed an ice-cream and a chat. It was a lovely way to start the year.

A Fun Day was held on 23rd September in Nenagh. Girls enjoyed Zumba dancing and decorated t-shirts afterwards with some very creative and colourful results. The afternoon finished with refreshments. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet our friends from other branches and most enjoyable. We thank our hosts in Nenagh branch for a lovely afternoon.

Craft work has started with lots of enthusiasm.

Enrolment service will take place on Sunday, 26th November in St. Kieran's Church at 11.30am.

Many thanks for funding received from Tipperary ETB, The National Lottery and DCYA to support project work in our branch.

NENAGH BRANCH

Girls enjoyed helping with the harvest decoration on Saturday 16th October. They created a wonderful display for the Service on Sunday 17th. Many thanks to all who helped with the work.

The Branch sincerely thanks Tipperary ETB, The National Lottery and DCYA for their continued support of GFS in Nenagh. Without their funding the branch could not continue its work in the Parish.



Nenagh girls in front of the window they decorated for St Mary's Harvest

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Safeguarding Trust Training Course is being organised by Cloughjordan Parish during the school break. Anyone interested should contact The Revd Terry Mitchell at 087-2039333 or your Branch Leader.
- Diocesan Council 6th November in The Methodist Hall, Cloughjordan at 8pm. Agenda and Minutes are available by email from Michelle Armitage.
- Headsaver CPR Training Thursday, 16th November in Oxmantown National School, Birr at 7pm. This is a one-night update course for all leaders who completed the programme 2 years ago - Please contact your Branch Leader to book a place.
- Cloughjordan Enrolment Service - Sunday, 26th November in St. Kieran's Church at 11.30am.
- Christmas Craft Day 2nd December in Birr
- Diocesan Prizeday & Service 2018 24th March in Birr

Boys' Brigade



1ST TRALEE COMPANY

1st Tralee Company of The Boys Brigade are back after the summer break. We started off by getting ready for the Harvest Festival in St. John's Church on October 2nd. The children made vegetable people and displayed them in the Church.



Making a vegetable person



More vegetable people

We have 25 members this year. We are delighted to see so many new members and look forward to a fun filled session.

Enrolment will take place as part of the morning service in Tralee on 26th November.

If any past members have Boys' Brigade uniforms that they do not wish to keep, and would be willing to give back to BB, please bring them along on Friday evening or contact our captain Collette Price on 086 318 8736.

Mothers' Union

PRAYER VIGIL AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

Once again, we come together this year in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on the 25th November between 2pm and 4pm to bear witness to and in solidarity with those who experience it. The speaker will be Miriam Duffy of the Limerick Rape Crisis Centre.

We ask for very practical support also in the form of items of toiletries, toys, and non-perishable goods which will be given to Adapt House women's refuge and Esker House women's refuge.

I would ask that you make a special effort to attend, even for a short time, to show your support. All welcome!

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President.

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

Limerick City Branch members hosted the annual Harvest Supper on 11th October and were delighted to welcome a large group of members from Adare and Askeaton branches for a most enjoyable evening. Very many thanks to the members of the committee who worked so hard to produce a delicious main course and to those, particularly Jessie Griffin, who provided wonderful desserts.



Adare members enjoying the Harvest Supper

Following the meal there was a raffle for a variety of lovely prizes and congratulations go to the lucky winners. A grand total of €423 was raised and this will go to help with the work of Mothers' Union Worldwide. Patsy Pomeroy kindly presented a beautiful picture and the draw for this very special prize (also for MU Overseas) will take place at our Remembrance Tea Party on Sunday 12th November, starting at 3.00pm in Richmond Terrace. As always, all are welcome.

BALLINASLOE BRANCH

Members of St. John's Mothers' Union were joined by friends for their special opening service in St. John's Church to celebrate 130 years of Mothers' Union dedication love and service in Ireland. In excess of 130 gifts were presented to local community groups by the branch to demonstrate some of the many projects undertaken over the past few years. The gifts included Emergency Hospital bags, Premature Baby Bonnets and hand knitted blankets for the local Women's Refuge. along with two hampers specially packed for Ballinasloe Social Services and the Cancer Support Centre.



Some of the 130 gifts for presentation to local charities on display in Ballinasloe

The service was led by Rev. John Godfrey and an address about the work of the Mothers' Union was given by Diocesan President, Mrs Lucy Kavanagh. Rev. John warmly welcomed Fr. Bernie Costello, Chaplain at Portiuncula to the Service.

After the Service the congregation were invited to join the members for tea and cakes in the church. Members of the MU branch in Ballinasloe are now looking forward to November 21st when Jackie and Penny will be demonstrating Christmas Ideas and on 12th December, Marie Quinlan and Tina Walshe will lead our meeting with the theme A Christmas Reflection.

All are welcome to join us for these meetings which will be held at 8pm in Gullane's Hotel. Further details of our programme are available from Jackie Eastwood, Branch Leader at 0872341535

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 4th - Diocesan Trustees 10am followed by our Council meeting, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe

November 25th - Vigil against Gender Based Violence, St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, 2-4pm

United Diocesan Youth Council

MULTI ACTIVITY DAY

On Saturday 30th September a large group of over 30 national school children from various parts of the Diocese came together in Killaloe for our Multi Activity Day. The day began at the University of Limerick Sport Adventure Centre where the morning involved taking part in a number of water activities followed by lunch then

land activities in the afternoon. Afterwards the group left the activity centre to head to St Flannan's Cathedral where we had pizza and chips for tea. This was followed by ice breaker games and competitions in the cathedral. Our day concluded with worship led by Dean Gary Paulsen who preached about how young people can make a difference and be an inspiration to the world. After the worship the buses then came to take everyone back home. It's safe to say a great day was had by all the children and leaders and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon.



MAD - Fun on the water

GERMAN & IRISH OVERNIGHT MEETING

On Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th October a number of young people and leaders from throughout United Diocese joined with a group of 8 teenagers and their adult leaders Reinhard and Francis from Cuxhaven in North of Germany. The event commenced with a lot of conversation over breakfast at Unicorn Restaurant at Dooradoyle in Limerick. The group then visited Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and the afternoon concluded with Karting at Delta Karting in Limerick City. The group returned to their hostel between Ennis and Corrofin for some super German goulash and some very tasty cakes supplied by the Irish group from Ivan's in Limerick. Later on Saturday evening in small groups facilitated by Edward Hardy the young people and other leaders discussed very many topics. The evening concluded with Worship where Alec Perrott shared his faith journey with those present. On Sunday after breakfast the group joined the congregation of St Columba's Church Ennis for Sunday service and refreshments afterwards. Canon Bob Hanna facilitated involvement of members of both groups in the service. Our thanks for the welcome afforded to the service and refreshments by Canon Hanna and parishioners of Ennis. After lunch at Supermac's in Ennis the German group headed to a GAA match in a local park and the Irish group headed home.



Germans & Irish at St Columba's Church, Ennis

AUTUMN ADVENTURE WEEKEND

We look forward to reporting on our Autumn Adventure Weekend for all secondary school students scheduled to take place over the October Bank holiday weekend in next month's notes.

FUTURE EVENTS

Junior Weekend

Our Junior Weekend will take place this year at Castledaly Manor Christian Camp & Conference Centre, Castledaly, Moate, Co. Westmeath from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th November 2017. Steve Grasham from Church of Ireland Youth Department will be leading worship throughout. This weekend will be for 10 – 13 year olds and will include a range of activities including a trip to Tayto Park and lots of FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP. The cost is €100 (€90 family or multi event discount) including return transport, food, accommodation and activities. Return transport will operate from/to Tralee, Farranfore, Newcastle West, Adare, Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Birr. Final deadline for booking is Friday 10th November.

Christmas Dinner Dance & Reunion

Our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 25th November 2017 at Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick commencing at 8.30 pm until late. Entertainment will be by Dj Joe. Tickets will €25 can be bought from committee members. Neat dress is essential. This is an Over 18's event. Tickets must be booked by Wednesday 22nd November.

Secondary School Overnight Trip to Dublin

On Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December, UDYC hope that as many as possible in secondary school and upwards will travel firstly to Dublin for a number of activities. In the evening the group will travel to Clontarf Church to join the CIYD Christmas Worship Service & Party with Disco. The group will stay overnight in parish centre in Clontarf and after church on Sunday will return home. The bus will travel from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food and accommodation is €60, or €50 each if two or more from same family attending or if joining both day trips. The closing date for bookings is Monday 4th December 2017.

Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin

On Thursday 28th December UDYC will again return to Dublin for a full day of exciting fun. This event is open to everyone from 10 years up. The bus will travel from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food and accommodation is €60 or €50 each if two or more from same family attending or if joining both day trips. The closing date for bookings is Thursday 21st December 2017.

FUNDRAISING WITH UDYC

U.D.Y.C have held a number of fundraising events already during 2017 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 and the end of the year please do not hesitate to contact Edward Hardy at 087 2907553.

We are again holding a raffle this Christmas with tickets at €2 each or a book of six tickets for €10. The prizes are €150 for 1st prize, €100 for 2nd prize and €50 for 3rd prize. The draw will take place on Saturday 25th November at Annual Fundraising Christmas Dinner Dance & Reunion event. 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) 2907553 or myself. Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Oscar, Mobile: 086 2476327

Diocesan Council for Mission

In his Newslink column last month, Bishop Kenneth spelt out the implications of the renewed diocesan vision for mission following the merging of the Diocesan Board of Mission and the Long Term Church Committee – our response to Christ's "Great Commission". These implications encompass:

- growing and deepening our own faith,
- sharing our faith with our neighbours, and
- partnering with Christians in other parts of the world.

The new Council for Mission calls each of us to work with it on these priorities, as Bishop Kenneth requests.

MISSION AT HOME

The first two bullets call us to renewed humility about ourselves and equally expansive neighbourly witness and service. These will be embraced at the Council for Mission Conference – 'How to be Welcoming Church' in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare on Saturday, November 4th, 10am – 4.30pm, which we will report on next month.

MISSION OVERSEAS

The last bullet involves us returning to the African mission field to build on the wonderful and hard-earned relationship with the Diocese of Swaziland in Southern Africa, in conjunction with USPG Missionary agency (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Thus we will be continuing our links with Bishop Ellinah who met with us here as part of our last project in support of Luyengo Farm (remember the carrot washer assembled in Tralee!) and our support of that Aids-ravaged community and its schoolchildren. Severe drought has been devastating the good work on the farm and its dependent community and the whole of the greater region of South East Africa.

Together with USPG the aim of the Council of Mission is to work alongside Bishop Ellinah and her community in the promotion of small-scale irrigation schemes and rainwater harnessing technologies, together with hygiene training, in Anglican Foundation schools throughout the Diocese of Swaziland.

With your help, we can fund water harvesting and storage like this 5,000 litre water tank supplied to the Learning Tree Pre-School in the Fonteyn Community in Mbabane. It harvests whatever rare rain falls on the roof of the school to give 41 learners and 5 staff members access to clean water for drinking and sanitation.



The water tank supplied to Learning Tree Pre-School

In due course, we will be asking schools and/or youth clubs in our own diocese for their support, by 'adopting' a particular school in need of water storage facilities in Swaziland, and in so doing encourage individual contact between the respective head-teachers and pupils.

We ask parishes to prepare for Mission Sunday with this initial project for Swaziland in mind. Missionary envelopes and literature will be supplied for each church congregation.

Mission Sunday, November 26th
Come prepared for generous giving!

Children's Ministry Network

BUILDING BLOCKS CONFERENCE

All those involved with church and children will not want to miss this gathering of like-minded people. It has you in mind, with all the stuff you know about that makes your time with children and church so often, so perplexing! Building Blocks is there to help you.

