



NEWSLINK

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

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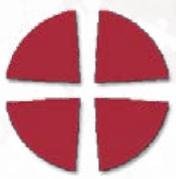
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A beautiful flower arrangement in Mothers' Union Blue by Dolly Shier and Addie Gilmour

Deconsecration of St James, Kilfieragh

On Thursday 24th August, Bishop Kenneth and Rector Canon Bob Hanna, led a service of deconsecration of the Church of St. James, Kilfieragh (Kilkee, Co Clare).

Although there is always a sadness in saying farewell to a loved building, with all the memories it carries, there was also a firm sense of Thanksgiving for the work God has done there over the years through the hard work and dedication of its ministers and congregations. This was reflected in the words of the deconsecration liturgy, which offers hope for the future and reassurance that even though buildings are impermanent, the Church remains.

Together, the people of St James 'returned the space to the common,

and the place to the earth!' and received the comfort of Bishop Kenneth proclaiming that 'God will still be present here, for He is always everywhere present. God might still meet us and act in this space, for God can meet us and act anywhere.'

And then, before the stripping of the Altar, their commitment to the future sounded out from within the building into God's wider creation – 'And now we, Your people, called to fulfill Your purpose, will meet elsewhere, to continue Your work, in the power of Your presence.'

His Truth is marching on.



The register is signed for the last time



The fabric of St James, Kilfieragh had become unmaintainable



At the service of deconsecration

Bishop Kenneth writes on Mission

The word 'Mission' occurs on several pages of Newslink this month as our diocese puts into effect an important decision of Diocesan Synod last June – the decision to merge the Diocesan Board of Mission with the Long Term Church Committee. A simple action at Synod but one with important implications. At one level, it makes sense not to have too many committees in the diocese, but this decision has far greater implications than that. What was happening was a change in our theology of mission here in the diocese, a change which reflects what is happening in the church worldwide.

Up to recently, Mission was understood as something we did 'overseas' – we sent missionaries 'abroad' to run schools and hospitals, to build churches and to preach the Gospel, and in the end to 'convert' others to Christianity. All of this happened overseas, because of course Ireland was a Christian country after all.

Through modern communications and travel we now know and can meet so many people from other countries. No longer are they far away strangers to whom we send gifts. We recognise that the church overseas is composed of lively vibrant churches often livelier and more engaged than we in Ireland. We now realise we have much to learn from other churches, and that they can teach us a lot.

That's what was happening in our relationship with the church in Swaziland. We came to know that diocese as composed of parishes and people with a deep faith and modern ways of expressing it – we were able to partner with them, to share gifts and insights in mutual co-operation.

Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at newslink@limerick.anglican.org

- Tue 11th October** Clergy Conference (with TK&A), Galway
- Fri 20th – Sat 21st** MU Women's Getaway Weekend, Sligo – 'Celebrating Our gifts'
- Sat 21st October, 3pm** Installation of Canon Niall Sloane as Rector of Limerick City Parish & his Institution as Dean of Limerick, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Mon 23rd October, 11am–3pm** Continuing Ministerial Education (CME) - Parish Communications, Killarney (venue to be advised)
- Sat 28th–Mon 30th October** UDYC Autumn Adventure Weekend, Lilliput Outdoor Adventure Centre, Lough Ennell, Mullingar (2nd level up)
- Sat 4th November, 10am – 4.30pm** Council for Mission Conference – How to be Welcoming Church, Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare
- Sat 4th November, 10.30am** MU Diocesan trustees & Council, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinsloe
- Mon 6th November** GFS Diocesan Council, Cloughjordan
- Thurs 16th November**, Finance Committee
- Fri 17th – Sun 19th November** UDYC Junior Weekend, Castledaly Manor, Athlone, Co Westmeath (10-13)
- Sat 18th November**, Parish Clergy & Treasurers Meeting
- Mon 20th November, 11am–3pm** CME – Preparation for Advent & Christmas, The Rectory, Askeaton, Co Limerick
- Thurs 23rd November**, Joint Property Committee & Glebes Committee, followed by Diocesan Council
- 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
- Sun 26th November** Mission Sunday

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

Alongside this we realise we can no longer say that Ireland is a Christian country. We have a long proud Christian heritage, but that history is not enough. A minority in Ireland see the churches as the vehicle for their belief in God or a means to turn to Christ as saviour – Mission is now on our doorstep, and our neighbours and friends are those who need to be helped to faith.



This was the task the Long Term Church Committee set itself – to reach out to our local communities and to the many visitors to our churches to show them that we are people who know God and wish to share that with others, and that our churches are places where people have found God, and that has transformed our lives.

There's a third dimension to all of this. Not only do others need to grow in faith, we recognise that we need to also. Half remembered insights from confirmation classes long ago no longer sustain our faith in a modern questioning world. Sunday sermons, bible study groups and discussion groups are all part of the learning process. Getting out and living our faith in daily life is itself a form of learning.

All three aspects are properly described as mission today – growing and deepening our own faith, sharing our faith with our neighbours and partnering with Christians in other parts of the world. Bringing all these aspects together into one Council is what we did at Diocesan Synod in June. This is the task our new Council for Mission has taken on – they will certainly need our prayers, our support and our encouragement at every step, for the task is a great one – it is not less than enabling our church, our diocese, our parishes and each of us to be true to our calling to witness to God and his Son Jesus Christ in a world which badly needs to hear that message.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

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Editorial - Harvest & Mission

What a lovely time of year this is! As I write on the eve of the Autumn equinox, the days grow ever shorter, the green leaves begin to turn yellow and russet, Michaelmas daisies flaunt in lilac, and the hedges glisten with berries. Wood pigeons dining on elderberries are so fat they can hardly get in the air. I look forward to lighting the wood-burning stove, to cosy evenings and the smell of wood-smoke. By the time you read this Michaelmas will have passed, the blackberries must be left to rot as Patrick Comerford reminds us (p18), and the swallows will have started for Africa.

It is time for Harvest Festivals - a strong theme this month. I have been gathering my own harvest: the first sweet pears, crimson autumn raspberries, crisp cobnuts, and the small, blue wild plums some call damsons but I call bullaces. When the first frost is forecast I must pick the apples, to be stored to last all winter. I must share my harvest with Brock the badger, who hoovers up the windfalls - I do not begrudge him.

It is right that we should celebrate the harvest and feast on it together as a community. I shall bring a tithe of my own harvest to church to decorate it for the festival, as a token of my joy and thankfulness for all the gifts I have received from my loving Father. Joy and thanksgiving are what Harvest Festivals are all about. Let us share these feelings as we sing the lovely, familiar harvest hymns, and eat our harvest lunches, teas and suppers.

But harvest joy and thanksgiving will mean nothing unless they prompt us to be generous, and not just with our money. In joy and thanksgiving Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them and shared them with his friends, as we remember in the Eucharist, Sunday by Sunday. This was to feed them for the work he called them for, to give themselves as generously as he gave himself to continue his mission, which is to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom to all. This is our mission as Christians.

Mission is a second strong theme this month. Read what Bishop Kenneth has to say about it (p3), and Salters Sterling (p6). Read about the launch of our new diocesan Council for Mission (p12), pray for its success, and ponder the implications of the Five Marks of Mission (p5).

God bless, Joc Sanders, Newslink Editor

Letter to the Editor

DON'T FORGET ARDFERT

Including Ardfert in the title of Newslink is appreciated. Unfortunately, it is very often omitted in contributions. The new Dean's title should include Ardfert, and he will be welcomed here in due course, like his predecessors.

St Brendan, the Patron Saint of County Kerry left a legacy which cannot be forgotten. He was one of the greatest saints who travelled overseas and in Ireland to spread the Gospel. Travelling from Kerry to Clonfert was no easy journey, however he accomplished it. Perhaps the Youth Council, with the new Dean and Bishop, might consider climbing Carrauntoohil in the future. We are told St Brendan climbed this mountain on a number of occasions. The view from the top is stunning.

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

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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Half Page	596	534	77	71
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - October 2017

Each Sunday in October

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory and Bishop Michael Burrows.

1st October, 16th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of the Southern Philippines and Rt Revd Danilo Labacanacruz Bustamante, Bishop of the Southern Philippines.

Diocese: In this harvest season we pray for those who grow, process, distribute and cook our food, that they may receive a just return for their labours.

8th October, 17th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of St Albans, England, Rt Revd Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford and Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford.

Diocese: In this harvest season we pray that we may share the good gifts we have received in Christ's spirit of generosity.

15th October, 18th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Swaziland, Southern Africa and Rt Revd Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland.

Diocese: In this harvest season we pray for the work of aid agencies supporting those around the world who struggle with poverty and hunger.

22nd October, 19th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Temotu, Melanesia and Rt Revd Leonard Dawea, Bishop of Temotu.

Diocese: In this harvest season we pray for those in our dioceses who are in poverty, hungry or homeless, that you will show us how best to relieve their distress.

29th October, 20th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Thoothukudi-Nazareth, South India and Rt Revd Samuel Devasahayam Ebenezer Clement, Bishop of Thoothukudi-Nazareth & the Diocese of Tirunelveli, South India and Rt Revd Jayaraj Christdoss, Bishop of Tirunelveli.

Diocese: As the clocks change and the nights grow longer we pray for those who experience fuel poverty, that they may keep warm in the coming winter.

5th November, 21st Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

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.

A Prayer for Mission

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving, and healing your people and your creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Twilight Years

Canon David Winter does not mind growing old

It's Autumn once again, or as the Americans call it, 'the Fall', the time when Summer's leaves die and drop to the ground, leaving the trees bare until Spring. There is something about Autumn that speaks of transition: from sun and holidays to mists and long nights: Keats's 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. It's not Winter, but it is Winter's herald. When the nights grow longer, we know it's not far away.

I suppose for all those reasons we also often associate Autumn with the twilight of life. Once our working days are done, and we've enjoyed the early years of active retirement, many people then enjoy (and I do mean 'enjoy'!) the twilight years of reflection, memories, and family, without the pressure of needing to 'justify' themselves or 'prove' anything. There's a wonderful verse in Psalm 92 which captures the feeling perfectly: "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap".

So, older readers of these words, Spring-time green and 'full of sap', enjoy your Autumn. And younger readers, don't dread the future arrival of those twilight years. You may find they're a lot more rewarding than you expected.



Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission which expresses the Anglican Communion's common commitment to, and understanding of, God's holistic, integral mission.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The first mark of mission is really a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus' own summary of his mission (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:18, Luke 7:22; cf. John 3:14-17). Instead of being just one (albeit the first) of five distinct activities, this should be the key statement about everything we do in mission.

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

– In a small room with a handful of people



It was a very great privilege to have been present in a small room in one of Limerick's Hotels with a handful of people including the Bishop to share in the inauguration of a new Council in our United Dioceses which brings together our concern for Mission and our concern for Church. They should never have been separated. There is a complex history as to why and how they were, not only in Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert, not only in the Church of Ireland but almost completely throughout Western Christendom. Mission was what

happened in Asia or Africa or wherever. Mission was what special people did. Mission was what I gave money for. Mission was what I might on occasion pray about. Mission was for a special Sunday and a special Sermon in the Church year.