The folk you will meet there will not be waffling on about theory or pitch at a level above you and your work with children for your church. They will be people just like you, with a care to grow and hand on the best you can offer for the young, in your setting.

The Keynote Speaker this year will be of particular interest to men. Mark Chester is founder of 'Who Let the Dad's Out'. This movement recognises from lived experience and academic research and scripture that fathers and father figures make a unique contribution to the lives of their children. It is not the movement's concern to elevate that relationship but to value it especially in the development of children and church community. It has been described as a 'rescue plan' for dads, who face many challenges and are unsure of uncharted waters, but who dearly wish to play a fuller role with their children's journey in faith as part of family, church and community life.

WHERE St. Andrew's College, Booterstown, Dublin.

WHEN Saturday 18th November 2017

TIME 9.30 -4.00pm

BOOK ONLINE www.eventbrite.ie

FIND MORE DETAILS www.buildingblocks.ie

Or from Revd. Jane Galbraith 087-3825336, galbraithjane@gmail.com



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT?



St. Andrew's College,
 Booterstown
 Saturday 18th November 2017

www.buildingblocks.ie
 Find us on Facebook
 Book ONLINE @ Eventbrite.ie

Organised by leaders from a wide spectrum of churches throughout the country, it supports those in local, very small church settings with all their befuddlings, that are part of what keeps you doing what you do for and with children and church. There are seven input groups/seminars from which you can choose to go to two. Be tempted from titles as far apart as planning, to creative prayer, or drama, to starting out. DON'T miss the resource bookstall either!

Do ask your rector for some money and do go spending for the parish children's exploration of God in their lives. The parish should also cover your travelling costs; the conference costs €35.00 only.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Autumn is such a beautiful time around the village of Adare as all the leaves change colour. Pupils enjoy walks along the riverbank to observe the changing landscape. Thanks to Hurricane Ophelia this burst of colour came to a swift end with all the leaves on the ground in a few hours!

Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service in St Nicholas' Church. This year the pupils sang 'God of the Harvest' 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.

St. Nicholas' N.S. has once again been highlighting the importance of an active life. We had a 'Take on the Teachers' morning when two pupil teams played dodgeball against the staff teams. This was great fun and although the staff tried their best the student teams were victorious. Rematches have been promised next term! Pupils are also taking part in a 'Run Europe Challenge'.



One of the victorious student teams

We were all very saddened to learn of the death of Villiers teacher Neville Atkinson whom we met on many occasions at the Villiers Sports Day for primary schools. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynn and Ben at this sad 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 the junior classes enjoyed a wonderful morning listening to and creating pictures of some well-known stories. The senior pupils were treated to some fun and poetry in the company of children's poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice. He even managed to get us all to write a haiku before we left. The Book Fair is taking place in the school hall with a great mix of books on display. Thank to everyone for their great support. The money raised will be used to update our classroom libraries with some new books. We will have Dress Up Day when pupils and staff dress up as their favourite book character. That always results in some interesting photographs! Pupils are also taking part in M S Readathon this year.

Pupils have been filling up some wellington boots with coins in aid of some local children's charities. This is organised by Limerick 95FM.

Pupils enjoyed some fun Maths classes during Maths Week in October and swimming classes finished up on the 27th.

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.

Oh! Oh! Ophelia! What a storm. We are grateful for the safe and sound return of our families to school after the unplanned break.

We greeted October with a visit to Nenagh Library for a literary surprise. There, in the flesh, was Roald Dahl's BFG for an interactive talk on the famous children's novel. It was a fantastic experience for our First, Second and Third Classes. Go raibh maith agaibh to the team at the Library for their kind invitation.

Early in the month, on the fifth of October, we acknowledged National Tree Day. There was planting, a Tree Walk in our town environment and our junior classes enjoyed some mathematical activities based on the old, mature trees on the school grounds.

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 participated in the Harvest Service.

As part of our Social, Personal and Health Education Curriculum we had a school wide "Bullying Awareness Day" on the thirteenth of October. The children did many activities to promote kindness and friendship in our school community. Well done to all for celebrating the positive.

In the aftermath of the great storm, we jumped in to National Maths Week. There were games and quizzes with a mathematical twist. The children were engaged in some serious computation, reasoning and logic. There was a whole afternoon dedicated to a school-wide Maths table quiz on Friday. If we had to "sum" up the event, we would simply say it was

$(L+R) / C = F$,

~ where L= Logic, R=Reasoning, C = Children and F= Fun.

On Friday the twenty seventh of October our pupils are invited to dress up for a spooky afternoon of traditional Halloween stories, games and treats. There will be a fashion show by the children too, and from past experience, it will be better than any Paris or Milan Catwalk show.

As the days of autumn fade and the chill of winter creeps in, we look forward to Oíche Shamhna and the welcome mid-term break. Enjoy the celebrations and see you in November!

St Michael's National School, Limerick

Our choir in St Michael's NS were invited to sing in the St Michael's Church Harvest service on Sunday 15th October. We were delighted to have nearly forty pupils sing joyfully to give thanks and acknowledge the harvest of food. Reverend Edna reminded us how many people are involved in the production of food.

As is the tradition in our school, two school tours took place in early October, both fortunate to have bright and clear Autumn days. Third and Fourth Classes enjoyed a trip to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park where much active learning took place in an interesting and stimulating environment. Fifth and Sixth Classes, meanwhile headed to Cahir Castle, the Swiss Cottage and the Mitchelstown caves. As well as appreciating the history of both buildings in interesting tours, the pupils explored the caves.



Trip to Cahir Castle

We are waiting for our Active Flag inspection soon and have been busy with regular park runs and walks. Our families are also taking part in the Super-troopers Health Homework programme, in which both parents and children are encouraged to become more active and learn about healthy lifestyles together.

Storm Ophelia caused some damage to a classroom roof which now needs immediate repair. We are managing to cope with one classroom out of bounds, but are really looking forward to the building of the new classroom next year.

SCHOOL EXTENSION, PROJECT UPDATE

St. Michael's National School has been meeting the education needs of the children of the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe for 128 years. The School educates children from Church of Ireland and Protestant families within Limerick City and its hinterland, together with children from families living in the immediate vicinity of the School. Over the years the school has grown and developed as the educational needs of the children have changed.

The school is now set for the next stage in its development. In June 2016, following an application by the Board of Management to the Department of Education and Skills, the school received notification that grant monies had been allocated for a new classroom and resource room. Following a planning application to Limerick City and County Council, planning permission was granted to the school in August 2017. This permission includes the new classroom and resource room, together with a larger reception area, a covered sensory garden and all-weather playing pitch.

It is hoped that contractors will be appointed before the end of the year, with a view to commencing the construction work on the new classroom and resource room in 2018. Further works will take place following a fund raising campaign to meet additional costs not covered by the Department, but which the Board of Management feel are important in ensuring that the school is best placed to meet the educational needs of current and future pupils.

This is an exciting period for the school community and we look forward to ensuring that the school can provide a positive learning environment for our students and those enrolling in the coming years.

Should anyone have any queries on the proposed works please feel free to contact any member of the school Board of Management.

Jennifer O'Leary
Chairperson BOM

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

SYMPATHY

The staff and pupils of Kiltallagh were very saddened to hear about the untimely tragic death of Mr. Neville Atkinson, PE teacher of Villiers Secondary School in Limerick. Our school has been privileged to travel to Villiers each year to participate in their primary school sports day, under the guidance of Neville and the Transition Year students. Neville was always so kind and welcoming to each one of us down through the years and we hold many happy memories of those sports days very close to our hearts.

Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas sioraí dó.

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL

There was much excitement on Thursday September 29th, when Kiltallagh National School reached the final of the Mid Kerry 2 Teacher Competition. We had three victories over Boheshill NS, Curraheen NS and Douglas NS. We were defeated by local school Fybough NS in the final. Congratulations to them.

Kiltallagh NS panel included Darragh Kelliher, Rachel Boyle Garrett O' Dowd, Frank Wharton, Cathal Moroney (captain), David Scally, Richard Boyle, and Sarah Lynn Wharton, Ellen O' Sullivan, Patrick Sheehy, Leanne Griffin, Johnny Horgan and Rory Orme.

Thanks to the Maor Uisce team of George, Kate, Sharon & Lauren and to their wonderful coaches PJ. Reidy and Mike Hickey.



Kiltallagh football team

HALLOWEEN:

The pupils of Kiltallagh are looking forward to their Mid-Term break and created some very spooky masks to get them into the Halloween spirit-under the guidance of our Artist in Residence Kate Landers.



Some of the pupils in Halloween masks

The pupils of the senior room, in conjunction with Science Week, travelled to Killarney Cineplex on Friday October 20th to enjoy a screening by Kerry Film Festival of THE FARTHEST.

This was a film for all ages that explored the journey of Voyager into space: One of humankind's greatest achievements.



Cinema screening of Voyager story: The Farthest

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Oxmantown National School is delighted to be rewarded with 3rd place for the School Garden. The Poly Tunnel that was kindly donated by the Pyle Family is now up and running through the hard work of the Gardening Club that is being organised and driven by Rebekah Keavney. A big congratulations and thank you to everyone for all their hard work and dedication.

The pupils in Oxmantown National School were responsible for decorating part of the church for the annual Birr Church Harvest Thanksgiving which was held on Friday 6th October. They did a lovely job!



St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

We welcomed six new pupils to the school in September and all pupils have settled in well to the new school year.

The School is working hard to achieve a Green Flag status under the guidance of Belinda Gascoign, Board Member, Sarah Clifford, SNA and a local committee. To that effect we had a visit from Dr David McCormack from Tralee Wetlands Centre to talk about the effects of litter, plastics and other waste on the marine environment, The Senior Room also undertook a beach clean-up locally with Dr. McCormack.

The pupils took part in the Cheerios Breakfast morning in aid of Childline and will be doing pumpkin carving and "Trick or Treat" in aid of Temple Street Childrens' Hospital.

The School participated in the recent Harvest Festival Service in St. John's Church, Tralee, providing flowers from the school garden for decoration and singing a lively song about creation.

Villiers School



BASKETBALL

Basketball season is back, up and running. We have a new coach. Andre Clergio is a professional basketball player with a height of 6'7. We are very excited to see where he leads the boys' basketball team!

Also in basketball, the first and second year girls played a great game on October 12. They played against Crescent Comp in a blitz format and won both matches with very high standard.

The Badminton players in the school are having on going practice in preparation for a tournament in the Limerick league.

TY

The TY girls involved in active schools have started teaching Spike Ball to primary and national schools in Limerick and Clare. The group consists of 14 girls from TY who completed a two-day coaching and skills development course. This course took place in Villiers under the auspices of Volleyball Ireland. They have been broken into groups of three and four and have travelled to Abbey Girls School, Adare, Co Limerick, and Meelick National School and Ballina National School, both in Co Clare.

The girls will be coaching a couple of classes over a course of six weeks. They will be independently teaching the primary school classes the basics of Spikeball play. After they have completed the six-week course, multiple primary schools across Limerick including the ones who participated in the training will come into Villiers for a big Spikeball blitz. This is going to be a major challenge for our TY girls. However, we know that they are going to have a fantastic time.

HOCKEY

Villiers had some great victories from the Hockey Girls. Both the under Sixteens and under eighteens girls finished second in the inter provincial's in Belfast last weekend. We are delighted to say that Muireann Scanlon, Lauren Ryan and Marianna Birdthistle have gotten into the under eighteens Munster squad as has Amy O'Leary in the under sixteens.

Also we are wishing Amy O'Leary the best of luck as she is just about to take trials for the Ireland squad.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

Greetings once again from the Villiers Sanctuary. Here in Villiers we find ourselves waiting patiently for mid-term so that we can draw breath and have time to reflect, recharge and become prepared for another term. The coming term is one full of hope and promise but also full of exams and stress so a much-needed break now is very welcome by all.

The Community group this year is extremely busy in all their effort to raise awareness on Pastoral Care. Their focus this year

is not only to bring awareness to positive mental health but also to raise funds for disabled children in Uganda through Zest4Kidz, and to fundraise for the Richmond ICTU in Beaumont Hospital.

The Sanctuary exists to enable everyone to take ownership of Pastoral Care and to encourage everyone to participate in spreading positive mental health. The Community group fully embody the Sanctuary motto of 'Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself'. This was certainly in action at the end of a very difficult week for all in our community when the Group decided to take on a Random Act of Kindness. A list was drawn up of everyone who works in and for our community and cookies and a handmade card with a positive message were duly delivered. It is always incredible to see the spread of happiness that such a simple act can bring and the group received a wonderful gift when they discovered the joy of giving.

THE BLAME GAME

Increasingly one of the issues that all who drop into the Sanctuary seem to be talking about is the 'blame game'. We often see people looking for someone to blame when things go wrong all over social media and on television. And in our own lives, when something goes wrong or we feel unhappy, we can very quickly start to look for someone to blame. We have a strong desire to blame something or someone else, including God, for the unhappiness that we feel. If this takes root then we will have a community in which people will prefer to blame others rather than take responsibility for a mistake themselves. The consequences of this are the stifling of innovation, risk-taking and creativity because people will not show personal initiative in case they are criticised.

In Villiers we encourage people that if they make a mistake the best thing they can do is to come forward openly. Then, the focus will be on helping to put things right. So whenever you have the opportunity to take responsibility, do so, even in the smallest of choices. Stop being too hard on yourself and thinking that you are not good enough. Remember that you are loved by God and intrinsically valuable. Ultimately, playing the blame game will not satisfy us – it will make us unhappy, and unforgiving.

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to say sorry! Give us the strength and courage to admit when we have failed and learn from it. To be open, honest and committed to learning and to take responsibility for our own actions. Most of all guide us, guard us and enable us to love you and our neighbour as ourselves.

Until next time, blessings and peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

This month we have to start with the birthday of Dora Benson who celebrated 100 years of life on 9th October 2017. Many of us remarked that it was the first time at a 100th birthday celebration so it cannot be that common for people celebrate a 100th birthday. Bishop Kenneth was on hand to read the letter from the president and hand over the birthday cheque from the state. It was a weekend of celebration for her with family around the Saturday, then all in church on the Sunday morning and the birthday party with friends and neighbours the Monday, which was the actual day of her birthday. So Dora managed to keep going for a few days of celebration. It is wonderful to be in good mental and reasonable physical health at 100. We continue to wish her good health and many happy years ahead.



Happy 100th Birthday, Dora

Richard Thackeray and Alexandra Robinson were married in All Saints church Stradbally Castleconnell on 7th October. Their wedding dress was from the period of the battle of Waterloo. So it was an interesting call to dinner at the hotel when a canon was brought onto the field and the cannon was fired four times. We trust that the marriage will be without major battles on the field of life but they enjoy their interest in battles for many years. We do wish them well and a happy and long life together.



Alexandra Robinson & Richard Thackeray

The annual Harvest church service was held in Mountshannon on the 1st October and what an amazing effort everyone made in decorating the church. Our thanks to all involved and the eats after the service is always appreciated.

Killaloe Harvest was on 15 October and Bishop Kenneth was the celebrant and preacher. The new prayer tree was also dedicated by +Kenneth and our thanks to local artist Lynda Christian for the creation of this tree in the cathedral. Jessica Brown one of our parishioners has produced a prayer pilgrimage booklet for the cathedral was also made officially public by +Kenneth. This will enhance the visitor experience to the cathedral. Our thanks to all who prepared the church and the feast after the service. See page 18 for photos.

After many years of enduring a leaking bell tower and the subsequent discovery that the pinnacles at the top of the tower were not securely attached to the tower, the work of the repairs has started and because of grants need to finish quite quickly. In some way the deadline to complete the work has been a blessing and the cooperation of the builder and the architect Brian Grubb to meet the dates is helping to complete the work very quickly. We look forward to having a dry and safe building to enter shortly. Our thanks to all involved in the project and those who have work hard to fundraise and to apply for the various grants to do the work.

More harvest festivals to follow in the other churches but we leave those for next month.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

PRAYERS

We continue to keep Edwin Harding, James Coburn, Diane Dagg, Theo Dillon, Pamela Edge, Tom Hayes, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse in our prayers.

HARVEST SERVICES

Our Harvest season began with our service in Lorrha, where, as always, the traditional decorations of fruit, vegetables, and turf were supplemented by fishing rods (a reminder of the harvest of the seas, and the nearby Lough Derg), and representations of a variety of animals and sea creatures, tokens of all God's gifts to us. The preacher was the Revd Charles McCartney, the new Priest-in-Charge of the Clonfert Group of Parishes.

In the Harvest Service in Birr, we welcomed the Rt Revd Michael Mayes, our former Bishop, as the preacher. The Birr Choral Society led the singing, and offered several beautiful anthems. Our organist for the evening was Mr Charles Marshall, organist at St Ann's Church in Dublin. The church was beautifully decorated by parishioners, with additions by the 5th and 6th class of Oxmantown School.

Dorrha Church always attracts a good congregation for Harvest, and this year was no exception. The scheduled preacher, Mr Paul Fitzpatrick, was unable to come as he was accepted for training beginning that weekend at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in order to transfer from the Roman Catholic to the Church of Ireland ordained ministry. However, the Revd Janet White Spinner stepped in and, as always, was thoughtful and inspiring.

Our final Harvest service, in Lockeen Church, is, at this writing, yet to take place. Mr Ed Hardy will be coming to talk about his recent mission trip to Cambodia. Many thanks to so many in all our parishes who cleaned, decorated, and cleared away afterwards so that we could fittingly give thanks to God for all that he provides.

LORRHA FASHION SHOW

The 14th of October was the date, and the Lorrha GAA Complex in Moatfield was the location for the long-awaited Fashion Show in aid of window repair in St Ruadhan's Church in Lorrha. A huge turnout came to take advantage of the complimentary wine and cheese, to peruse the various stands displaying lots of up to the minute men's and ladies' fashion from boutiques in Nenagh, Portumna, Loughrea and more, and then to take their seats to see the models of all ages on the runway. Lorrha parishioners and other volunteers from the wider community put in a great deal of work, and the result was an evening that was both entertaining for all who came, and a good source of income for the window repair project in the church.



Models at the Lorrha Fashion Show

SERVICES ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our schedule of services for Remembrance Sunday on the 12th of November, will be as follows:

Lockeen 9:30 am	Morning Prayer
Lorrha 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist
Birr 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist

The Family Eucharist in Birr will be on the following Sunday, 19th of November.



NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Wednesday, 13th December
to

Sunday, 17th December
@

St Mary's Church, Nenagh

Admire the trees

Enjoy the amazing Afternoon Tea (€5)

Purchase seasonal produce & craft items

Enjoy scheduled events & raffle

Admission €3 (accompanied children free)

Carol Service on Sunday 17th at 4 pm.

All Welcome

For more information call, text or email:

086 820 6514

nenaghchristmastree@btinternet.com



One Bishop short of a Chess set...

Rev Michael Cavanagh, Priest-in-Charge of the Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes and Diocesan Communications Officer, reports on the Clergy Conference held on 11-13 October 2017.

For the first time, the Clergy conferences of Limerick and Killaloe and Tuam, Killlala and Achonry were this year held jointly. The chosen venue, the Ardilaun Hotel in Galway, is as near central as possible to what are probably the two most geographically diverse dioceses in Ireland – as evidenced by the number of geographically diverse accents of the combined clergy delegates! Sponsored by the two Diocesan Bishops, and led by the Bishop of St Asaph, The Right Revd. Gregory Cameron, the focus was upon the experience of the Welsh Church, identifying the similarities and ideas relevant to the two dioceses and offering challenges for future mission.

Since 2012, the Church in Wales has been responding to the Harries Report commissioned in preparation for the centenary of Welsh disestablishment in 2020. The report addressed hard questions: did the Church have the right structures, resources and leadership for the twenty-first century? Bishop Gregory spoke about the response of his diocese. Believing that the renewal of congregational life, with each community having a lively missional Church in their midst, is the key to mission, the diocese had been re-organised to encourage sharing of good ideas and ministry. Twenty-one Mission Areas are each led by a shared ministry team, with clergy and licensed lay leadership, and a Mission Area Conference, whose

brief is to enable new forms of being Church. Gregory also explored the biblical foundations of mission understood through the Body of Christ, which was salt and light to the world (Matthew 5.13-17, Ephesians 4.1-16, John 5.19.20). Finally, delegates were invited to compare and contrast 2020 Vision in Wales with their own situation, and take on board potential lessons for implementation – with appropriate modification – in their own situations.

Commenting on the success of the Conference, Bishop Patrick Rooke said that he felt that "The Joint Clergy Conference gave the bishops and clergy of the two dioceses the opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed environment. As a result, new friendships were forged. Furthermore, we learnt much about Ministry/Mission Areas in the Church in Wales and the need to work collaboratively for the benefit of all."

Bishop Kenneth added "Partnership in Mission was the sub-text of our joint Clergy Conference. With some reluctance clergy of our United Diocese abandoned their much-loved annual conference venue in Dingle to join for the first time with the clergy of Tuam, Killlala and Achonry in a joint conference. As with so many recent meetings with Tuam, we found a lot of common experiences and shared challenges as well as easy friendships with a diocese which in so many ways is similar to our own. Over meals and coffee we talked about the challenge of distance, parishes stretching over large areas, and maintaining beautiful but ancient church buildings. We were also able to talk about lively church communities, initiatives with



Scenes from the joint Clergy Conference

tourists, welcoming newcomers, and developments in lay ministry. A true sense of partnership emerged, and a renewed commitment to the mission and witness of the church in the west and south-west of Ireland.

Conferences always have two aspects – the formal inputs and talks, and the informal opportunities to share and talk with others who have similar experiences. At this year's clergy conference we were able to experience both, and to frame both in a renewed sense of partnership and friendship, both with Tuam, Killala and Achonry, and with the Church in Wales through our speaker Bishop Gregory."

As a thank you for the huge amount of work Bishop Gregory had put in to lead the conference, we presented him with a piece of original ceramic from a Galway artist. He thought it was a stork; Bishop Kenneth insisted it is a heron. It could possibly be a Great White Egret. Answers on a postcard...



Speaking to delegates, it was clear that geographical and cultural diversity were issues needing further discussion, not just between the two Dioceses* but internally as well. However this was not necessarily a weakness; rather, an opportunity to continue sharing experience and explore potential for a broader, encompassing, mission strategy towards the achievement of our mutual vision – God's Kingdom, come.

*According to the OED, 'Dioceses' is the plural of Diocese, but is pronounced as DY-uh-seez (-y as in sky, -ee as in meet), not DY-uh-seez-iz. Just thought you might like to know.

A gift for Bishop Gregory – is it a stork or a heron?

Destination Dunmore East Tractor Trip

From Christ Church Corbally, Roscrea, Co Tipperary to Dunmore East, Co Waterford and back.

Is it possible on tractors? – Yes! of course it's possible.

Could they do it? – They did it!

The Tractor Trip took place over the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September 2017.