I have written 'a very great privilege'. It is not always given to us to see the fulfilment of a dream. As a young man I shared in a major world conference in Strasbourg in 1960 on the theme 'The Life and Mission of the Church'. It was a teaching conference. In preparation for it we studied 'The Pressure of our Common Calling', a book by W A Visser t'Hooft. From the book and in the conference lectures, study groups and workshops we learned that there are four key characteristics of the Church. Witness, Service, Fellowship and Unity. We also learned that these elements must never be separated because it is in their integrated wholeness that the Church is the Church. So here on a Tuesday evening in September was a part of the Church of Ireland employed in the task of re-establishing the integrity of the Church, as the wider Church of Ireland has already done at national level. My heart rejoiced. It is another key element in the journey of Forward Together.

Patient Confidentiality: New Implications for Clergy Visiting

It is intended that this short article will raise awareness amongst lay people regarding being visited by your clergy when you're in hospital.

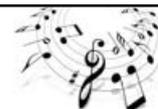
It used to be the case that a parishioner who had to stay in hospital would be asked if they wanted their priest to be notified. The information would freely be imparted to the clergy by hospital staff. Since the introduction of stricter patient confidentiality rules in hospitals this is no longer happening. It is generally the case that hospital staff are no longer asking patients if they want their priest to be notified. What is happening now, if at all, is that they are being asked whether they want the hospital chaplain to be notified (if there is one). Because of patient confidentiality, the hospital chaplain is not at liberty to pass on the information to the clergy.

So, it is incumbent upon the laity, if you have to go into hospital and you would like to be visited by your clergy, to inform the hospital staff that you wish him/her to be notified in addition to the chaplain. Otherwise your clergy is unlikely to be told; and it is not a good idea to rely on the 'bush telegraph'. Your clergy will appreciate your doing this.

Archdeacon Lumby

It was fascinating to engage with a group wrestling to think differently for our first hesitant exercises in thinking and planning with the single focus of Church and Mission requiring us to remind ourselves constantly that we had to think holistically. It will be the same in our parishes. All of us including our ordained partners will require to exercise a new discipline of remembering to think Church and Mission together whatever we do. It will affect how we think of our buildings. How can they be used for Church Mission? It will affect how we use our money. What are our spending priorities for Church Mission? It will affect how we furnish our premises. Is our Church building a welcoming, witnessing environment? It will most certainly affect ourselves. Am I embodying Church Mission in all that I say and think and do? For me the answer to that last question is certainly not - but now I sense I am on the road to some improvement. I intend to enjoy the journey.

As we worked through our agenda we made provision for the first steps in the journey. We expect all clergy and every vestry to be represented at our Welcoming Church get together on Saturday 4th November. Find more about that from our newly appointed PRO, Canon Bob Hanna, elsewhere in Newslink. We are proposing to renew our support for the Church in Swaziland caught in the grip of terrible drought, almost certainly caused by climate change, by the provision of water tanks for the diocesan schools. We are establishing a Church Mission agenda that will include Eco-Justice, Homelessness, Migration. Key issues for the People of God. For my part I'd like to take up the qualities of Witness, Service, Fellowship and Unity in the succeeding issues of Newslink in the hope that a conversation in the Diocese, within and between our Parishes, can begin. A conversation which will help us all, myself included, to understand what is the Work of God for Our Time in His World.



Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's

1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 11th October

Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Wednesday 25th October

Flautist Katie Baseman and friends
Chamber music for strings and wind by Mozart

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)

Wednesday 22nd November

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

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

Harvest resources for parishes on new CME website

Are you planning a Harvest Thanksgiving service? Are you stuck for resources, wondering where to find the readings or trying to select appropriate hymns? Are you wondering what new things can be said about Harvest this year that are relevant to children, mission and aid? Would you like photographs to illustrate your Harvest service sheet or parish notices?



Preparing for Harvest - a photograph on the new CME website (Patrick Comerford)

A new set of resources for clergy, readers, schools and all in ministry in the United Dioceses is going online. The new website, CME Limerick & Killaloe, is in a blog format and is being produced by Canon Patrick Comerford of the Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes, who is also Director for Education and Training in the dioceses. CME stands for Continuing Ministerial Education.

The new site is at: <https://cmelimerick.blogspot.ie/>

In the first posting, Patrick has put together a list of Harvest-themed resources for clergy and parishes at:

<https://cmelimerick.blogspot.ie/2017/09/harvest-readings-hymns-and-resources.html>

The page includes readings for Harvest, suggested hymns linked to the Harvest theme and the readings, and links to Harvest resources available from the Children's Ministry Network, USPG and Christian Aid, as well as Harvest photographs that parishes and schools can use.

Meanwhile, details of the first in a series of training days for clergy and readers in the diocese have been announced.

The Diocesan Communications Officer, the Revd Michael Cavanagh, Priest-in-Charge of the Kenmare and Dromod Union of Parishes, the Editor of Newslink, Joc Sanders, and Canon Comerford, a former journalist, are facilitating a training day in Killarney on parish communications on Monday 23 October.

The topics for discussion include working with local radio stations, newspapers and the diocesan magazine, how to use social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Blogs and websites, in your parish, and producing parish newsletters and hand-outs.

The day begins at 11am, is open to all clergy and diocesan readers in the united dioceses, and ends at 3pm.

The planned dates and topics for further training days are:

- 20 November, Preparing for Advent and Christmas (Saint Mary's Rectory, Askeaton).
- 22 January, Preparing for Lent and Easter.
- 12 February, Relating to other faiths (meeting Jews and Muslims in Limerick).
- 12 March, A life of prayer: personal prayer and leading intercessions.

For more information, Patrick Comerford can be contacted at: cme@limerick.anglican.org

Featherstonhaugh Seminar Series - Ministry in a Contemporary Context

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute will be holding a seminar series on Ministry in a Contemporary Context during the 2017-2018 academic year. These seminars will focus on:

- the practice and purpose of Christian leadership
- religion, law and the clash with RightsTalk
- intentional discipleship in the local parish

Each seminar will take place between 3pm and 4.30pm. These events are free and open to the public but due to a limited number of spaces we would encourage you to register your interest with Rhiannon Carey Bates (Academic Administrator): rhiannoncareybates@theologicalinstitute.ie

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017

Revd Ian Parkinson, Leadership Specialist at CPAS, the Anglican Evangelical Mission Agency

'For the equipping of all God's people: the practice and purpose of Christian leadership'

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018

Prof. Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies, Trinity College, Dublin
'Religion, law and the clash with RightsTalk'

WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2018

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford
'Intentional discipleship in the local parish'



Care for Creation

Editor:

In 2015 General Synod adopted an Environmental Charter for the Church of Ireland, giving expression to our Christian duty of environmental stewardship as individuals and worshipping communities (see p9), and calling for dioceses to act.

How are we in the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe responding to this?

In May this year our own Diocesan Synod passed a motion requesting General Synod to request that the RCB undertake research to facilitate parishes in reducing their reliance on fossil fuels in churches, parish halls and rectories by 2020. This is very sensible, as it should reduce the duplication of effort by individual parishes seeking to reduce their carbon footprints.

But is this enough? There is so much more we could be doing to 'green' our diocese and parishes. Perhaps we could learn from the example of our neighbouring diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, who have blazed the trail in environmental awareness. Their efforts were recognised by Eco-Congregation Ireland in 2013 with a diocesan award, the first Church of Ireland diocese to receive such an award.

It would be good if the new Diocesan Council for Mission could take up this issue as one strand of its work.

The Example of the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

(from the Eco Congregation Ireland web site www.ecocongregationireland.com)

The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory has undertaken many eco initiatives. The diocese adopted a Green Charter in 2008, which all parishes have signed up to and display on their premises. The Diocese Eco Committee brought this charter to General Synod in the hopes that a similar charter would be adopted by all dioceses within the Church of Ireland. The group produces an eco newsletter and organises regular seminars. Past topics have included 'Our Christian Responsibility to the Global Effects of Climate Change' and 'Water – We Can't Live Without It'. These events are followed by a question-and-answer session and stalls are available about eco glazing, alternative energy systems, composting, pump systems for energy systems and eco baby products.

Many parishes within the diocese have undertaken eco projects and the Diocesan Eco Committee holds an annual Diocesan Environmental Awards evening to recognise these environmental endeavours. Also, environmental awareness and action competitions are organised for young people.

The following are a few examples of eco initiatives undertaken by individual parishes in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Diocese:

- An animal blessing service is held in Kilkenny each October with animals as diverse as horses, roosters, fish, cats ... and many dogs! Children in the Kilkenny Group grew pumpkins from seed for their Harvest festivals.
- Restoration of St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, has been undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, including the installation of solar-heated water pipes into a central wall to combat damp.

- St Lactain's, Freshford installed a solar-powered heating system, which keeps both the church and parish centre at a comfortable 18 degrees Celsius.
- Stradbally parishioners have been protecting the ancient ruins within the graveyard over many years and have replaced trees. Solar panels have been installed in Stradbally Rectory and the church is being insulated.
- The parish church of Grange Sylvae hosts a spectacular display of cowslips during the summer months. Parish members have collected the precious seeds and offered them to other parishes within the diocese, which had the appropriate soil type and conditions suited to the cowslip. Seeds have also been packaged and made available to Synod members.
- Carlow Parish held some of its confirmation classes out in the open, identifying trees and animals for a parish project. The local wildlife officer was invited to visit the churchyard area and advise on how to make it more welcoming to local wildlife. Since then trees and shrubs have been planted and bird boxes have been installed.
- Parishioners of St John's carried out work in the graveyard area to ensure a butterfly-friendly environment. The Sunday School invited all of the children from the other three Sunday Schools in the Kilkenny group to visit their church to view a demonstration bee-hive and learn all about the life-cycle of the honey bee from a local bee keeper.
- Wexford and Kilscuran Union identified and tackled areas where changes could be made to help the churches become greener.
- Goresbridge and Stradbally have wildflower meadows. Carlow is planting one and is keeping one corner of the property wild as a natural habitat.
- Abbeyleix National School is surrounded by church land and the local vestry is allowing the local Grow It Yourself group to use part of the land for allotments. The plot is visible to the school and the nearby road and the growing of fruit and vegetables has created a lot of interest both for the children and the public. Good community relationships are growing out of the project.
- Kilkenny College harvests rainwater and has four green flags. The school has been involved in helping to get clean water to remote villages in Afghanistan. It also promotes the growing of vegetables in Swaziland and Rwanda where there is a big AIDS problem and many families have no adults. Teenagers and children are being taught to grow vegetables to feed themselves.
- A number of parishes in the diocese hold Harvest festivals, animal blessing services, Plough Sundays, Walk-to-Church Sundays and rogation-tide prayers.