Scratching heads while wondering what to do about fundraising isn't far from the agenda of many a church. It happened that one man spoke to another man in Christ Church, Corbally, Roscrea Group of Parishes, Co Tipperary, who had an idea gently simmering away in the back of his mind for years. A couple of months ago, George Draper determined over many meetings, to bring it to the boil: not another tractor run, but why not – A Tractor Trip. Yes! In rural Ireland, a popular way of raising funds is to hold a tractor 'rally-type' event. Generous tractor drivers drive in formation from point A to point B, over some hours distance, showing off an amazing variety of machines. The event ends off with a party. A tractor trip is quite a different animal. Could they do it? Yes, they did it! The Dunmore East Tractor Trip happened, in aid of Christ Church Corbally (Timoney) parish funds and the Rosemary Project of the Lion's Club.

Eight tractors plus drivers plus support vehicles set off from Timoney (Corbally) Co Tipperary on Saturday morning, drove to Dunmore East Co Waterford at an average speed of forty kph, spent a great night due to the generosity of the people there, and drove home again, having picked up another twenty or so tractors half an hour from Corbally Church, to a great welcome and an enormous fuel auction and other attractions, to further boost funds.

This tiny, most rural of parishes mobilised every able bodied person possible and worked tirelessly together: the home crew, the travelling crew, the support crew, the auction crew. Even the prize-winning Belgium Blue cow from the Tullamore Show, owned by Tom Lawless, was present and attracted funds. Did they make money? Hard to get a straight answer out of farmers, 'tis true, but so far they report €3,000 and rising.

The drivers who drove the round trip of 265kms, were Robert Standish, Albert Dann, Robert Ryan, Clive Davis, Caroline Draper accompanied by Sharon Draper, Dorles Draper accompanied by

Stephanie Draper, Brian Davis and Stewart Davis. The Tractors were escorted by George Draper accompanied by Dawn Draper and Stephanie England in front, with Liam Flannery and John Shanahan following behind.



Aren't they beauties?



More beauties, George Draper (extreme right) and his team. Stuart Davis overseeing events up top

St Flannan's Cathedral – A Place of Pilgrimage and Prayer

ISAIAH 11: 1-3, 10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lynda Christian is a local artist who offered to do something for the Cathedral, and the conversation began about her work and how it might feature in the Cathedral. The present idea arose from the scripture text above. Lynda is a multi-media artist and also specialises in metal art. She tries to use recycled metals, such as tin cans.



Lynda Christian with Dean Gary and Bishop Kenneth in front of the tree

Lynda says: "It's impossible to do exactly the same piece twice, as the metals are hand-cut and shaped. The metals will twist differently and join together differently each time. I like to mix the primary paints as I paint, so each piece keeps its individuality. I design innovatively – each piece is bespoke, unique with its own characteristics. I am often being inspired by 'found art', preferably rusty metals, discarded and rejected, getting a second lease of life."

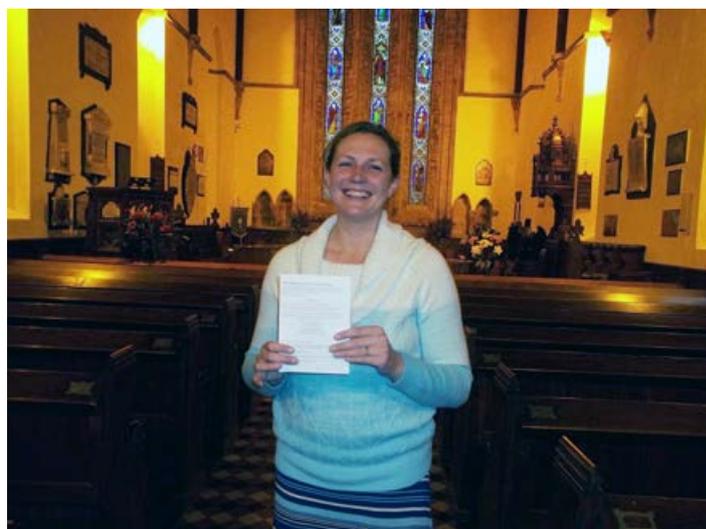
So the piece, right down to the materials used, depicts rejection that is taken-up and given new life. This piece of art, commissioned for St. Flannan's Cathedral, depicts an old stump with new shoots growing from it. It reflects that something new can come from something that seems dead or has fallen like a tree. Often our lives can feel dead or broken through hurt, loss, depression, rejection and so on. The shoot does not grow from the centre, but from the edge of the stump. Sometimes from the fuzzy edges of our lives – in areas of unknowing, confusion, searching – can spring this new life

which gives us hope, if we are open to the working of God's spirit. The Christian hope of resurrection into a new reality is expressed in this piece of art.

Our emphasis in recent years is that the Cathedral in Killaloe is a place of pilgrimage and prayer. Our hope is that those who visit, or those who are regular worshippers, can experience the sacred mystery as a reality that is greater than ourselves or our circumstances. People in Ireland have always found places to express themselves in and through nature. One of the old customs is that people would tie a ribbon on a tree. We envisage that people will tie a prayer ribbon on this metal tree, a ribbon symbolizing their prayer intention. There is an ancient baptismal font just opposite the tree, expressing the significance of water and new life, with water also being the symbol of life and hope. Therefore we are combining ancient Celtic custom with our Christian tradition in the context of the Cathedral as an aid for people to express themselves. The tree of death has become a tree of hope and new life in Christ.

In recent months we have also developed a text with different points in the Cathedral for people to pause, reflect and pray at. We are grateful to Jessica Brown for her work on a booklet as a help and tool for people going around the Cathedral, prayerfully reflecting on what is in the building and how it can move us to deeper connection with the holy mystery all around us. Jessica finds the corner of literature and theology fascinating. Her book *The Grace to be Human* is forthcoming this autumn with Kalos Press, and her children's novel *The River Boy* was released in 2016. Having lived in Texas, California, New York, England and New Zealand, Jessica now lives in the west of Ireland with her husband and son. We are extremely fortunate to have Jessica and her family as part of our worshipping community at the Cathedral, as she is so willing to share her gifts with all of us and the wider community.

Right Reverend Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, dedicated the tree and the new booklet at the Harvest Festival Service in the Cathedral on 15th October, as aids to those coming to pray. We hope that many will make their way to the Cathedral as a pilgrimage, and be able to continue that journey as they explore the Cathedral with all its symbols, beauty and rich Christian heritage.



Jessica Brown with her Prayer Tour booklet

Pastoral and Spiritual Care of those with Dementia - The 1st in a series of 4 articles

by Rev Rod Smyth, Rector of Nenagh

Many of us have experience of the debilitating and cruel symptoms of Dementia as we have watched relatives and close friends succumb to the ravages of the condition. It is difficult to come to terms with the fact that the person we know and love seems to be disappearing from us. How do we handle such a condition? How do we approach the pastoral care of people travelling the road into Dementia? Some might wonder if we should even try – what is the point of it all? These are challenging questions for us as Christians, and it is difficult sometimes to try to understand what is going on and how we should respond. How do we begin to relate both at a human level and, perhaps more importantly, at a spiritual level, to those with Dementia. In this series of articles, I want to start by setting the scene – what is the scale of the problem with which we are faced, and the adequacy of the Church's response?

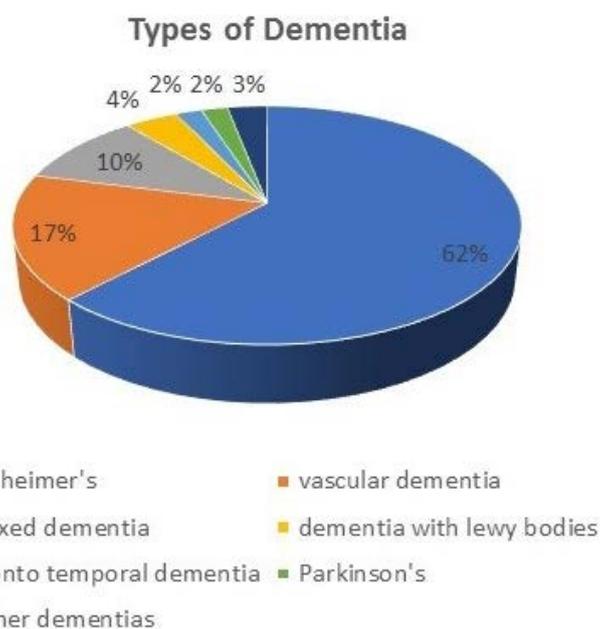
Given that the number of elderly people in society is increasing as people live longer, there will inevitably be an increase in the incidence of Dementia in the population as a whole. The Report, 'Prevalence and Projections of Dementia in Ireland, 2011-2046', suggests that the figure could be as high as 132,000 people by 2041. In the UK, the present figure of 800,000 is expected to rise to 1,000,000 by 2021, and to double in the thirty years thereafter. It is also estimated that only 43% of sufferers receive a diagnosis.

Statistics such as this suggest that, in the next thirty years, Dementia is going to be a growing concern for government, society, those who have responsibility for the pastoral care of sufferers and those who care for them.



The incidence of Dementia rises from one in 100 between the ages of 65-69 to one in five in the over 80 age group. Stephen G Post, senior research scholar in the Beckett Institute at St Hugh's College, Oxford, argues that 'as our ageing society continues a demographic transition in which those 85 and older constitute the fastest growing age group, the numbers of elderly with chronic dementing diseases will reach an unprecedented magnitude.'

Dementia, it would appear, is not a natural process of ageing, but rather an organic disease which affects cognition, and does not seem to have a clear cause. Symptoms include loss of memory, particularly for recent events, disorientation in time and place, difficulties with communication, and changes in behavior and sometimes personality. Dementia is an umbrella term covering several illnesses, the largest of which is Alzheimer's Disease.



However, all forms of the disease are progressive and lead to irreversible wasting of the brain tissue. It has been defined as a progressive neuropsychiatric disease, found sometimes in middle-aged and more often in older adults, that affects brain matter and is characterized by the inexorable loss of cognitive function as well as by affective and behavioural disturbances.

Given the context of a growing elderly population, together with a consequent increased incidence of Dementia in the population, what is the Church's response? Are we providing adequate initial and on-going training for both clergy and laity in the pastoral care of Dementia sufferers? What is the situation regarding the pastoral care of those with Dementia at present and how might we move forward?

Recent research has gleaned responses from clergy, carers and health professionals. This has, inevitably, highlighted some inadequacies. However, the literature on the subject, together with the findings of recent research, suggest strategies for future provision of training and ways in which both clergy and laity can relate to and provide meaningful spiritual experiences and pastoral care for those with Dementia and their carers.

In later articles we will consider an approach to biblical studies which seeks to allow the texts to resonate with our life experiences; a consideration of what constitutes personhood; and then to consider, in the light of best practice, how we seek to provide pastoral care for those with the condition. In the last article I will seek to provide a bank of resources which may be of use to clergy, carers and laity.





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St. Cronan's Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Christ Church Corbally 9.30,
St Cronan's 10.45,
St Burchin's Bourney 12 noon,
St Molua's Kyle 12 noon (1st and 3rd only)

FROM THE REGISTERS

We record the death of Peter George David Read on September 16th. 2017. A large crowd attended Peter's funeral in St Cronan's Church, including representatives from the many local, regional and national organisations of which Peter was a member and in which Peter frequently played a pivotal role. Our deepest condolences are offered to Sandra and the Read families.

The death was announced of Neville Atkinson. Neville was laid to rest in Modreeny Cemetery after service in St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. Our heartfelt prayers continue for Wilfrid and Roseleen Moloney, their daughter Lynne and grandson Ben on their loss.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

Whilst we are aware that not all the harvest is safe yet this year, all our communities have gathered with humble and thankful hearts in praise of God's generosity to us. All the buildings looked splendid in their seasonal décor. Many thanks are due to all who contributed vegetables and fruits and flowers and even the mouse (toy) nibbling the grain.

ST CRONAN'S CHURCH TOWER

Work is progressing on the pinnacles of the tower. Some of our senior members have been escorted up to examine the work. It is pleasing to report that evidence for the water ingress has been discovered and put to rights already and somewhat amazing to notice the height of the pinnacles measured against the builders, which is more than double their height!

CORBALLY TO DUNMORE EAST TRACTOR TRIP

See page 17 for a report with photos.



On top of the world – David McCorduck & Leslie Evans on top of St Cronan's Church tower

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Rector: Rev Rod Smyth
The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479
Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

5th November

9.30am Templederry Parish Church – Eucharist
11am St Mary's, Nenagh – Eucharist

12th November

9.30am Templederry Parish Church – Eucharist with act of remembrance
11am St Mary's, Nenagh – Service of the Word and act of remembrance
12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church – Service of the Word and act of remembrance

19th November

11am St Mary's, Nenagh – United Family Service
7pm St Mary's, Nenagh – 'Songs of Praise'

26th November

9.30am Templederry Parish Church – Morning Prayer
11am St Mary's Nenagh – Eucharist
12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church – Eucharist

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

On Sunday 1st of October the Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service was held in Templederry Parish Church. The service, at 7pm in the evening in the heart of the countryside, had a very special atmosphere. The church was beautifully decorated and packed as the local community came together to give thanks for the harvest.

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It was a singular pleasure to share the service with Templederry Parish Priest Father Willie Teehan, a great friend of the parish, and the speaker was Mr Andrew Coleman, Christian Aid, who spoke passionately about the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal. A harvest supper was served after the service and there was a great feeling of friendship and community spirit.

Sunday 15th October was the turn of St Mary's, Nenagh to host a Harvest Festival Service. A veritable army of helpers decorated the church, which was looking splendid for the occasion. The children from St Mary's No 2 National School sang a hymn entitled, 'Bring in the Harvest', and the parish choir sang John Rutter's beautiful harvest anthem, 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. The preacher was Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The large congregation enjoyed refreshments after the service and the atmosphere in the church was convivial and happy.

On Sunday 29th October, in St. Mary's Nenagh, there was a service of wholeness and healing within the context of the Eucharist. There was an opportunity at the end of the service for those who wished to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil. This service has become a regular part of our pattern of services, usually being used on the fifth Sunday of the month.

Preparations for this year's Christmas Tree Festival in Nenagh are well under way. The Festival will be officially launched at a reception in St Mary's on Monday 6th November at 7pm. The dates of the festival are Wednesday 13th – Sunday 17th December in St Mary's, and, as in previous years, it will culminate with the Community Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 4pm in St Mary's. Mark it in your diaries – you know it makes sense.

Lastly, very many congratulations to Maruna Manthe and Anna-Mae Powell. Both girls, who are in transition year, organised a coffee

morning and bric-a-brac sale in aid of the charity Zest4Kidz in St Mary's on Saturday 21st October. This was well supported and both girls are to be highly commended for their efforts to help others.



A harvest of flowers in St Mary's, Nenagh

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Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 42183

Mob: 087 203 9333

Email: terrym438@gmail.com

On behalf of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to the Atkinson family on the death of Neville Atkinson, who passed away peacefully on the 26th of September. The funeral service was held at St Kieran's, Cloughjordan on the 1st of October. Neville will be remembered as someone who made a difference to the lives of everyone he knew. Thank you for the support of Villiers School and the wider community during this time. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

On behalf of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to the Mooney family on the death of Benny Mooney, who passed away peacefully on the 4th of October. Benny was well known in the community as we remembered his sense of humour and a life well-lived. The funeral service was held at St Kieran's, Cloughjordan on the 6th of October. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

MOTHER'S UNION

The Mothers Union held a Communion Service at St Kieran's in Cloughjordan on the 25th of September, to mark the start of the new year and to commend their work, on behalf of those in need, to God.

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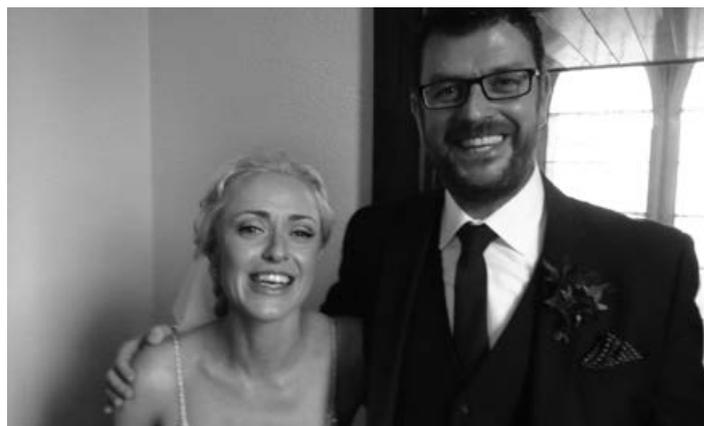
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Thank you to everyone in the Group of Parishes for helping to make Harvest Thanksgiving a celebration for us all to enjoy. The displays of fruit, flowers and vegetables in the churches help to remind us of God's providence and the beauty of Creation. The services were all well attended, as visiting preachers from neighbouring parishes came along to share in the services.

We were challenged to be aware, not just of our own needs but the needs of others; reminded to give thanks to God for all his blessings in our lives; and challenged to think of ways to use our resources in sustainable and life-affirming ways.

WEDDING SERVICE

Congratulation to Caroline Goulding and Barry McNamara who celebrated their wedding at St Kieran's on the 21st October. It was a joyous occasion, with the reception held at Cloughjordan House. We pray God's richest blessing on their lives in the years ahead.



Caroline Goulding & Barry McNamara at their wedding

BAPTISM SERVICE

We welcomed Joseph James (JJ) Dervan into God's family, the church in a baptism service held in Ballingarry Church of Ireland on the 22nd of October. Congratulations to his parents, Joseph and Hazel and wider family.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (On sick leave)

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

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

KKilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 HT20

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

PASTORAL.

There have been several funerals over the past month and our thoughts and prayers continue for those who have been bereaved.

Neville Atkinson died on the 26th September in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. His funeral service, which was held in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan, on the 1st October, was a reminder of the love and esteem he was held in by so many. His wife Lynn and son Ben, his parents, Donald and Elsie, brother Mark, sisters Shelley and Lynn, parents-in-law Wilfred and Rosaleen, his extended family and friends and staff and pupils of Villiers School, Limerick.

Benny Mooney died in the Regional Hospital, Tullamore, on the 4th October. His funeral service was held on the 6th October in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. Louie Auld died in Clover Lodge nursing home, Shinrone, on the 7th October with her funeral being held in St. Paul's Church, Cahir on the 9th October. Benny was father to Angel Auld and Louie was her mother-in-law and both were grandparents to her children, Ruth and David Auld.

Joan Mitchell died suddenly at home on the 12th October. Her funeral service was held in Aghancon on the 14th October. The service was

conducted by Canon Ruth Gill, with Dean Philip Knowles, Fr. Michael O'Meara and the Revd. Janet White Spinner taking part. The burial followed in the adjoining churchyard. Joan's presence will be missed by so many and not least by her daughter Sylvia and son, Richie. We pray that God will uphold all those who mourn and sustain them in the times ahead.

WEDDING

Congratulations to Davina (Meredith) and Matthew Hives who were married in St. Mary's Church, Shinrone on the 14th October. The ceremony was conducted by the Revd. Olive Donoghue and the couple are wished every blessing in their future life together.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The harvest in Dunkerrin had to be postponed and was held on the 8th October. In her sermon, Mrs. Audrey Clarke-Gordan reminded us of the wonder of looking at familiar sights from a fresh perspective. The decorations in the church were outstanding and it was good to see so many who came to join the celebrations.

St. Mary's, Shinrone was held on the 15th October in the company of Mr. Charlie Wallace who spoke about the unequal spread of wealth and the toll poverty of finance or of self-worth can extract from human well-being. Many thanks to Davina and Matthew for sharing some of the beautiful flower arrangements used at their wedding ceremony.

MOTHERS' UNION

The opening service for the new season was held on the 9th October followed by a meeting to plan the programme of events. There will be a joint meeting in Birr on the 9th November when Salters Sterling will speak about a trip to China.

THE OFFALY GOOD VARIETY SHOW!

Plans for the Variety Show are going full steam ahead for Saturday, 25th November in St. Mary's Church, Shinrone, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are €10 and can be obtained from 087 9960057, parishioners or at the door. Proceeds are going to Offaly Palliative Care and towards the cost of repainting the church. See ad for a list of those who will be performing.

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Drumcliffe & Kilrush Union of Parishes

HARVESTS

Our thanks to the brethren and sisteren (?) who helped put the celebrations together with their artistry and hard work in both Kilnasoolagh and Drumcliffe, exercising a ministry of hospitality, offering all the colour and shaping of "all good gifts around us" as the hymn sings.

That said, the ecumenical dimension to the congregation—for which we feel delight and gratitude—disguises something very real about our modern church life. Harvest, with whatever other distractions in minds today—no longer holds the allure it once did. Times were parishioners would hop from one group harvest to the next, out of loyalty as well as love of the occasion and the hymns...and the extra buzz with visitors present, protestant or catholic. Now nothing! Or virtually nothing!

It is, for what the concept is worth, the last thing protestants have to offer, The Harvest, (now of course being increasingly celebrated by Roman Catholic churches, for all the busyness already of their

sacramental life.) evokes little by way of spiritual chords, there is no looking forward to this rhythm in the seasonal calendar. Even small is no longer beautiful for some in our small isolated Communities. That said, thanks to Canon Jane Galbraith from Roscrea Parish and the Children's Ministry Network who helped keep Harvest alive for the children at the Family Harvest in Ennis, Thanks to stimulating guest speakers, Fr Ger Nash and Mr Alf Monaghan, and to musicians Nigel Bridge, Hugh Healy, Aishling Fox and choristers representing Ennis Cathedral Choir and to the providers of tasty food to complete the fellowship in both churches.

BOOK LAUNCH

We offer congratulations to good friends of Drumcliffe Parish, Dubliners David and Veronica Rowe on the publication of their beautiful book entitled "The IRISH SKETCHES of Florence Vere O'Brien, the grandmother of Veronica and parent of Flora O'Brien once of Ballyalla House, Ennis and a parishioner of St Columba's. It is hoped to see more about this book in NEWSLINK shortly, just to say Florence was a very significant figure, an accomplished artist and designer who set up Limerick Lace School and the "Clare Embroidery" Published by Ballinakella Press owned by the Weir family, the superlative design of IRISH SKETCHES is the work of Tomas Porcell-Weir. A beautiful Christmas gift for anyone from the greater Shannon-Limerick area interested in the artistry of Anglo-Irish families.

KILRUSH SCHOOL

The Rector had the honour of attending the Celebration of the 25th Year Anniversary of Kilrush Community School, West Clare in late September. Killrush and Kilkee on the Limerick Estuary work and en route to Hook Head fall within the ambit of Drumcliffe Union of Parishes whose centre is Ennis, 30-40 miles away, with little or no Anglican presence there these days. But how pleasing to see the vibrancy and energy within this school of gifted students and very committed and affirming staff, headed by Principal Mr Rock Kirwin, whose address was nothing short of inspirational. Equally Sr Kathleen Conway, Chairperson exuded in her summary of the school history something of the qualities needed to bring together into one, three institutions, The Mercy Order Secondary School, the Christian Brothers Secondary School and the Vocational School in 1992.