The Goresbridge Wildflower Meadow

The Environmental Charter of the Church of Ireland

THE GENERAL SYNOD RECOGNISES THAT:

As with all Christians, members of the Church of Ireland are charged with stewardship of God's creation, locally, nationally and internationally. All members of the Church, as individuals and as part of the worshipping community, are called to that duty of environmental stewardship through:

a) Recognising and reducing waste

Church bodies and parishes should identify practical steps to reduce waste through simple steps such as monitoring energy use, draught proofing and recycling.

b) Increasing environmental awareness across parishes

Parishes and individuals can only make good choices about environmental issues when they are informed choices. Awareness of these issues should be developed by individuals and Parishes, and may include reflecting the significance of the created order through our worship, exploring alternative energies and exploring resources which promote this awareness tailored to particular constituencies e.g. Youth and Children's Ministry and across Parish Organisations. Eco-Congregation Ireland produce resources that Parishes may find useful.

c) Exercising leadership through environmental responsibility

It is only through actions that results will be forthcoming. The

environmental factors in decision making processes within parishes should be highlighted to parishioners e.g. websites and magazines. Conversations about environmental lifestyle choices should be encouraged between parishioners and within parish groups.

d) Identifying spiritually and practically with the developing world

Variation in climate is felt most keenly by those who are encumbered by poverty. Parishes are encouraged to take steps to mitigate the impact of climate change. Parishes are encouraged to continue to support projects that work in such places, and to develop relationships with overseas churches to show solidarity. The Synod remains mindful of Motion 3 passed by the General Synod in 2006, recognising the contribution made by Fairtrade practices to the achievement of justice for the poor.

e) Influencing policy and the Church and State

Big changes start with small groups. By raising awareness and expectations within the Church, members can be better equipped to influence policies through lobbying and elections. In all of this, prayer for decision makers and those who are impacted by environmental issues should be at the heart of the Church's response.

Accordingly, the Synod commends this Environmental Charter for the use of all Parishes in the Church of Ireland. The Synod further requests that the substance of this Resolution be conveyed to Diocesan Synods with a view to action.

William Tyndale - Bible translator and Reformation martyr



Take a moment on the 6th of October to pay tribute to William Tyndale on the anniversary of his martyrdom – although he is not remembered in the calendar of the Church of Ireland, the Church of England celebrates him with a 'lesser festival' on this day, and a Collect is provided in Common Worship.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak

seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion. His life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press. It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of

England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious. Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work. Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale.

Collect for 6th October - Remembering William Tyndale

Lord, give to your people grace to hear and keep your word that, after the example of your servant William Tyndale, we may not only profess your gospel but also be ready to suffer and die for it, to the honour of your name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

All branches have reopened and are starting work on their Handcraft and Bible Study syllabus 2017/8. The theme this year is 'Making A Difference'. Please visit GFS Web page for details on this year's syllabus - <http://www.girlsfriendlysociety.ie/>

Following World Council in Australia 2017 South Africa takes on the task of organising World Council in 2020. Please see information below on our new World President and her team :



N. Benya, T. K. Matikiti, T. Pama, P Magona and S. B. Gijana

World President – Ms Thembeke Pama who is a biological mother to 3 sons and one daughter, a grandmother of 3 boys, also taking care of 14 late brothers and sister children. Stays in Johannesburg. Love people. Was a nurse for 22 years by profession., further studied and diverted to business science majoring in Public management and Administration, Economics & Human Resource. Collected certificates in People Centred Community Development, Conflict Management & Dispute Resolutions. Worked at the Commission for Gender Equality as a manager for 3 years. Deployed to Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa an organisation which cut across all political parties which also includes civil society and faith based organisation as an organiser. Worked as the chief director at the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Ministry formally known as Local Government with 283 Municipalities for 5 years. Put the tools down in 2014 and focused in social responsibility and GFS work. Have been GFS leader for 30 years. GFS Provincial President for 2 years. Currently managing own guesthouse in Johannesburg to keep going. Was admitted as the member of Mothers union in 1988.

World Secretary – Ms Pumeza Magona is a mother of one and stays in Cape Town. Currently works as an admin freelancer and coordinates men, women, youth and children ministry forums on behalf of the South African Council of Churches, does events management and catering. She served in the office of the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa as the PA and later as the Provincial Executive Administrator for 5 years having worked for the Eskom Development Foundation as a Financial Coordinator for 7 years. Serves as a board member of Fikelela Children Centre, secretary to the IEC National Coordinating Forum, a Mother's Union member, joined GFS at Christ the King – Sophiatown in 1998 and has served

in her parish, St Columba – Gugulethu as a churchwarden for 2 terms and later as the bookkeeper. She loves reading, knitting and photography.

World Treasurer – Ms Nokwanda "Skwash" Benyahas a BCom Accounting degree a Diploma in Labour Law and works at Coega Development Corporation as a manager. She has been a GFS Leader since 2010, a Parish Council member at her church and elected as the GFS Provincial Treasurer in 2014. She resides in Port Elizabeth.

World Organiser – Ms Susan Bekiwe Gijana is married with 2 children. A nurse by profession with BCur Degree, works as a Program Manager – Coordination Quality Assurance and Infection Control in 48 clinics and 5 hospitals of the Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth) Health District. She is an MU member and also coordinator of GFS in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.

World Youth Coordinator – Ms Tecla Kundai Matikiti is 20 years old, a student at the University of Johannesburg doing her final year towards a BCom Finance and Investment degree. A member of Christ the King Anglican Church in Johannesburg. Peoples person and easily blends in, very talkative and jovial at times. A feminist who believes that women are as powerful and intelligent as the men in the world. Her passion and gifts lies with empowering the younger girls in the world to believe in themselves. She loves travelling and is a hard worker.

Web: www.gfsworld.org Growing GFS together in prayer and action.

The Diocese of Killaloe wish the new GFS World team every success in their work over the next few years.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Safeguarding Trust Training Course will take place in the Diocese in the near future – date and venue to be organised. Please contact Diocesan President or Secretary for updates.

Diocesan Council 6th November in Cloughjordan

Christmas Craft Day 2nd December in Birr

Diocesan Prize Day & Service 2018 24th March in Birr

Mothers' Union

SONGS OF PRAISE

See page 19 for a report with photos.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 14th – All Ireland Council, Springfield Hotel, Leixlip

October 20th–21st – Women's Getaway Weekend, Sligo – 'Celebrating Our Gifts'

November 4th – Diocesan Trustees & Council, 10.30am, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe

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



United Diocesan Youth Council

Senior Summer Camp – by Laura Cooke (Kilpeacon)

We had a great senior summer camp this year in the Lissadell Youth Centre in Sligo at the end of August 2017. A hectic but wonderful week was had at the centre which has recently been refurbished. Damian Shorten led us through a thought provoking worship programme called "Soul", which focused on the Gospel of Mark and included personal handbooks and daily videos, mixed in with lively songs and discussions.



Senior Summer Camp @ Lissadell Youth Centre, Sligo.jpg

Activities galore as always were enjoyed by all throughout the week! We had two fabulous days at Bundoran Adventure Centre, (despite a bit of rain) surfing, rock climbing, kayaking and team games. The next day was spent in Bundoran and included swimming and bowling. Next we went to Lough Key Forest Park and had a great time pushing our limits, both physical and mentally on the zip it high ropes course in the trees and attempting the Boda Borg challenge. We also enjoyed a lovely bonfire back at the centre. Our final day was spent Stand up Paddle Boarding on the Garravogue river, which was a new experience for almost everybody. All in all a great week was had, friendships were made, beliefs were challenged, the craic was had and we can't wait for the next camp!



Stand Up Paddle Boarding on Garavogue River Sligo @ Senior Summer Camp.jpg



Surfing fun @ Bundoran on Senior Summer Camp.jpg

Committee Retreat Weekend – by Oscar Egbulam (Limerick City)

On the 8th & 9th September, a number of members of the UDYC Committee gathered together in Cloughjordan for an over-night retreat. We shared a wonderful meal of pizza together, followed by a committee meeting on Friday evening. The next day we were joined by The Venerable Wayne Carney who led us in worship through an insightful study in various Christian messages from different people. We are very grateful for his input. After lunch we packed up our bags and made our way to the Cloughjordan hall to prepare for our Fundraising event that evening. A very enjoyable two days of relaxing fun was had by all.

Car Treasure Hunt, BBQ & Disco – by OSCAR EGBULAM (Limerick City)

On Saturday 9th of September, UDYC Fundraising Car Treasure Hunt and Barbecue & Disco took place at Cloughjordan Hall, Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary. Participants enjoyed a well put together Car Treasure Hunt followed by a tasty barbecue and an enjoyable disco. Very many thanks to those that attended and it was really good to meet those that came on the evening. Special thanks to Rev. Terri Mitchell for his help with the event and Cloughjordan Parish for making hall available for the event.



Fundraising Car Treasure Hunt, BBQ with Disco in Cloughjordan.jpg

Multi Activity Day

We look forward to providing a full report next month on our Multi Activity Day on Saturday 30th September taking place at University of Limerick Outdoor Activity Centre & St. Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe.

FUTURE EVENTS

Autumn Adventure Outdoor Weekend

Our Autumn Adventure Weekend will take place this year Lilliput Outdoor Education Centre, Lilliput, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath from Saturday 29th October to Monday 31st October 2017. This event will replace Anois which is unfortunately not taking place this year. This adventure weekend will be for all those attending secondary school. The weekend will include an exciting mix of outdoor adventure

activities and worship. The cost will be €100 per person. There will be return transport to/from the event from Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Birr.

Junior Weekend

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

NEW STRUCTURE FOR MISSION

A new Council for Mission for the United Diocese was launched at an inaugural AGM in Limerick on September 12th, with its opening agenda being a call to parishes to re-examine our vision of Mission. See Bishop Kenneth's column on page 3 which follows up on the decision of Diocesan Synod last June to merge the Diocesan Board of Mission with the Long Term Church Committee, and also Salter's Sterling's 'View from the Pew' on page 6.

The meeting, chaired by Ven Wayne Carney, Archdeacon of Killaloe was open to all in the united dioceses but attracted only the faithful few. Bearing in mind the definition by famous theologian Emil Brunner - "The church exists by mission, as fire exists by burning" - the concern of "missioners" to raise the level of awareness of the role of the church was worthy and justified. It generated stimulating discussion among those present.

Setting the tone, Bishop Kenneth saw Mission as personal as well as communal, to do with how we live and move and have our being here and now, and not confined merely to overseas work. And the church is not an end in itself. Quoting the late great Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple, he said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Following on from our torturous reflections and debates on diocesan boundaries, not to mention diminishing membership and aging congregations, finding a shared vision of what we are about in today's Church is all the more urgent.

The meeting elected the following officers:

Chair – Ven Wayne Carney
Vice Chair – Canon Liz Beasley
Secretary – David Frizelle
Treasurer – Ed Hardy
PRO – Canon Bob Hanna

CONFERENCE ON 4TH NOVEMBER

The meeting confirmed arrangements for a Conference on 4th November 2017 with the title "How to be Welcoming Church", to be held in Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel, Adare. Speakers and facilitators on the day are: Rev Canon Liz Beasley, Adare and Kilmallock Group; Rev Alistair Graham, Mullingar Union who brings his own special story of Church Growth; and the Rev Phyllis Jones, Tralee and Dingle Union of Parishes. The cost of the day is €20. See advert on page 20.

All parish groupings in the diocese are urged to send at least two lay members of Select Vestry (more welcome) in addition to clergy. Select Vestries are asked to fund their attendance at €20.

MISSION SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Meanwhile, Mission Sunday, 26th November (Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent) is another keynote day in the Mission calendar. For more on this, watch this space!

Canon Bob Hanna.



(l-r) Ed Hardy, Canon Jane Galbraith, David Frizelle, Ven Wayne Carney, John Jarvis

Children's Ministry Network

GROWING A SENSE OF GENEROSITY IN CHILDREN

Rev Jane Galbraith, diocesan coordinator writes:

"If we want to nurture children in an understanding of generosity, we need to find ways to help them experience generosity and the joy of giving of oneself."