No doubt in years to come some of us will be alive to learn of a genius academic, engineer, business guru or statesman-politician—or sportsman, artist or cleric: Who were cherished and nurtured at Kllrush—which is not quite at the end of the world!

BAPTISM & NIGERIA DAY

By a nice piece of co-incidence, or rather providence! Brother and twin sisters Tife (7) and Seyifummi and Semilore (5) were baptised into the faith on Nigeria Day in October at St Columba's Church. Parents Wali and Funke Lamina eminate from Nigeria but came to Ireland via residency in Hungary.



Newly baptised Tife, Seyifummi & Semilore

Drumcliffe churchwarden Lawson Kirkpatrick was pleased to mark a double celebration with the mother of three baptismal candidates, Funke Lamina, on Nigeria Day.



Lawson Kirkpatrick Et Funke Lamina

Economist Alf Monaghan and his wife Mary shared their fascination with Celtic-Coptic Connections from history, sparked off by over a decade spent in the Middle East, at Drumcliffe Harvest Thanksgiving.



Mary Et Alf Monaghan



Happy 91st Birthday

The confirmation service on October 15th in St John's Church Ballinasloe was a truly joyful occasion. Parishioners from our six churches came together, alongside the family and friends of the five young confirmation candidates, to support and celebrate with those fine young people as they made the promises of their baptism their own. We wish every blessing to Michael Cruise, Daniel Finnerty, Mark Newton, Meadh Shiel and Zara Thorington Barrett as they continue to grow in faith.



Confirmation service in St John's Church Ballinasloe

We are most grateful to all of the dedicated parishioners who worked so hard to make our six harvest thanksgiving services such splendid occasions. So much effort goes into decorating and cleaning our churches for those special occasions, extending invitations to friends, family and neighbours, and offering food and hospitality. Harvest is such an important part of our shared Christian witness in the local community. In rural communities like ours, the act of giving thanks to God for his good gifts resonates so powerfully. The life of our faith communities are greatly enriched by the joy and exuberance of the season of harvest festivals. We are particularly grateful to the Roman Catholic clergy who have accepted our invitations to preach at our harvest services this year, including Fr Raymond Sweeney of Ballymacward and Gurteen Parish, Fr Christy McCormach of Fohenagh and Killure Parish and Fr Joseph Roche of Labane Parish. The rector is glad for the invitation to preach at the Benown Harvest in Athlone Parish on November 5th.

The invitation to clergy to bless the important events of our community life is an important part of the shared Christian witness here. On September 27th the rector joined with Fr Benny McHale of Athenry Parish and Fr Joseph Roche of Labane Parish in blessing the new M17/M18 motorway which was opened between Gort and Tuam. It is indeed a great blessing to our parish community that the two sides of our parish, Ballinasloe and Ardrahan, are now joined by

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

We wish every blessing to Phoebe Walshe on the occasion of her 91st birthday. Congratulations to Elizabeth and Karl Fitzgerald on the birth of their son Odhran on October 13th. Congratulations also to Dr. Catherine Seale who was conferred with a PhD in Agri-Environmental Policy on October 10th.

a motorway; and that we can now travel directly on the best road in the west to diocesan events in Limerick.

The rector and Fr John Garvey of Ballinasloe Parish were asked to bless the opening of the Ballinasloe Horse Fair on October 1st and the Three Fairs Dinner which preceded it on September 30th. These are key events in the life of the area, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to Ballinasloe each year, and generating the equivalent income to the local economy as a factory employing 100 workers.



Ballinasloe Horse Fair

On November 2nd the rector joined with Fr Gerard Geraghty of Aughrim and Kilconnell Parish and Fr Raymond Sweeney at the annual memorial service in Ballinderry Nursing Home.

Other events of note this month include the united service in Woodlawn Church on October 29th, the Mother's Union diocesan council held in Gullane's Hotel Ballinasloe on November 4th, and 'Identity', the Art link Collective exhibition in the Church Gallery of Ballinasloe Library, which includes work by local artists Anne Towers and Jackie Eastwood and which runs until November 14th.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney

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

Temp. Mobile - 0044 7484 602420

E Mail - dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

NOVEMBER 2017 SUNDAY SERVICES:

Portumna - 9.00am, Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

Eyrecourt - 10.30am, Holy Communion 3rd Sunday

Banagher - 12.00 noon, Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Clonfert Cathedral joint Service 11.00am 5th Sunday Holy Communion

We are in gentle discussion about our Church timings and the 9.00am may move to a different arrangement. Please speak to me if I have got it wrong!

Arrival in Clonfert with a little furniture, introduction to the congregation, Harvests most weeks so far. Clonfert Cathedral, as there were 5 Sundays this month and Bishop's conference in Galway have been a bit of a whirlwind romance!

Cecilia and I are getting into the swing of things and coping with the inevitable changes to our previous lifestyle. Jerome is doing his best to guide me around the parish and get me to the correct Church in good time.

Harvests across the Parish have been great and a fantastic group of people preparing our Church buildings. Fr Mike joined us in Portumna and enjoyed the Harvest experience taking him back 22 years to the last harvest service he attended. We hope Fr Mike will join us again soon and perhaps Preach for us next year. Thank you for the banquets after our services and the fellowship.

In November we will hold short acts of Remembrance on Sunday 12th at all our services.

Sunday 26 November is Mission Sunday and the project this year will be to, supply and install water tanks into at least 3 schools in Swaziland. Further details in Newslink. We will be giving a special offertory on this Sunday and look to forwarding on a significant cheque. Did you know in UK the round Pound coin has been withdrawn from circulation, why not have a rummage around the bottom of our pockets and bags. If we have any round Pound Coins bring them along, we will arrange to have them changed to Euro and added to the appeal.

I attended the Bishop's conference in Galway and made to feel very welcome by the Clergy attending. The guest speaker was Bishop Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph in the Church in Wales and his experiences of shaping ministry brought a strong challenge to us all. I think our Diocese will be having some exciting times ahead.

Thank you to all who took copies of the Bible Readings "Our Daily Bread" There is enough for every home in the parish and we will have another issue end of November.

The Diocese has invited Rectors, Group Treasurers and Parish Treasurers to a day conference Saturday 18th November in the Woodlands Hotel Limerick beginning at 10.00am. Please remember our Treasurers as they take advice on new ways of accounting.

To close, my arrival has meant the Venerable Patrick Towers is being missed! Some discussion has been on going and a meal has been booked in Portumna Golf Club. Please speak to Val in Banagher for details and we know there will be a big response. Patrick we hope you manage a little well deserved retirement.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Very Rev Niall Sloane

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061 310 293

Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061 302 038, Mob: 086 357 4917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS -

26th September - Michael Sheehan - Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife Gillian, their sons, daughter in laws, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

26th September - Neville Atkinson - Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife Lynn, their son Ben, and all their family and friends. Neville was a much loved teacher in Villiers School.

BAPTISM - On Sunday 8th October Ruadh Jared, son of Amy and

Peter Hayes, and grandson of Joe and Lucy Kavanagh, was baptised by Rev Edna in St Mary's Cathedral. Ruadh is the little brother of Conall and Donagh.



Baptism Ruadh Hayes

OPEN HOUSE LIMERICK – was held on Saturday 7th October, from 12 noon until 2 p.m., in St. Michael's Church and was very successful. Very many thanks to our volunteer stewards – Barbara Clayton, Philip Cullen, Lucy Kavanagh and Colin Marsden.

ST. MICHAEL'S FAMILY HARVEST SERVICE – took place on Sunday 15th October. A very big thank you to all those who decorated St. Michael's Church so beautifully for their Family Harvest Service. It was lovely to see the church so full and the service was enhanced by the singing of the St. Michael's Church Choir and also the St. Michael's National School Choir, whose singing added a wonderfully uplifting and lively atmosphere to the service. Thanks are due to Irina for training the St. Michael's Church Choir and to the St. Michael's National School teachers for encouraging and training the school choir. Revd. Edna was assisted in her sermon by the children, who responded enthusiastically to her many questions. Afterwards the children and adults were provided with delicious refreshments which they enjoyed enormously. Very many thanks to all who baked and helped with the catering on the day. The vegetables and left over cakes were donated again this year to McGarry House (home to some of society's most marginalised and socially excluded individuals), who were indeed very grateful for same.

DEAN'S INSTALLATION – The Select Vestry would like to thank everyone who helped in organising and assisting with this very important event. Too many names to mention, but you know who you, are so THANK YOU.

WHIST DRIVES – St. Michael's Church – Saturday 11th November.
Villiers Square – Saturday 18th November.
All take place at 7.30 p.m. Admission € to include supper.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: You are cordially invited to the annual Limerick City Parish Christmas Fair on Saturday November 25th in Villiers School Sports Hall between 10.00a.m. and 2.00p.m. The Christmas Fair is the only fundraising event in Limerick City Parish every year and, as usual, the draw for the raffle prizes will take place at the end of the Fair. The prizes this year are very attractive, with 1st prize offering two night's bed and breakfast and one evening meal for two people in the Castlerosse Hotel, Killarney, 2nd prize is an original painting by talented artist Clare Hartigan, 3rd is a large trailer-load of firewood, 4th is a €100 fuel voucher and so on to vouchers for meals and car servicing and the usual large selection of hampers. The stalls will delight with something for everybody. Whether your particular interest is in books or plants or preserves or homemade cakes or a chance to pick up some Christmas gifts, you will be bound to find something of interest and we have Val's café in a quiet corner where you can refuel before re-entering the fray.

It takes a lot of effort to organise and run the Fair each year and, on the surface, the immediate effect of it all is that the money raised helps to keep the doors of the churches open and the lights on. Anybody who has been to the Easter Vestry and studied the accounts will know that the parish is not exactly awash with money and every cent we raise is needed but there is another benefit also. As well as the capital sum of money raised there is also an immense benefit in terms of social capital that can never be measured in mere euro and cent. Limerick City Parish is made up three disparate congregations – Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and, most recently, Abington. The Fair, since its very humble beginnings, has given the congregations an opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder for a common purpose and has benefited the people in the pews in unexpected ways as they come to know and appreciate each other. So, come and join us on our journey – find a bargain, have a chat, have a laugh, meet some old friends, celebrate being alive!

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL LUNCHTIME CONCERTS: Lunchtime concerts continue in St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesdays 8th, 15th and 22nd November, all at 1.15pm. We then take a break for Christmas, but will be back in the New Year.

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

On Thursday August 17th I was formally welcomed in to the Church of Ireland at the regular Holy Communion service in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick. Being received in to the C of I was something I had discussed with Rev'd Edna Wakely but did not expect it to happen as quickly as it did. The speed with which it occurred did not take from the significance for me of the event. I was fortunate to be with people at that Holy Communion service whom I have gotten to know and grown to love since I began to attend it on a regular basis over the past four years.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 - 414967
FAX: 061 - 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

It is four years this September since I made what I considered at the time to be the correct step, as a spiritual refugee and moving from Christ Church, Limerick which is a United Methodist/Presbyterian where I had been a member for well over 25 years to the Church of Ireland. At that time, while I had friends and knew people in the three Limerick City Parishes churches, I chose Abington, Murroe, Co Limerick because it was small, had an inspiring Lay Reader in David McBurnie and felt I would have a better chance of feeling at home there. I have since on a regular basis attended Sunday services in St Michael's, Pery Square, Limerick and usually am able to be at the Holy Communion service in St Mary's Cathedral on a Thursday morning.