Every parent aspires to pass on values to their child. Often it is an unconscious natural happening. In church too, children can be shown how to provide for the mission and ministry of their church. Regarding money, it is the wish of every parent to separate out the ever-present materialistic values from the more meaningful values that are also present. It is a gift from God to recognise that life itself is gift, and the earth and the fullness thereof, and that we are called to cherish, nurture and provide loving care of all our resources.

We all need to develop gratitude all year-long, and year after year, not just monetarily, but in how we view the world and care for it. It's never too early to begin to teach children about being generous as a steward of gifts received and how each of us, as part of a community, can contribute to the whole, in many different ways.

Most children already have a sense of wonder and can respond with thanksgiving to God who created them and the world in which they live. Yet many parents, grandparents and carers wonder how best to encourage the little ones to respond to God's care.

Children enjoy harvest thanksgiving with the added visual and tactile aspects of the service - it all adds to the sense of belonging and community, which is important to us all. Children need the approval of family, friends and teachers as they begin to develop their own theology of thanksgiving, which includes things financial. Schools do a great job. Families too can encourage exploration and questioning, sharing their own faith, linking giving with thanks - thanksgiving.

It can be helpful to consciously build on the various festival times of the year. It is easier to talk about generosity, about God's and our response, at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Epiphany and Lent.

The sustentation bill isn't like the ESB bill - even if it feels like it! Rather it can be an opportunity to discuss with children questions like How do you think God wants us to take care of the church? What are some things you can do to help the church in its ministry?

An idea to get them started is to give a child an amount of money, even one Euro, and three collecting cups, jars or piggy banks. Then help them to think about dividing their Euro into three:

Save 1/3 for big things,
Spend 1/3 on anything,
Give 1/3 to be generous to the church.

That could include whatever fund raising is going on, or it could mean letting a child buy some special envelopes and putting the 1/3 on the plate. The treasurer will have to make the 'necessary arrangements'. It's no good presenting the child with a tax back form - but some kind of 'official' recognition of their generosity to the life and work of being Church will make their giving, however tiny, feel valued. If the cost of keeping the records and generating the statements exceeds the time the treasurer has - well then, this is an important opportunity for someone else to take up and really enjoy.

Sunday clubs often make their own collections - this too needs to come to the attention of the whole congregation. A child from the Sunday School might carry up a special plate at the offertory procession. Or the children might be involved in planning how they bring their financial offering to the attention of church.



Guild of Diocesan Readers

QUIET DAY

Diocesan and parish readers gathered in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe on Saturday 9th September for a 'quiet day' on the theme of Christian meditative prayer, facilitated by Dean Gary Paulsen and Archdeacon Gary Hastings of Galway.

Meditation as a set of techniques is used by people of many faiths, and none - just scan the bookshelves labelled 'Mind & Spirit' in any bookshop. Used regularly it contributes to physical and mental wellness by relieving stress. For Christians, the focus is on stilling the mind to allow the still, small voice of God to be heard. Meditative prayer was central for Jesus, who was accustomed to go off by himself to pray to his Heavenly Father. It played an important part in Christian life from the earliest times, but in the Western Church largely died out for some reason in the late middle ages - a sad spiritual loss. However, in recent years the practice has been revived by contemplatives such as Thomas Keating and others, so that many in the Church of Ireland as well as other traditions now treasure it as part of their spiritual life.

We learned about the importance of posture, breathing and attention. We tasted a number of techniques, including Keating's Centring Prayer, the Jesus Prayer beloved of Orthodox Christians, and Walking Meditation.

We talked about the difficulty of loving our enemies, as Jesus commands us to do, and we were introduced to the practice of Lovingkindness Meditation. With this attention is initially given to oneself, saying inwardly this prayer:

*May I be filled with lovingkindness.
May I be safe from inner and outer dangers.
May I be well in body and mind.
May I be at ease and happy.*

Attention is then extended to others, substituting 'you' for 'I' in the prayer, beginning with individuals we love or admire, and moving on to individuals we don't like or get on with. We also noted how this might be used in formal prayers of intercession.

To finish we joined in an informal Eucharist led by Dean Gary. Afterwards all present agreed that the day had been well worthwhile, and we thank both Garys for their input from the bottom of our hearts.

GUILD BUSINESS

At the end of the quiet day the diocesan readers present held a short Guild meeting chaired by Audrey Clarke Gordon. Bishop Kenneth has asked the Guild to organise the 2018 Ministry Conference for clergy and readers, which will be held in September next year. The small Guild committee consisting of Audrey Clarke Gordon, Joc Sanders, Andrew Eadie and John Jarvis were tasked to initiate arrangements and agree the date with the Bishop as soon as possible.

Joc Sanders, Guild Secretary



**"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-
attraction ratings guide, it's a Health
and Safety warning!"**

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The school year ended in June with our usual end of year events. We were delighted to welcome Mr George Stackpoole to raise our sixth green flag. Mr Stackpoole is chairperson of Adare's Tidy Towns and they now have a junior team who help to keep the village looking so well. The talent show highlighted the diversity of talent amongst our pupils with displays of music, singing, dancing and acting to name but a few. Our final event was a gathering of all pupils, parents and teachers in St. Nicholas' Church to say farewell to those who were leaving at the end of the year and to thank them and their families for their contribution to the school.

School re-opened on Wednesday 31st August when we welcomed Ewan, Robyn, Thea, Ava, Catriona and Edie. We hope that all new pupils will settle in well and will have many happy years here. We also welcomed back Trish O'Shea to the Infant classroom where she will teach this year and Mr. Seán Linnane to our support teaching staff. Éadaoin Ní Chathasaigh has joined our staff as a part-time SNA.



Junior pupils delivering treats they made to the other classrooms

Thanks to the generosity of our Parents' Association along with a grant from the DES the school has purchased more I-pads with keyboards and laptops. This is a great addition to the school's IT. Thank you to Rev. Liz who welcomed us back to a new school year at a service in the church on September 6th.

Swimming classes have begun at Askeaton Swimming Pool for pupils in 1st to 6th classes and these will continue until mid-term break.

We welcomed new parents to school on Wednesday evening 13th September to introduce our Bookworm Club, Mata le Chéile and Jolly Phonics programme. Thank you to Ms O'Shea and Mrs. Hales who gave the presentations.

We look forward to participating in the Harvest Thanksgiving service in St. Nicholas' Church on September 29th when the children will sing 'Lord of the Harvest'.

Congratulations to some of our pupils who won prizes for their art work at the Limerick Show.

The senior pupils look forward to their History Field Trip to Cragganowen when they will explore what life was like during the Bronze Age.

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

Tús mhí Mheán Fómhair - The Beginning of September
Beannachtaí agus fáilte mór to our returning pupils. We are delighted to welcome you all back. Each September heralds a new and exciting adventure for a number of Junior Infants. We welcome Szymon, Sam and Emilia to St. Mary's. We also extend a warm welcome to James, who joins First Class. May you enjoy all the new experiences ahead of you, in the company of your new friends!

The school year began with a beautiful service in St Mary's Church on the 15th of September. We offer many thanks to Reverend Rod and Mrs Smyth for the beautiful booklets, the lovely musical arrangements and for their warm welcome to pray. The children did a great job of singing and reading, and we were heartened to see the support of so many parents on the day. Míle Buíochas!

Soccer coaching began in early September. Thanks to Sylvia Gee who inspires the children through our soccer coaching programme. We are kicking off our Green Schools Programme again, having done some amazing work last year on Biodiversity. French lessons for Senior Students will continue this year. We are delighted to have music tutoring this year and welcome Mrs Rosemary Smyth to our team. Our senior students will have their specific SPHE workshop with Mary Dillon, HSE again in November.

Planning has commenced for Maths Week which will take place from 14th of October. We hope to immerse ourselves in some fun mathematical learning adventures. Watch this space, Mathematicians of the future!

To support St. Mary's commitment to its anti-bullying policy and to the Christian ethos of our school, a Bullying Awareness Day will take place on 13th October this year. All pupils will be encouraged to spot signs of bullying behaviour and employ taught strategies to make school a safe and happy place for everyone.

We will sign off kindly wishing all our pupils, parents, staff and our wider community a wonderful year ahead.

St Michael's National School, Limerick

We have begun our school year, not only with new Junior Infant pupils, but with an enthusiastic new Principal! We are delighted to have Ms Miriam Smyth join our school staff and look forward to a long and happy school life with her. As well as new Juniors, we also welcome Joel, Daria and Kevin in Senior Infants, Divine in 1st Class, Marina, Emils, Dara, Christopher in 2nd Class, Hannah in 3rd Class, Ciarán in 4th Class, and Sam, Gerald and Raymond in 5th Class. We hope their transition to St Michael's NS will be smooth and that they will feel part of the school very soon. We are fortunate to have teaching support from Limerick School Project again this year, in the form of Lise Conroy and Ger O'Connell. They join our Support Teaching team and greatly add to the level of expertise in the school.

As well as a new Principal in school, we are looking forward to meeting the incoming Dean of St Mary's Cathedral and rector of St Michael's and Abington, Canon Niall Sloane. We look forward to having him as part of the school community.

While we were all away on our summer holidays, Dennis Hayes our diligent caretaker, continued to take wonderful care of the school and its grounds. We returned to newly painted classrooms and well-

taken care of flower pots. He also has our garden looking fantastic. At our Annual PTA AGM this month, we kick-started the drive for fund-raising ideas, for our new classroom. One of our Board of Management parents, Brian Beck, has been invaluable with his knowledge and expertise in the area of planning and building. Planning permission has now been granted and we are very hopeful that it will be completed by this time next year. It was most encouraging to witness the enthusiasm of the parents for this busy challenging project.



New pupils at St Michael's NS, Limerick

Cloughjordan No 1 National School

When school re-opened on 1st September we extended a warm welcome to our twelve new Junior Infants. We hope that all of these pupils and their families will be very happy in our school. We also welcomed back Ms. Aimee Ryan to teach Fifth & Sixth Class and Ms. Cora Scanlon as part of our Special Education Team. We wish our Sixth Class of 2016-2017 all the very best as they begin a new chapter of their lives in various Secondary Schools this autumn and

congratulate all of our past pupils who did so well in Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations this year.



New pupils at Cloughjordan No 1 NS

Parents of our infant children enjoyed an informal opportunity to get to know each other over a cup of coffee in school one afternoon. It was great to see so many present on the day.

We welcomed back Anne Fitzpatrick to coach tennis to all pupils, Gilbert Williams to teach hurling skills to our younger classes and Declan Gaffney to teach ball skills to our younger classes.

We are very grateful to Mr. Dooley and Mr. Hassett from St. Michael's N.S. for the kind invitation to our 3rd-6th Class pupils to join with pupils from St. Michael's N.S. and play a hurling league which all participants are really enjoying. Our 3rd - 6th Class pupils are also looking forward to participating in the annual County Tipperary Primary schools Cross Country Championships in Thurles at the end of the month.

A busy start to the new school year!

Pact
assessment adoption support

Pact is an accredited agency under the 2010 Adoption Act to provide the following services:

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- Post Placement Report Service for Intercountry Adoption
- Domestic Adoption Assessment Service
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Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

WELCOME TO SCHOOL!

Grab hold of a magic pencil
Open your eyes and mind
For now begins a journey
Of the most exciting kind.
A journey into learning
A step . . . a start . . . a glow,
And we will be there with you
To help and watch you grow.

Céad Míle Fáilte ar ais do ghach duine go dtí bliain nua i Scoil Cill Tullaigh. Tá súil againn go raibh Samhraidh breá agaibh go léir agus go bhfuil bliain iontach romhainn go léir.

WELCOME!

A big welcome to our new junior infant pupils -Evan Wharton, Evan Clifford, Keziah, Dawn, Emiliana, Kate, Elena and Freya.
We are delighted to have you in our school and hope you will have many happy days with us.



New Junior pupils at Kiltallagh

GOALPOSTS

We are delighted to have our goalposts permanently fitted in our school yard. Many thanks to John and Rory Orme along with Evan and Darragh Kelliher for their assistance. Many hands make light work!

WEDDING BELLS!

Congratulations to one of our past teachers Rose O'Connor who married Paddy Howell on July 14th. Also comhghairdeas to Nicole Boyle –sister to former pupils Alex and Gavin and present pupil George, on her marriage to Leon Seidler. We wish you many years of happiness and health together.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Miss Shirley Corcoran who has been appointed to a permanent position in Kiltallagh School. Shirley was with us last year as our LS/RT. We look forward to many more great years with Shirley here in Kiltallagh.

Congratulations to our former teacher Maura O' Doherty who has been appointed to a permanent post in St. John's Parochial School in Tralee. We wish Maura many happy years of teaching there.

GET WELL SOON...

The pupils and staff of Kiltallagh are sending their best wishes to

Neville Atkinson, P.E. teacher in Villiers Secondary School, Limerick who is recovering from an accident. We have wonderful memories of the many fantastic sports days in Villiers organised by Neville over the past 10 years and we look forward to seeing Neville back in Villiers in the not too distant future.

LEAVING /JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

Well done to all our past pupils– Emma Boyle ,Cormac Sertutxa and Tom Eadie on their recent excellent Leaving Cert results. Congratulations also to Katie O' Dowd sister to Garrett and Sharon who also did fantastic.

Comhghairdeas to Alex, Naoise, Eamonn, Reece, Niall, Emily and Rosa on their super Junior Cert results too!

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Elva has commenced in her new school in Presentation Secondary School, Milltown and Gavin has started in the I.S.K. We look forward to having them back to Kiltallagh to let us know all about this wonderful new chapter in their lives. We wish Gavin and Elva every happiness in their new schools.

STEPPING STONES

We would like to welcome Rachel and Leanne to the senior room and hope they will have a wonderful time over the next four years.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

During the summer holidays the Board of Management organised the painting of the 5th and 6th classroom and under the Community Employment Scheme we got the 3rd and 4th classroom repaired and repainted and new toilets were installed for 3rd and 4th class

HOMEWORK CLUB

As this academic year begins we must thank Cailin Keaveny and Alan Hoare for running the Homework Club so effectively last term, we know that parents who are working outside the home find this to be a great facility and we welcome them back for this school year.

GARDENING CLUB

Our Gardening Club is back in action again on Wednesday 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Ms. Rebekah Keaveny is running the club, they have great plans for development of the area; they will grow flowers and herbs. We are very grateful to Rebekah for her hard work and enthusiasm and for organising the installation of the poly-tunnel with the assistance of her extended family during the holidays

GREEN FLAG

As we work towards our Water Conservation flag our Green Schools committee members are Rebekah Keaveny, Ms Carter, Mrs Colton, Daniel O' Neill, Sabina Koszalka, Adam Cizlak and Laura Kozakiewicz. Swimming – We are taking first class pupils to sixth class pupils swimming again this year for eight weeks starting on Tuesday 12th and 26th September, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th October and 7th and 14th November.

HEALTHY LUNCHES

Parents are reminded that no chocolate bars or sweets or sugary drinks are allowed in school. The school has a healthy eating policy.

PLOUGHING MATCH

The Gardaí have advised all the schools in the Birr area to open the school at 11:00am on the mornings of the Ploughing Match in Tullamore on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st and the school will close at the usual time. It is expected that there will be thousands of extra vehicles passing through Birr before 11:00am

and this will assist in traffic management. The Oxmantown School Board of Management have approved of this later starting time.

STAFF CHANGES

We welcome Ms Lisa Connolly as Special Needs Assistant in the Junior Classroom and Mr Jack Ryan as third and fourth class teacher who is replacing Ms Barnwell who is taking a career break.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Andrew Armstrong on winning the Mc Gill cup for academic performance during his years in the senior cycle of Oxmantown School, we wish him every success in Birr Community School. We wish our 6th class students every good wish as they take their next step to secondary school

Welcome back to all our students and a huge welcome to all the pupils joining us for the first time.

Rathkeale No 2 National School

School reopened on Friday 1st September and we welcomed three new junior infants, James and twins, Lucy and Lara. Already they have settled in well to school life and we look forward to guiding them through the early years of their education. All pupils arrived back full of enthusiasm for the year ahead and eager to share stories of their summer holidays. We look forward to a busy year ahead.

Heritage in Schools expert Geoff Hunt will be with us for the day on 22nd September to examine the wildflowers in and around our school environment. Geoff is a regular visitor to Number Two and his workshops are always very well received and informative. We planted a wildflower garden last spring and wildflowers bloomed throughout the summer. We hope the addition of the wildflowers will attract more wildlife into our school habitat.

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Gerry Cantillon, our music teacher. Gerry taught the children to play various instruments over the past number of years and arranged concerts at Christmas time, giving the children a chance to perform to their parents and friends. We all miss his classes on Mondays and keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Villiers School

"Every beginning is a promise," says the poet Brendan Kenelley and this is certainly how we feel at the moment. The new-year has well and truly begun.



The most important beginning is always the welcoming of our new students. It wonderful to see so many enthusiastic young faces moving through the corridors and unpacking in the dorms as they settle into the Villiers family: What promises they hold?

We are looking towards the year ahead with great anticipation and excitement. Already some of the promises have come to pass. We've had tremendous academic success with our Junior Certificate candidates following the example of their Leaving Certificate counterparts, and producing a tremendous set of results and we are truly proud of them all. We've had a Form VI Model United Nations Delegation flying the Villiers flag in Cambridge. We've had hockey and rugby challenges and successes as we build towards the competitive season ahead. Our Transition Years have begun their programme and well and truly moved education beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to Mariana Birdthistle, Muireann Scanlon and Lauren Ryan who have been training hard for the under 18s Munster squad, and will be competing in Belfast from the 20th-22nd of October. Also to Amy O'Leary who has been selected for the under 16s Munster squad.

And in Boys hockey Quinten Eacrett, Craig Morrow, Conor Beck, Sam Lilburn, Stephan Tutty and Gerard Hodkinson were chosen for the under 18s Munster squad while Max Clein, Cian Sparling, Chris Ryan were chosen for the under 16s Munster squad and Christopher Johnson is a reserve. We wish them all every success in the year ahead.

Apart from the hockey world, huge congratulations to Olwyn Cooke who represented Ireland in the Tetrathlon squad, and to Lizzie Boston and her club who won the national horse-riding Tetrathlon finals in Kilkenny earlier this month.

Our open day takes place on the 7th October from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. Why not come for a look around and meet the staff? You will be made very welcome so please come along.

Of course there are, and will always be challenges, and we hope and pray that all of us within our Villiers family will have the strength to meet these with positivity and togetherness and that we can come to the best possible outcome with support and understanding.

To return to Brendan Kenelley, the new academic year feels,

'Blessed with the promise and disappointment
That make the minutes of every day,
We step into the streets of morning
Walking the pavements of come-what-may.'

Villiers Sanctuary notes on page 21

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Patrick Comerford goes Blackberry picking



*Ripening blackberries above the rectory garden walls in Askeaton
(photo Patrick Comerford, 2017)*

The blackberries are ripening in the fields in the glebe land behind and beside the Rectory in Askeaton. Sunday afternoon [17 September 2017] was almost like a summer's day, with warm, bright sunshine and blue skies. After two church services – in Saint Mary's, Askeaton, and Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin – two of us went picking blackberries in the warm autumn sunshine. They are growing high on the other sides of the walls of the rectory garden, and many of them are now in full fruit, plump, juicy and ready for eating.

I was surprised earlier this summer when I was at High Leigh in Hoddesdon for the USPG conference, and noticed during my walks in the countryside that the blackberries were already ripening at that early stage on the laneways and by the roadside in East Anglia. But as we were picking the blackberries yesterday, I was reminded of childhood days at this time of the year in the 1950s or the 1960s, picking blackberries in the laneways and narrow roads close to my grandmother's farm outside Cappoquin, Co Waterford, and the childhood joys that stayed with me as an adult in more recent years picking blackberries before Michaelmas and the end of the blackberry-picking season in Kilcoole or Greystones in Co Wicklow, or along Cross in Hand Lane in Lichfield.

I was reminded too of the poem 'Blackberry-Picking', written in the 1960s by the late Seamus Heaney for Philip Hobsbaum.

Blackberry-Picking, by Seamus Heaney

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned

Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.

Source: Death of a Naturalist (1966)



*Soon it will be Michaelmas, when blackberry-picking ceases
(photo: Patrick Comerford, 2017)*

L I M E R I C K



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Mothers' Union Songs of Praise

Celebrating 13 decades of love and service in Ireland

On Saturday 16th September members and many friends from all over the diocese came together in the beautiful St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick to celebrate and sing our praise and thankfulness for 130 years of Mothers' union in Ireland. Our Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain, Canon Jane Galbraith led the service and It was wonderful to have Bishop Kenneth, his wife Jennifer and Revd Edna Wakley join us also. Following the service Bishop Kenneth gave the final blessing.



(l-r) former DP Ina Blackwell, Bishop Kenneth, DP Lucy Kavanagh, Canon Jane Galbraith, former DP Margaret Schutz, & former DP Catherine Doherty-Louer

Six hymns were chosen from the list of favourite hymns by Mothers' Union members in the Diocese. As each hymn was introduced we heard about the amazing work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world.



Florence Reid, Faith & Policy Coordinator & Betty Delahunt, Diocesan Treasurer

"Be Thou My Vision" was the hymn which introduced the Literacy Project, when we heard about the work being carried out which has enabled around 150,000 people to learn to read and write. In every community facing illiteracy, the greatest proportion of those are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are tools that enable women to deal with the day to day challenges of belonging to a community, but more importantly, her children also become literate and the cycle of poverty can be broken.

The hymn "How Great Thou Art" introduced our Away From It All Project which this Diocese has supported for several years now. This is a scheme funded my members of Mothers' Union to help people

who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a break. One beneficiary wrote "It could not have come at a better time and really did make us forget for a while the day to day realities of life as it is now".

The hymn "Brother, sister let me serve you" introduced our Vigil Against Gender Based Violence. We will come together again on 25th November in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea to bear witness and to pray for those who are suffering and to make our commitment to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.



At the MU Card stall: (l-r) Violet Coburn, Addie Gilmour, Rose Harding and Ann Drew, who looked after the stall

Our grateful thanks must go to all those who helped to make the day so special. Dolly Shire and Addie Gilmour for the beautiful flower arrangements in Mothers' Union Blue! To Peter Barley, Organist St. Mary's Cathedral, and to Noreen Ellerker whose help we could not have done without. Thanks also to all those who supplied and served the lovely supper following the service.

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President



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New Priest-in-Charge for Clonfert



The Revd. Charles McCartney is to be appointed Priest-in-Charge for Clonfert Group of parishes.