At my welcoming service I felt strange in that there I was, as an adult making the definite decision to become a member of a particular church – something which usually happens to children without them having any choice in the matter. I think it did help that my maternal grandmother was of Palatine stock – she was a Miller who later became Church of Ireland. In a way I consider that I am returning to the fold of my family heritage – at least part of me was Protestant without me knowing it!

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have now found a spiritual home and despite facing personal difficulties and issues, have not lost my faith. It has been quite the rollercoaster in all of my 57 years and hopefully it hasn't stopped yet. I also consider myself blessed to be somewhere e.g. Limerick both county and city where there is a Christian church community alive and ready to welcome new members in to its fold. Coming from a Roman Catholic background, then having gone through an Evangelical phase and finally ending with the Methodists/Presbyterians, I am rather glad and thank God that the Church of Ireland was available to me. Despite on occasions waiting to be found out or uncovered in my search for spiritual food, I am grateful for the hand of welcome which has been extended to me from fellow Christians as we together worship and practice our faith everyday and in every way possible.

Anthony O'Connell (Tony)

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

Our Group of Parishes has enjoyed three Harvest Festivals. On Friday, 29 September, members of the parishes joined with children, teachers, and parents of St. Nicholas National School for a Harvest at St. Nicholas, Adare. We were pleased to welcome as the preacher Canon Patrick Comerford, now in our neighbouring parish.



St Nicholas, Adare Harvest Festival

As is custom, the children from the school brought forward offerings of fruit, vegetables, baked goods, and flowers, which were auctioned off afterwards during the time of refreshments in the parish hall. Each year the proceeds from the auction go to a charity. This year, we were able to give €417 to the Daffodil Project. One of St. Nicholas's members, John Scanlan, who is a cancer survivor, provides daffodils to many people in the surrounding area who host fundraising events on Daffodil Day in the spring. Last year, John ran out of daffodils. So he is planting an acre of land with daffodils, to have enough flowers to distribute this coming spring and in the years to come.

On Sunday, 8 October, we gathered in the Croom Church to welcome Bishop Kenneth Kearon as our preacher. Members from all four parishes were there. Afterwards, we went to the house of Nuala Gardiner, a professional baker, for refreshments. Thank you, Bishop Kenneth, and thank you, Nuala!

Kilmallock held a Harvest Festival on the afternoon of Sunday, 22 October. The Rev. Tom Sherlock, from down the road in Co. Cork, was the preacher. The Sunday school children read the readings, offered the prayers, and brought forward offerings of the harvest. They also had made a new Harvest banner, which led the procession into the church. Thank you to the Sunday school and teachers, and to Rev. Tom!



Kilmallock's new Harvest Banner

SING! CONFERENCE

In September, Rev. Liz and her husband, Kirk, attended the "Sing!" conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This conference, attended by 3,500 people from 20 countries, focused on strengthening congregational singing. There was plenty of practise, as each day the assembled body sang about 12 hymns.

WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATION

For the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, on 12th November, Adare will be the site of a World War I Heritage Event to commemorate the 21 young men from the Adare area who lost their lives in World War 1.

A public display of memorabilia will be in the Village Hall on Saturday, 4th November, from 1.30, and all day Sunday, 5th November

People with houses or outbuildings of the time may have articles or items which might well become part of this display. We will also have experts available to examine items which attendees may wish to have assessed.

On the evening of Friday, 10th November, will be a service of poetry,

songs, and prayers in St. Nicholas Church, Adare. The time will be determined.

On Sunday, 12th November, an Ecumenical Service will take place in St. Nicholas Church at 12.30 pm, followed by the dedication of a memorial plaque. This plaque will list the names of the dead, their military details, and burial places. It will be placed on a cut stone obelisk to be located in the planned sensory garden in the Village Park.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Mob: 087 663 5116

Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

GIVING THANKS AFTER THE HARVEST:

Father Seán Ó Longaigh, Parish Priest of Askeaton and Ballysteen, was the preacher at this year's Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton. Father Seán generously shared his wealth of experience in ministry, including chaplaincy and counselling and four years of mission experience in Nigeria.

The church was beautifully and imaginatively decorated during the two days beforehand, and all the fruit, vegetables, flowers and other gifts were auctioned later at the reception in the Community Centre.



Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, decorated for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Councillor Adam Teskey looked after the auction in his own inimitable and humour-filled style.



Councillor Adam Teskey invites bids at the Harvest Auction in Askeaton

Between the collection and the auction, more than €1,000 was raised. €500 is going to support work with refugees on the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh and €500 is going to help the work of Saint Paul's Anglican Church in Athens with refugees on the

streets of Athens. This is being sent through the Anglican mission agency USPG.

Warm thanks are due to Father Seán, Councillor Teskey, and to all who decorated the church, read lessons and intercessions, who helped at the reception and the auction, and who helped to make this a successful evening.

WELCOME:

Welcome to our new neighbour, the Very Revd Niall Sloane, the new Dean of Limerick and Ardfert, and Rector of the Limerick City parishes.

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER:

Wednesday 1 November (All Saints' Day): 11, Holy Communion, Saint Mary's, Askeaton, followed by morning coffee in the Rectory.

Saturday 4 November: 3.30, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Baptism.

Sunday 5 November: 9.30, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Kilnaughtin, Morning Prayer.

Sunday 12 November (Remembrance Day): 9.30, Castletown, Holy Communion, 11.30, Rathkeale, Morning Prayer.

Sunday 19 November: 9.30, Askeaton, Morning Prayer; 11.30, Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion.

Sunday 26 November: 9.30, Castletown, Morning Prayer; 11.30, Rathkeale, Holy Communion.

PLANNING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:

Carol Services: 8 December, Tarbert; 17 December, Askeaton (3 p.m.), followed by refreshments in the Rectory. 20 December, School Service, Rathkeale.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Christmas Eve (24 December): 11 a.m., United Service (Holy Communion), Rathkeale; 8 p.m. Kilnaughtin (Christmas Communion); 10 p.m., Castletown (Christmas Communion).

Christmas Day (25 December): 9.30 Askeaton (Christmas Communion); 11, Rathkeale (Christmas Communion).

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Jim Stephens,

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

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

Email: stjohs.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Web: www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Kilgobbin Ecumenical Harvest Service: The service was well attended and much enjoyed. We were joined by our friends from St. Mary's RC Church, Camp and members of the ICA. It was especially good to welcome visitors from USA. The gifts were brought up by the children; Donal & Sinead Crean and Grainne & Eoibheann O'Dwyer

played the Keyboard and the Whistle, and Aoife & Niamh Gascoigne said the prayers. The Preacher was Sylvia Thompson from Ballymac, who is part of the Diocese of Kerry Creation Group, who gave us much to think about in the care of God's Creation. All were invited to join our Harvest Supper in the Old School Rooms after the service. Grateful thanks to those who decorated the church so beautifully and to those who provided and served the delicious refreshments. The retiring collection was given to the Saoirse Foundation, specifically for Liam's Lodge, Respite and Hospice Centre for Children.

Earlier that morning in St Johns, Tralee we had the first of our Harvest Thanksgiving Services. The Preacher was the Rev Fr Donal O'Connor, who is the Chaplain at the IT in Tralee. We had wonderful participation in the service from the children in the school and from children who attend other schools in the area. The Choir added to the sense of thanksgiving and our primary school children presented baskets of fruit which were later distributed to the soup kitchen and to Arlington Lodge Hostel. The service was followed by refreshments in Teach and tSolais. The floral decorations in Tralee were a sight to behold and we are blessed to have such creative people in our midst. The Collection was for Charity



The third and final service was held in Ballymacelligott Church on the 15th October. The preacher was the Rev Tom Sherlock, Chaplain in Kingston College in Mitchelstown. The Sunday Club children sang the gradual hymn, while some of the older children and teenagers led the intercessions. A lot of time and energy was put into decorating the church for the service. The children presented baskets of fruit which were presented to the soup kitchen in Tralee. The collection was for Bishop's appeal. We were treated to refreshments after the service in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

Many thanks to all those in our parishes who did so much to make our harvest services so special.



DINGLE FOOD FESTIVAL

As part of the Dingle Food Festival, cookery demonstrations were held in St. James Church by local chefs using local produce. We were proud to be part of this long-standing Festival which is organised and run entirely by local volunteers. People countrywide attend the Festival and many were welcomed into the church over the weekend.

DINGLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The group continue to meet in St James' Church each Sunday at 6pm for Bible study, worship and prayer. Recently they were joined by the Gospel Trio 'Simple Faith' which attracted 30 visitors. A collection was made and donated to the St James' Restoration Fund. We are delighted to share this special sacred place with other Christians.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Alfie and Myrtle Boyle who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently.

Mona Butler on becoming a great grand-mother, Linda Woods and her company, Ireland Walk Hike and Bike who were nominated and came joint second at the Kerry business awards night in Tralee. They were nominated under the category, Heritage and Environment

Amy Lynch who featured in the program 'Frock Finders', as she searched for a dress to take part in the Kerry Rose Selection. Amy was the first person with Downs Syndrome to participate in the competition. The program followed Amy's journey with the other Kerry Rose hopefuls as they did their stuff on stage with Daithi O'Shea. Her party piece was dancing to Abba's Dancing Queen. She was sponsored by Pamela Scott.

LINKS

On Sunday afternoon October 22nd LINKS ladies visited Killarney House and gardens. This was followed by afternoon tea in Killarney. They are also planning to attend Finbar Wright's concert on 9th February 2018. The venue will be the Church of the Assumption, Abbeyfeale and tickets are expected to cost max. €5. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Olive.

NEW DEAN

The Very Rev Niall Sloane was installed as Dean of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe at a wonderful ceremony in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick on 21st October. We wish Niall and his family every blessing as he begins his ministry in the City and Diocese.

BOYS' BRIGADE – see page 7.

YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club has had its first meeting in Teach and tSolais on the 14th October, under the leadership of Gerhardt Maritz assisted by the Rev Jim and parents. We will meet monthly and we would love to see more young people join us in the age group 1st year second level (post confirmation) up to and including age 15: We have ten members so far!

PRAYER

May God give bread to those that are hungry.. May God give a hunger for justice to those who have bread.. And may the Creator God bless us, that we might be a blessing to others. Amen.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Rector: Ven Simon J. Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick

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

Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 086-8703997

Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

On Thursday November 2nd a service of remembrance was held in St. Mary's at 7.30 pm, an opportunity for each of us to quietly and prayerfully remember our loved departed ones.

The next day, Friday November 3rd, Archdeacon Simon gave a talk in St Mary's on "500 years after Martin Luther: The Reformation and its legacy in Kerry", with questions and answers afterwards. He has already given this talk to the Kerry Historical Society in Tralee in October. All of us present in the large audience that evening found it extremely interesting and educational.

October saw the loose plasterwork and paintwork in St. Marys cleaned down preparatory to painting next year. All the congregation remark how much better the church looks already and with the opportunity for the walls to breathe further we hope to find ourselves in a good place to undertake the major task of repainting the ornate interior of the church in 2018. Further conservation works are planned for the church exterior to improve its condition. This is of course an almost continuous task with which our Vestry wrestle. We try to act on the best conservation advice available from professionals in what can be a pretty inexact science and attempt to keep funding the costs which are enormous. Nationally our Church needs to sit down with the Heritage bodies to prioritise which of our buildings should be conserved and which should be given a Christian burial! We have so many churches from First Fruits with no architectural merit or use that have protected structure status slapped on them and scarce resources are consumed on these that would be better spent on the priority buildings.

Our Sunday School is working well thanks to the enthusiasm of both pupils and teachers. We still could do with more help from adult volunteers.