Mr McCartney grew up in St Elizabeth's Parish Dundonald in Belfast and was for a period a chorister in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Since his ordination in 1985 has served in a variety of parishes in both Armagh and Down & Dromore dioceses, as well as 15 years as a British Army chaplain.

He is married to Cecelia since 1988 and they have 5 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

A Service of Welcome for Mr McCartney was held on Friday 22nd September in St Paul's Church, Banagher.



FASHION SHOW

Saturday October 14th

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Rev Alastair Graham (Mullingar Union of Parishes)
Rev Phylis Jones (Tralee & Dingle Union of Parishes)

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EVERYONE WELCOME

New Dean of Limerick

Canon Niall Sloane, Rector of Holy Trinity Killiney in the Diocese of Dublin is to be the next Rector of Limerick City Parish and Dean of Limerick.



Canon Sloane was educated at Trinity College, the Milltown Institute and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin.

He was ordained in 2005 and served as curate assistant in Agherton Parish, Portstewart and then as senior curate assistant in Taney Parish, Dundrum. He is currently Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney in the Diocese of Dublin. Canon Sloane is also Chancellor of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, a position he will retain, Secretary of the General Synod Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, a governor of St

Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School and of Rathdown School, Dublin, and a member of the Irish Inter-Church Committee. He is also chair of the Sunday School Society of Ireland.

Canon Sloane is originally from County Cavan. He is married to Karen and they have a one year old daughter, Evelyn.

Commenting on his appointment Canon Sloane said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity of becoming the next Rector & Dean of Limerick. I am very conscious of the great legacy built up there by previous Deans and as I hope to add to this, I am aware that I very privileged to be moving to the city at a very exciting time. St Mary's Cathedral is rooted in the ancient Christian heritage of the South West and next year marks the 850th anniversary of its foundation. Together with St Michael's and Abington they are all committed to serving the wider communities of the Diocese and City of Limerick. I look forward to getting to know the people of Limerick and my new colleagues, in particular, the Rev'd Edna Wakely who has been looking after the parish with great care and diligence."

Bishop Kearon writes: "I am delighted Canon Sloane has accepted this appointment. He brings a wide range of gifts and pastoral experience, and I look forward to working with him in both the parish and diocese. We all, look forward to welcoming Niall, Karen and Evelyn to Limerick."

He will be instituted as Rector of Limerick City Parish and installed as Dean of Limerick on Saturday 21st October at 3pm in St Mary's Cathedral.

Continued from page 17

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

I find myself beginning this column being very humbled and honoured that the Community Group received an Ambassador School award from the Cycle Against Suicide in recognition of all the hard work that goes into the positive promotion of mental health awareness that they do here in Villiers. This is the third year in a row that we have received this award so huge congratulations to all the gang involved.

Of course it's that the time of year that is all about new beginnings. We have said goodbye and a fond farewell to our previous 6th year cohort and wish them well in the future. We also welcome our new students into 1st year. There are always different views on the start of a new school year. Some will be looking forward to certain aspects but it's hard not to think that this is the end of the summer holidays and that next June seems a long way away. Others will have lots of ambitions and can't wait to get started. Finally, there are those who are facing the unknown. You're new to the school and haven't had a chance to develop friendships. Where will you fit in? Possibly, you're feeling a little anxious about each new situation you're going to face. How will the staff react to a newcomer? Who do I ask when I have a problem? Which of course is one of the reasons that the Sanctuary exists. The doors are always open for lost souls and people who just need a helping hand in finding their way.

Jesus told a story (Matthew 25.14-30) about three characters who had different attitudes to starting a new phase in their lives. In the story, a businessman was going to be away for a while, so he entrusted some of his wealth to his three servants. One of them was given a lot, another a smaller amount and the third was given a single portion. The first servant invested his share and made a huge profit. The second put his smaller share to work and made a modest profit. The third simply hid his share away. When the businessman returned, he was very pleased with the first two, who delivered their profits to him, but he was angry with the third servant, who had simply lazed around and not achieved anything. What does this have to do with us? We all have something to invest in this new school year. Some may appear to have been given more than others, such as academic ability, sporting

talent, a great singing voice, instrumental skill or team leadership. Nevertheless, everybody here starts the new school year with some ability, skill, gift or talent. No one starts empty-handed and what matters most is how we finish.

So, if you're looking back with regret that the summer's over, now is the time to start looking forward. You can't turn back the clock. If you're dreading what lies in front of you, make use of the support that's available in terms of staff, online resources, friends and family. If you're uncertain because everything's new, remember that we are all here to help you! We'll do our best to help you feel part of this community so that we can all work together towards a great year. Dear God, Thank you for new opportunities. Remind us of the resources that we have to start the year. May God bless you as you begin your time in Villiers, may Christ be your friend on the journey and may the Holy Spirit guide and inspire you. Amen.

Until next time,
Blessings and Peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair



Gearoid Folan, Maria Torres, Robyn Cleary and Grace Langley accepting the Ambassador School Award from the Cycle Against Suicide

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

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A memorial service was held on 2 September for Kurt Duschner who died in Germany while attending a family funeral, we continue to keep Ulrike in our prayers as she tries to continue the process of life without Kurt. "The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it. You will heal and you will rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same. Nor should you be the same nor would you want to." Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

A quiet day was arranged at Killaloe Cathedral on 9 September and some diocesan and parish readers attended the day conducted by The venerable Gary Hastings rector of Galway. The day opened new ways of being and praying for those who attended. It is hoped that more such days will be held in the cathedral for different groups within our dioceses. A big thank you goes to Gary for conducting the day.

We have also developed a prayer pilgrimage booklet for 12 points around the cathedral and we hope that visitors and parishioners alike would take the time to explore the cathedral prayerfully. Our thanks

to Jessica Brown who wrote the text for us. Jessica is an author of children's books and has been involved in spiritual direction. It is wonderful that Jessica and Simon with son Calder moved over from USA and are now part of the cathedral community and playing an active part in the life of the church.

Renowned Japanese pianist Yoko Ono perform the opening concert of this year's Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series, a great attendance on the first night of this season. This is the 12th edition of the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series. On Tuesday 26 September, the Cassiopeia Wind Quintet invites you to join them on a musical discovery of wind quintet masterworks. From the timeless serenity of one of Danzi's masterful quintets, to reflections of a more modern age, mirrored in the Six Bagatelles of Ligeti you can experience the power of the five diverse wind instruments. Tuesday 17 October sees Norway's internationally-renowned trumpet star Tine Thing Helseth brings her infectious enthusiasm to Castleconnell. She has commissioned new works from numerous composers and in the process has become recognised as one of the world's leading trumpet soloists. For this tour, she is accompanied by regular collaborator Gunnar Flagstad on piano.

October is the month when our harvest services will take place.

Mountshannon 01 October at 4pm

Killaloe Cathedral 15 October at 4pm

Clonlara Friday 20 October at 7.30pm

Tuamgraney 22 October at 4 pm

Stradbally Castleconnell 29 October at 4 pm



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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 Diane Dagg, Pamela Edge, Pam Reid, Tom Hayes, and baby Saoirse in our prayers.

CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences to John and Judy Craig, of Lorrha parish, and their family, on the death of their daughter Anna, on the 8th of September. Her funeral in Lorrha Church on the 14th of September was conducted by the Revd Ruth Gill, assisted by the Archdeacon. A moving tribute to Anna was given by her sister Alison. We keep the family in our prayers at this difficult time.

OPEN DOORS

The church in Birr was open every afternoon during both Birr Vintage Week and Heritage Week. A large number of visitors came through the doors and had a look around our beautiful building. Many thanks to Salters Sterling, who prepared a revised leaflet on the history of the church, and to all who came as 'church-sitters' while the doors were open.

CHORAL WEEKEND

On the weekend of the 8th-10th September, a number of our parishioners, members of the Birr Choral Society, attended a Choral Weekend held at Mount St Anne's Retreat Centre near Portarlinton. A variety of musical genres were explored during their time there, and the weekend concluded with a concert where works by Gilbert and Sullivan, Mozart, Byrd, Verdi, and Bizet, among others, were performed.

PARISH DANCE

The annual Parish Dance was held at Dooly's Hotel in Birr on Thursday, 14th September. Many thanks to organisers Willie and Phyllis Wolfe, the ticket-sellers, and those who helped on the night. Nearly €1000 was raised for the Church Repair Fund.



Frank and Chris Holloway Golden Wedding Anniversary

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The autumn of 1967 must have been a good time for weddings, and a good beginning for long-lasting marriages. Frank and Chris Holloway came to the service in Birr Church on Sunday, 10th September, where they were married exactly fifty years earlier. Billy

and Rachel Dagg celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on the 11th of September, and Henry and Violet Hardy celebrated theirs on the 16th of September. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

HARVEST SERVICES

Lorrha: Sunday, 1st Oct at 8:00 pm, Preacher: The Revd Charles McCartney

Birr: Friday, 6th Oct at 8:00 pm, Preacher: Bishop Michael Mayes

Dorrha: Sunday, 15th Oct at 3:30 pm, Preacher: Mr Paul Fitzpatrick

Lockeen: Sunday, 22nd Oct at 3:30 pm, Preacher: Mr Edward Hardy

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union Opening Service and meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th October at 8:00 pm in the Rectory

LORRHA FASHION SHOW

Keep the 14th of October free for a fabulous Fashion Show in aid of Lorrha Church window restoration. This will be held on Saturday 14th October at 8:00 pm in Lorrha GAA Complex, Moatfield (Complimentary cheese and wine at 7:30). Various stands and lots of up to the minute men's and ladies' fashion will be displayed by boutiques from Nenagh, Portumna, Loughrea and more. Tickets are €5 and will be available at the door or from committee members.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:

Christ Church Corbally 9.30 ;

St. Cronan's 10.45;

St. Burchin Bourney. 12. noon.

St. Molua Kyle (12. noon 1st and 3rd. only)

Fifth Sunday United Service with our Methodist Friends. This service of Morning Prayer followed by an 'indoor' picnic took place in Christ Church Corbally. It was a pleasure to welcome Revd. Shannon Deloreal with Doug and Brennan on their first visit to Corbally. Many people remarked again, how pleasant it is to worship together. Indeed it was wonderful to see and hear a church full of people worshipping God. Many thanks to those who provided refreshments afterwards. The next fifth Sunday is in the Methodist Church Roscrea on October 29th. ... the day summer time ends!

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH TOWER

Building works are evident by the scaffolding layers in place, about 3 or 4 more levels should see the necessary height being reached to allow repairs to the pinnacles to begin. We are hoping that frost will not interrupt the pace of the job. Once again, great care should be exercised by everyone while the scaffolding is in place. This is particularly important when there are children around about, who love to investigate and who are naturally curious. The limited car parking should be made available for those who find it difficult to walk for any length of time.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

St. Cronan's Church Sunday October 1st at 3.30 pm. Preacher Revd. Rob Smyth rector of Nenagh Union of Parishes.

St. Burchin's Bourney Sunday October 8th. at 3.30pm Preacher Revd. Shannon Deloreal Minister of North Tipperary Methodist Circuit.

Christ Church Corbally Sunday October 15th. at 4.30 Preacher Revd. James Mulhall Dioceses of Cashel Ferns and Ossory.

HEALER PRAYER next service St.Luke's Day, October 18th.at 2.30 in St.Cronan's Church. Names of those who wish our prayers can be given to Margaret Connor. We ask the prayers of all who are reading, for Neville Atkinson and his wife Lynne and son Ben and for our healer prayer stalwart members Roseleen and Wilfrid Moloney.

HURRICANE HARVEY Friend of Roscrea and of St.Cronan's Stacy O'Neal Pannell writes of the mutiple overwhelms the hurricane affects, emotionally, physically and mentally. While Stacy's property is severely damaged, the area having suffered three and a half feet of rain in two days, she reports no flooding.

Her friends have lost homes, businesses and cars. No-one as slept for days with constant alerts coming over the phone warning of flash floods and tornados.

Stacy's parents Mr. and Mrs.O'Neal report only minimal damage, while her daughter has been involved in at least thirty seven rescues involving hundreds of people. All this goes on amidst the other traumas that affect life and make those traumas much more difficult to deal with.

Stacy asks our prayers in relation to the extreme fatigue, loss and fear suffered by everyone. She finds people are also readily praising God for their blessings. We join with the churches everywhere in Texas and now Florida praying for the recovery of everyone concerned.

NEW DEAN FOR ST.MARY'S CATHEDRAL LIMERICK We offer are prayerful good wishes to Revd. Niall Sloan presently rector of Holy Trinity Parish, Killiney, Dublin and to everyone in Limerick City Parish on the approach of what promises to be a new and exciting chapter all round, particularly for Revd. Niall's wife Karen and baby daughter Evelyn.

NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE FOR CLONFERT GROUP OF PARISHES. We offer our best wishes to Revd. Charles McCartney. Revd. McCartney grew up in St Elizabeth's Parish Dundonald, Belfast and is already in situ in his new rectory.

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 OCTOBER

1st October

7pm Templederry Parish Church Harvest Festival – speaker Mr Andrew Coleman , Christian Aid

8th October

9.30am Templederry Parish Church Eucharist – Celebrant the Rector, preacher Mr Joc Sanders

11am St Mary's Nenagh Morning Prayer – Mr Joc Sanders

12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church Morning Prayer – Mr Joc Sanders

15th October

11am St Mary's, Nenagh United Family Harvest Festival – preacher Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Director Church of Ireland Theological Institute

22nd October

9.30am Templederry Parish Church Morning Prayer – the Rector

11am St Mary's, Nenagh Eucharist – celebrant and preacher – the Rector

12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church Eucharist – celebrant and preacher – the Rector

29th October

11am St Mary's, Nenagh Service of wholeness and healing with the laying on of hands and anointing – celebrant and preacher – the Rector

The Harvest Festival Thanksgiving at Killodiernan Parish Church was held on Sunday 24th September, when the speaker was Jane Burns, Church and Community Office, Christian Aid. Jane spoke very movingly about the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal to help farmers in Malawi. The children of the Parish presented harvest gifts to be blessed and took up the collection at the service.

A short service was held in St Mary's to mark the beginning of the new school year at St Mary's No 2 National School. There were favourite hymns and songs including a song performed by the children entitled, 'As One.' Pupils' fears and frustrations, and dreams and hopes were read aloud and then the cards on which they were written were placed on the altar as the children said, 'we pledge to hold each other up to your love.' The Rector gave a short talk about new beginnings and fresh starts, complete with power point, and led the intercessions. After the blessing, the pupils and congregation sang, 'This little light of mine.'



Music makers from St Mary's No 2 National School at the School Service in St Mary's Church.

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Children from St Mary's No 2 National School who took part in a beginning of school year service in St Mary's Parish Church, Nenagh on Friday 15th September.

Following a sermon some weeks ago which included a section asking; 'What can we do?' – the Union has now embarked on a commitment to support the work of the Mid-West Simon Community foodbank on an on-going basis, reflecting the words of Francis of Assisi, 'Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.'

It was with great sadness that the Union learned of the death of William Ivan Wallace, fondly remembered in the Union as 'Willie,' in the early hours of Saturday 9th September. Willie passed away after a short time in Ashlawn Nursing Home. St Mary's was full to capacity for the funeral service on Tuesday 12th September, a fitting tribute to a much-loved parishioner. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family circle, especially Edgar, Maud, Yvonne and Norman and Donald and Sinead.

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

The Diocesan G.F.S. Camp took place over the weekend 23rd-25th June, 2017. Fifteen girls and five leaders from our parish attended and stayed at The Faith Mission Centre, near Bandon, Co.Cork.

On Friday evening we had our camp talk, a craft activity and a fire drill. A shopping trip to Wilton Shopping Centre (near Cork city) proved most enjoyable on Saturday morning. After lunch we visited The West Cork Secret (near Kilbrittain) for a range of outdoor activities which were a great hit. Activities included orienteering, a huge water slide, obstacle courses, games and team activities: lots of fun and plenty of muddy water! Hot showers were followed by tasty pizzas. We went back to the centre for craft and later our midnight feasts.

On Sunday we attended a service of Morning Prayer in St. Peter's Church, Bandon and were kindly treated to refreshments afterwards. We had prize giving after dinner at the centre.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had by all.

G.F.S. resumed on Wednesday, 13th September with an Ice-cream Party. New members are welcome.

The Diocesan Youth Group met at St Kieran's Hall on the 9th of September for a Car Treasure Hunt, BBQ and Disco. It was well attended and supported by both parents and children, who enjoyed the Treasure Hunt and BBQ, with the children enjoying the Disco.

We hope to host more of these events in the future as, so I heard, St Kieran's was always very well known for its Disco's.

Ireland's biggest Coffee Morning for Hospice was held on the 14th of September. In support of this fund-raiser Ann and Averil Clarke hosted a Coffee Morning at Knockshegowna View, Lissadonna Cross in Ballingarry. The money raised was forwarded to the North Tipperary Hospice.

Thank you also to Sylvia Armitage for organising an afternoon Tea and Flower Arranging demonstration in aid of the Billy Goulding Recovery Fund. Everyone involved was extremely generous as 2230 euros was raised for the fund.

Congratulations to John and Grace Healy of Rathmoyle in Moneygall who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the County Arms Hotel in Birr on the 17th of September.

A Musical Culture Night was held in St Kieran's Hall on the 22nd of September, between 6:00 and 11:00pm. The event was free and part of the National Culture Night. It included a number of workshops, the BIG SING and a range of musical performances showcasing some of Cloughjordan's talented young musicians and singers. The event is supported by the Tipperary County Council Arts Office.

The Borrisokane Whist Drive will meet in the Hall on the 2nd of October, beginning at 8:15pm. All are welcome to attend.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

Templeharry-24th September at 8:00pm

Ballingarry-1st October at 8:00pm

Cloughjordan-8th October at 8:00pm

Borrisokane-15th October at 11:30am

Borrisnafarney-27th October at 8:00pm.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (On sick leave)

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

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

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The service in Kinnitty was held on the 8th September. The church and grounds are in good condition now, clean and bright after extensive work and decoration. The service was well attended and it was good to welcome Fr. Michael O'Meara and members of his congregation too. During the service, Bishop Kenneth rededicated the church. In his sermon he recounted how extremes of weather are affecting the harvest in other parts of the world. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.



Billy Jackson running the mouse races

Aghancon harvest on the 17th September was a joyful occasion in the beautiful setting of the surrounding countryside. The church was decorated in shades of autumn, bright and colourful. Many thanks to Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney for her thoughtful sermon.

The harvest in Dunkerrin will be held on the 1st October at 3.30 p.m., when Mrs. Audrey Clarke Gordon will be the preacher.

Shinrone Harvest Festival will be held on the 15th October with Mr. Charlie Wallace coming to give the sermon.

AGHANCON

Members of the parish and friends were involved in the Old Time Threshing in the Black Bull, Sharavogue. It was a fine day and a good crowd turned up to enter into the spirit of the day. Congratulations to Ina and Leslie Blackwell who were declared Lord and Lady Blackwater and diligently discharged their duties in fine style! It was nice to see previous rector, Arthur Minion in attendance as Susan was there to do dog judging.

The Table Quiz on the 15th September will also have taken place. The results of the Ina's quiz will be announced in the next issue of Newslink.



Lord and Lady Blackwater (aka Leslie and Ina Blackwell) at the Black Bull Threshing Festival

PASTORAL

The whole community has been shocked to hear of the tragic accident which happened to Neville Atkinson. His son Ben suffered minor injuries and thankfully is recovering. Neville, Lynn and Ben and all their relatives are in the thoughts and prayers of so many.

Mrs. Betty Ardill passed away peacefully at home on the 30th August at the age of 93. Her funeral was held in Aghancon on the 2nd September where the Revd. Janet White Spinner preached the sermon and shared her memories of a woman who had led a contented life. Sincere sympathy is extended to Betty's husband Bob and to her relatives, John and Jackie McBryde, nieces and nephews, her friend Betty Whitten and to her home helps and carers who did so much to ensure she could remain at home.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a memorial service for the late Heather Sharma (née Murray) in Shinrone Church on the 22nd October at 2 p.m. Heather was sister to Archdeacon John Murray.

SHINRONE

There's a cup of tea/coffee in Cloughmoyle School every Thursday morning from around 11.15. It's a great opportunity to meet up and have a chat – if you haven't given it a try, do come!

THE OFFALY GOOD VARIETY SHOW!

A Variety Show is being planned for Saturday, 25th November in St. Mary's Church, Shinrone, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets €5 with proceeds going to Palliative Care and towards the cost of repainting the church. You think you've seen it all? – you ain't seen nothin' yet! Do come and join in the fun.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

HARVESTS

A fascinating link in our spiritual past between the Middle East and the early Irish Church continues to absorb the attention of a growing fellowship of Christians and Interested scholars and students. One of these is Mr Alf Monaghan, retired Irish Government Advisor to places like Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, who recently gave his second successive annual lecture at the Clonmacnois Summer School.

This now passionate "amateur" academic who is carving his own route of research and study is the guest speaker at the ecumenical Harvest Thanksgiving for Ennis Town, at St Columba's, Drumcliffe on Friday 13th October at 7.30pm. A keen Christian, Alf and his wife Mary continue to keep their links with the Middle East and the Coptic world which, of course, helped shape early Celtic Christianity.

Finding ancient Irish manuscripts and memorabilia in remote Eastern churches and monasteries only helps to enhance his appetite for discovery. His latest offering to a packed Clonmacnois audience was entitled: "How the Cross became Christian then Irish", illustrated powerfully with a myriad of graphics linked with the True Cross.

Choral support will as ever come from the choristers of Ennis Cathedral led by Mr Michael Hennessy.

The Rector is grateful to Canon Jane Galbraith, Rector of Roscrea, and Diocesan Representative on the Children's Ministry Network for consenting to lead Family Harvest in Drumcliffe, on Sunday 15th October.

Guest preacher at Kilnasoolagh Harvest on Sunday October 8th is Fr Ger Nash, Administrator of the Diocese of Killaloe, who has ministered widely in the Clare area. Time is 4.30pm.

BAPTISMS

It is a joyful addition to have a new family join St Columba's Church. The Lamina family are from Nigeria originally and are settled in the Drumbiggle side of Ennis. Mother Funke is Christian and husband Wale is Muslim by background. Three of their children will be baptised in St Columba's on Sunday October 1st. They are Tife, aged 7, and twin sisters Seyifummi and Semilore, aged 5.