The weather never seemed to come right when we thought of a parish barbecue this year. How about a parish indoor social evening in November? All ideas and dates greatly welcome as to how we progress this!

Concert season is finally over and while the funds this generates are invaluable to the parish it couldn't happen without the entirely voluntary effort of so many parishioners acting as stewards, distributing publicity material, helping with choirs on concert days and so much more. To all we say most sincere thanks to you.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

St Michael's, Iveragh Road, Killorglin

& St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.

Vacant.

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Simon Lumby,

Mob 086 8703997 & Tel 064 66 31832.

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

Web: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

SERVICES:-

St Carthage Sunday 9.45am.

St Michael's Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.

During the vacancy:-

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

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

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING:-

This service took place in St Michael's Church in Killorglin as a combined service for both Churches on 1st Oct. We had our National School Children from Kiltallagh who sang two songs for us. Thanks to the teachers who prepared them for this in such a short time after coming back from the summer holidays.

Our Sunday School children and the Children from Kiltallagh NS brought baskets of fruit & vegetables which were assembled on the Sanctuary step. Thanks and congratulations to all who made up these baskets. This collection of produce was distributed to the Killorglin Family Resource Centre in Iveragh Park, St Joseph's Home and Ard Aulin for use in preparing meals for the needy of the area or the residents.

The Killorglin Mens' Social Club Choir attended to add their voices in the hymn singing. They sang one of their favourite hymns at the end of the service. It's a great pleasure and a privilege to have the men attend as they always seem willing to do. This choir entertains many different audiences and are in big demand.

The Rev Joe Hardy from Tralee accepted an invitation to preach for us and he touched a chord with many of the congregation as he always seems to do. The church was full as about 179 people attended and about 150 of those availed of the refreshments afterwards. So I need also to thank the Men's Choir, The Rev Joe, Mr Sean Tracy who played the organ for us, those who set up the food and drink and the Churchwardens who helped with the baskets and tried to do a head count. These special services would not happen without the help of so many people.



Harvest Thanksgiving at St Michael's

The Harvest would not be the same without the preparation done before in the church & hall. So my thanks to those few enthusiasts who turned up on Sat to do the work. It would be very bare if there were no colourings on the walls, done by the school children and it would be embarrassing if 150 people found no cups laid out or no water boiled when they went in for the refreshments. Many thanks again to the school teachers and the children and to the few who set the tables and boiled the water. You really helped make the harvest a success again.

OUR ANNUAL SALE OF WORK:-

This very successful event will have taken place by the time you read these notes. It will be held again this year in the Killorglin CYMS Hall on Sat 28th Oct beginning at 1pm. We will give a report on this in the Dec Issue.

BEREAVEMENT

The death took place recently in London of Anne Doyle, sister of May Driscoll, Ballymallis, a parishioner of this parish. She has many

relatives and friends to whom we extend our sympathy. We wish May a safe journey back from London in the near future.

We have just heard that Brenadette Boyle, wife of Charlie Boyle, Castlemaine has passed away. We extend our sympathy to Charlie, his family, relations and friends as they deal with this bereavement.

WELCOME:-

St Michael's Church in Killorglin is open every day for a period of peace and quiet prayer and our 11am service on Sunday is always delighted to welcome visitors. Situated on the Ring of Kerry road out of Killorglin we ask you not to pass the door without looking in.

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

ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US...

Our Harvest Celebrations in Kenmare & Sneem marked the time of year when our prayers for ploughing, planting and growing reach their fulfilment in our Thanksgiving for God's provision – not just for us, but for all creation. We recognise our dependence on agriculture, animal husbandry and all those who provide our food – but in fact we rely on much more. We are increasingly aware of the threat to bees – invasive species causing imbalances in the local ecology



Mushrooms on a tree stump

– the dangers of global warming, although denied by some for reasons based upon financial gain rather than science, are already noticeable in climate change. Our Harvest message reminded us that God has given every one of us the responsibility to nurture His creation; He Himself reminds us in the beauty of our surroundings that if we simply focus on ourselves, that beauty will be lost for ever. Sometimes, He plants without human interference – creation supports creation, the fungi getting the support they need from the tree stump – but most of the time, He asks us to take responsibility for the harvest.

Twins Arthur and Martha helped the church (and in turn were helped by Daniel and Rebecca) to remember that we have to plant in order to grow. Martha reminded her football-crazy brother that we need to "choose good soil and prepare it and make sure we're protected from those hungry birds, make sure the young plants are fed and watered, and clear the weeds". The message is as true for people as it is for fruit and veg. If we are to help our young people to come to know love, we can't expect them to come to know it for themselves – they will learn it instead through our care and the example we set. Sometimes it might seem that it goes in one ear and goes out the other – Martha will probably have to remind her brother quite often – but one day he'll get it.



Arthur & Martha (helped by Daniel & Rebecca)

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

This year the Methodist church has called us to a Year of Prayer and each district has been given one month when each congregation or circuit holds 24 hours of prayer. During the month of November the Midlands and Southern District will be opening prayer rooms on all their circuits and in most of the churches.

Prayer is central to our relationship with God. (How can we have a relationship with anyone unless we are talking with them and listening to them?) This prayer opportunity has given us a chance to set aside the rush of the day for at least an hour to spend time with God. On the Adare and Ballingrane circuit we will be setting up the prayer room in Adare on Friday/Saturday the 17th/18th of November. We will begin with a service of Praise & Prayer at 8pm, and conclude with a time of sharing and praying together at 8pm on Saturday. There will be areas set up around the church to encourage us to pray for our own relationship with God, others in need, our community, and the world. The prayer room will be open to all and we would love to see others from the community coming to use the prayer space.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER:

5th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Services of Holy Communion
12th	Rev. Ruth Watt	
17th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Beginning our 24 hours of prayer with Praise & Prayer (Friday evening @ 8pm)
18th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Saturday evening service @ 8pm in Adare Sharing and praying together as we bring to a close our 24 hours of prayer.
19th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Sunday morning service @ 11am in Ballingrane
26th	Rev. Ruth Watt	

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

Christ Church Limerick, united Presbyterian & Methodist and Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,

Clonmacken, Limerick.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We were delighted to welcome Jackie and Andrea to our Harvest Service at the end of September. Jackie would be quite well known to us already of course through his ministry as Chaplain to Villiers School. Christ Church has a strong connection to Villiers in many ways and there were several young people and parents there at the service who are sharing a journey through Villiers at the moment with Jackie. Maybe there were not as many people there who knew Andrea as well but they do now! Jackie preached on blessing and thankfulness and a deep sense of community offering and sharing so that spirit of blessing and thankfulness overflows beyond a community into the people it touches and meets – at least that's what I heard! Andrea suggested some great hymns for the service and introduced us to (and taught

us) a John Bell song. Andrea had the lovely idea of giving everyone in Church that morning a daffodil bulb to take home and plant and in the spirit of overflowing we could take a bulb away for someone else too. It's a strong image – planting, watering, growing, enjoying and sharing something beautiful and as we received we sang – Take O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me. I'm sure we're all looking forward to seeing our daffodils grow and flower. It was really very interesting watching everyone receiving the bulbs. We have such diversity in the church now and as we all go out, such possibility of sharing in so many ways.



Our Mission Worker Sean walked away with a Denise Coppola original and a smile! Many thanks to Denise & the Gouldavoher Art Group for a beautiful exhibition.

We've had some wonderful exhibitions in CB1 this year and it's great to have the gallery and coffee dock better connected to the church now by our 'stairway to heaven' as it's often called. I hope some of you have been able to call in and see the art work or experience some of the events like the World Music Café. I hear from Patrick that we're almost booked out with exhibitions for 2018 so if you want to get your artwork 'out there' make sure you call him soon.

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

KILLARNEY
 Sunday services 9am and 11am
 Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am followed by Drop-in lunch 12pm
 Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
 Kids Ministry Club monthly as arranged on Saturdays

The Gateway KENMARE
 Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee)
 Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am
 Bible study Wednesday 10am
 Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am

Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

The month of November is designated as a month of prayer within the Midlands and Southern District of the Methodist Church. The theme is 'Now! What is the Spirit saying to the churches? Discern – Intercede – Obey'
 24 hour prayer rooms will be set up in Killarney (1st/2nd November), Kenmare (15th /16th November) and Millstreet (6th/7th November)
 The prayer rooms will open on the evening of the first date given and close on the evening of the second date given. There will be

times of corporate prayer and worship and space for individual prayer and prayer walking around the 3 towns. Do feel free to drop in to any of locations

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

In September and October, we celebrated Harvest Thanksgivings all around our circuit. We gave thanks to God for his generous provision and the glorious beauty of all creation. We gave thanks to God for all farmers and all in the agricultural and fishing industries who help provide food for our tables. At all our services, our members beautifully decorated our churches and provided a wonderful Harvest tea. Their labour of love enriched our worship as well as nourished our bodies. Thank you, North Tipperary Circuit, for your generosity.

We offer BIG congratulations to Michaela Duffy, daughter of Naomi McLoughlin of Roscrea, who recently graduated from the University of Limerick with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History with First Class Honours. She is continuing with her studies in UL pursuing a Masters in History.

We also offer BIG congratulations to Bryan Davis, son of Tom and Florence Davis of Borrisokane, who won the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena Awards 2017 at the National Ploughing Championships for his solar-powered water pumping system. We are very proud of our young adults and thank God for their hard work and achievements.

Lastly, this month we are responding to our President's (Rev. Dr. Laurence Graham's) call to prayer. On Friday 17th November and Saturday 18th November, we are praying for 24 hours. Prayer rooms will be set up in Cloughjordan and Roscrea churches. Our doors will be open to the community for prayer. We are praying for our churches, communities, nation and world in order to discern God's word, to pray for others, and to commit ourselves to where God may be leading us. Anyone who is interested in a time of prayer is welcome to join us.

BOYS' BRIGADE – Our Company will meet on Friday 10th November, Sr. Infants – 2nd Class only, at Roll & Bowl in Portlaoise and 24th November in Roscrea Church Hall for badge work.

NEW ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in Cloughjordan Methodist Hall at 10:30am. All ladies are welcome as we look at the upcoming Sunday's readings through the practice of Lectio Divina. We will meet on the 8th & 22nd November.

MWI ROSCREA – Ladies, we are gathering to have a coffee and chat at Racket Hall on Thursday 16th November at 8pm.

FAITH MISSION – a rally is scheduled for 24th November at 8pm in Shinrone Church. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING – All are welcome to Roscrea Church Hall on Saturday 25th November from 10:30-12pm. Come have a cuppa and offer support to communities around the world who are in need.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapters 41:46 - 45:28

Joseph: sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt, now in charge of the stored food as famine spreads through Egypt, and beyond...

Joseph's father sent 10 of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food.



Joseph saw they did not recognise him. He wanted to see his little brother Benjamin.

To prove you are not spies, you must bring your other brother to me...



They needed more food so they had to take Benjamin to Egypt.



Joseph gave them food...



but to test them he had his cup put in Benjamin's sack.

Then as they went home...



Stop!

You have stolen my master's special cup.

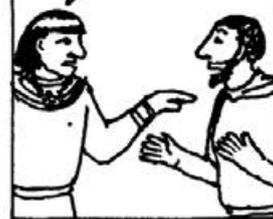


It was in Benjamin's sack.

The servant took them back to Joseph.



You are a thief and must stay as a slave.



But Judah said



It would break our father's heart. Let me take his place.

Joseph saw that his brothers had changed.



I am your brother Joseph. You sold me but God sent me to Egypt.

I can look after you. Come and live with me.



So all of Joseph's family moved to Egypt.



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Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



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