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 mourn the death of Josephine Sheppard, of Ardrahan Church. Her funeral service was held in Shannon Crematorium on September 13th. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones.

Congratulations to Violet Walshe of St John's parish, who celebrated her 97th birthday on September 5th.



Violet Walshe celebrating her 97th birthday with her family, Alison and Cyril Galbraith.

Aughrim Active Retirement celebrated their 10th anniversary by launching a commemorative booklet in Valerie's Pub, Aughrim on September 8th. The rector joined Bishop John Kirby, Cathaoirleach Eileen Mannion, Heritage Officer Marie Mannion and national representatives of the Active Retirement movement in congratulating the local members for the life, joy and fellowship which their work has brought to the local community.



Aughrim Active Retirement

On Tuesday 19th September, St John's Church Ballinasloe hosted a special service celebrating thirteen decades of the Mother's Union's love a service in Ireland. The address was given by Mrs

Lucy Kavanagh, the Mother's Union Diocesan President. During the service 130 gifts, including blankets, baby bonnets, hospital bags and hampers, were offered by St John's Mother's Union to a range of local charities, including Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe Social Services, East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support, and Esker House women's refuge. A collection was also taken up in aid of the Mother's Union overseas fund.

For more than twenty years, Oak House has been a group of committed Christians, firmly rooted in their respective traditions and dedicated to the ministry of Jesus Christ, as expressed in prayer, healing and reconciliation. That same ecumenical spirit was celebrated once more at their annual reunion on September 16th in the Cistercian guesthouse in Roscrea, led by Father Gerard McCarthy SVD. We wish them every continued blessing in their shared ministry and witness.

On September 21st, the rector was in attendance at a special open day of the Ballinasloe Training Workshop, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the facility.

On Thursday 28th September Portiuncula Hospital held a special remembrance service in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe. The service (led by the hospital chaplains and staff) honoured by name each of the people who died in the hospital from January to June this year.

HEALING SERVICE

Following useful feedback, our monthly ecumenical healing service is moving to a new time slot, to make it possible for a wider group of people to take part. Starting on Tuesday 3rd October, the service will now be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3pm, in St John's Church Ballinasloe.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth Kearon will lead a service of Confirmation on Sunday 15th October at 11am in St John's Ballinasloe. Our thoughts and prayers are with the young people from our different churches who are preparing to make that important step in their journey of faith. The whole parish family is warmly invited to show their support for them by coming together for that united service.

UNITED SERVICE

Woodlawn Church will host our united 5th Sunday service on October 29th at 11am. Don't forget to turn the clocks back!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

St Matthew's Church, Clontuskert (Glan) held their harvest thanksgiving service and supper on Sunday 24th September at 3.30pm. Father Raymond Sweeney (Ballymacward and Gurteen Parish) was the guest preacher at the harvest service in Woodlawn Church, at 7.30pm on Friday 29th September. Sincere thanks to all who did so much to decorate our churches, to enliven our worship, and to welcome our neighbours so warmly.

There will be a family harvest service in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim, on Sunday 8th October at 11.30am.

Father Joseph Roche (Labane Parish) will be the guest preacher at the harvest thanksgiving service in Ardrahan Church on Friday 20th October at 7.30pm.

St Catherine's Church, Ahascragh, will host a harvest thanksgiving service on Friday 27th October at 7.30pm.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney

St Paul's Rectory, Banagher, Co. Offaly

Email: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

Editor: The Newslink Team heartily welcome Rev Charles McCartney to the United Dioceses, and look forward to seeing his notes in our columns.

By the time you read these notes Reverend Charles McCartney will have been welcomed to the Parish as the Priest-in-Charge. Charles will be in living in the Rectory with his wife, Cecilia. As I write these notes I know the Parish is preparing the warmest of welcomes to them both.

Before I go I would like to give my sincere thanks, in true hierarchical fashion, to Bishop Kenneth for his care of the Parish and for bringing Charles to be its resident priest. To Archdeacon Carney for his many kind attentions and Canon Ruth Gill for being an excellent Rural Dean as well as a good friend. Special thanks for the enormous hard work and concern for the parish given by our brilliant Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Yvonne Blennerhassett.

The Diocesan Council has given much time in their deliberations over the Parish and without them we would not be having Charles with them today. Thank you to many clergy of the present but also of the past who have been most gracious in their support and friendship. Gracious too and long suffering has been Joc and Debbie at Newslink who have made space to record news and events of the Parish for the lively and well-polished magazine.

Then within the Parish there are, as always, those whose thoughtful words and deeds are the guardians of the golden key which opens the door not just to the individual churches in our group but indeed to the Palace of Eternity. I am so grateful to them: churchwardens, treasurers, organists, secretaries, flower arrangers, maintainers of buildings and churchyards, Service Readers, lectern readers, record keepers and those whose smiles, and sometimes tears of sadness, minister to others; so important too are prayers, privately said and liturgically led. Through this most kind hearted parish family we, of all ages and races, are led to that great gift of Abundant Life.

Thank you all for allowing me to minister to you over these last years. And thank you for giving me the freedom and opportunity to do so, in what you might say, is "his way".

Reverend Charles will be announcing the Services for the coming months. I listed the Harvest Services in last month's Newslink. They may well stand but if in doubt do check with a friend in the parish to make sure the times have not changed.

I know Arnold Schwarzenegger has a neat way of signing off but I alas do not have the frame to go with his style, so I will simply say "Good-bye and God bless."

Patrick.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Very Rev Niall Sloane (from 21st October)

Mob: 086 828 8579, Email: niallsloane@hotmail.com

Priest-in-charge: Rev Edna Wakely (until 21st October)

50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061 302 038, Mob: 086 357 4917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS -

27th August - Joe Allen - Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to John and Geraldine Allen on the tragic loss of their son, Joe. We also remember Joe's sister, Laura, his aunt, Noreen Johnston, and all the family, as they grieve for Joe. Please remember them all in your prayers.

GOOD WISHES to Lindy Farmer who has moved to Dublin following her retirement from LIT. Lindy has attended St. Michael's for many years, as did her daughters Sarah and Rachel when they were children. We wish Lindy health and happiness as she settles back in her native city.

ABINGTON HARVEST THANKSGIVING took place on the afternoon of Sunday 10th September. Rev. Edna Wakely was unable to be with us so David McBurnie conducted the Service and Frances Moore played the harmonium as the congregation sang some favourite harvest hymns. Rev. Father Brennan P.P., Murroe, blessed the harvest gifts and gave the blessing at the end of the Service and the Abbot of Glenstal (Rev. Father Brendan O.S.B.) preached a most appropriate sermon on gratitude. He concluded the sermon by asking the congregation to imagine what a difference it would make if, as we reached the end of our days, we could turn to those around us and say "I am so happy and grateful to have lived my life." Food for thought indeed. After the Service the fellowship continued as the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the Parish Room. This year, as well as the usual sandwiches and cakes, cups of soup were enjoyed with chunks of the harvest loaf. It was a happy, joyful occasion and appreciated all the more in retrospect when the rain bucketed down later in the evening.

MOTHERS' UNION Members and friends from branches throughout the diocese enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on Saturday 16th September in the cathedral singing favourite hymns at the special Songs of Praise Service to celebrate 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland. Together with some background information about the hymns - which had been chosen by members - we heard of the amazing work being done by Mothers' Union members here in Ireland and throughout the world. Our warm thanks to Peter Barley who played the organ and to Noreen Ellerker whose help was invaluable.

40 THOMAS ST
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Limerick

Our next event will be a Harvest Supper in Richmond Terrace on Monday 9th October, starting at 7.30pm. This is our annual fund-raising event for the work of Mothers' Union Overseas when we join with members from Adare and Askeaton branches. There will be a charge of €10 per person. As always, non-members are most welcome to come along. Names please to either Bev Callender (087 9091303) or Lucy Kavanagh (087 2078850) by Wednesday 4th October.

OPEN HOUSE LIMERICK - On Saturday 7th October, from 12 noon until 2 p.m., St. Michael's Church, Pery Square, will be open to the public as part of Open House Limerick - A Gothic Tale. St. Michael's was built in 1844 by the architect James Pain followed later by William Fogarty. It is a very important church as it is the only one left in Limerick which is still working, built in the Late Georgian Gothic Revival Style.

WHIST DRIVES - Villiers Square - Saturday 7th October.
St. Michael's Church - Saturday 14th October.
All take place at 7.30 p.m. Admission €6 to include supper.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN LCP
The Last of the Harvest Thanksgiving services will take place in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 15th October at 10am. We are looking forward to the children of St. Michael's School joining us. Refreshments will be served after the service.

INSTALLATION

We are looking forward to welcoming Canon Niall Sloane at his institution as Rector of Limerick City Parish and installation as Dean of Limerick on Saturday, 21st October at 3 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral. The reception after the service will be held in the Cathedral. A warm welcome is also extended to his wife Karen and their daughter, Evelyn.

COMBINED EUCHARIST Service will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral on 29th October. These services allow parishioners from our three churches to get to know one another better, and are important for building fellowship and friendship.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday 25th November. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves, books, bottles, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac (no electrical). Please keep us in mind when "Spring cleaning" your house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods and will take them off your hands anytime.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL LUNCHTIME CONCERTS: Time: 1.15 p.m.
Wednesday 11th October - Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)
Wednesday 25th October - Flautist Katie Baseman and friends - Chamber music for strings and wind by Mozart
Wednesday 8th November - Academos (Irish World Academy Strings) - Iconic Octets by Mendelssohn and Shostakovich

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

WEDDING

On Saturday, 9 September, Tom Spencer and Naomi Panter were married at St. Nicholas Church, Adare, by the Rev. Liz Beasley, Rector. It was a joyous celebration with about 90 people in attendance. The bride attended St. Nicholas N.S. as a child and came back from her current home in England to be married here.

NEW ORGANIST

St. Nicholas, Adare, has been blessed with a new organist. Linda Walls, an American visiting the Limerick area through the end of

November, has volunteered to play the organ any Sunday that she is in town. The congregation has been delighted. Linda is a professional organist, having played both for churches in the States and also for some of America's most demanding audiences at The Greenbrier, a resort in West Virginia.



Linda Walls at the keys of St Nicholas' organ.

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENSONG'

As the September installment of our "Second Friday" events, which we started during the summer, we had an Evensong in Kilpeacon on Friday, 8 September. It was an Evensong with a difference: this one was focused on the theme of "Back to School." We polled Sunday School children before the children to find out their favourite songs and then incorporated those into the service. (Some had hand motions, which the children led the adults through.) The readings were Scripture passages focused on learning, and prayers asked for God's blessings on our students, teachers, and parents, as well as on all of us, who are constantly learning during our lives.

Plans are underway for upcoming Second Friday events, which are generally planned to be either a social activity or a special worship service.

HARVEST DATES

Harvest time is upon us. Below is our Harvest schedule:
Friday, 29 September, 7.00pm - Harvest Festival in Adare, with St. Nicholas National School. The Rev. Canon Patrick Comerford will be the preacher. An auction of the offerings presented will be held afterward in the Parish Hall, with the proceeds going toward a charity.
Sunday, 8 October, 10.30am - Harvest Festival in Croom, with Bishop Kenneth Kearon presiding and preaching. This is a joint service of Adare, Croom, and Kilpeacon. Those parishes will be closed on that Sunday.
Sunday, 22 October, 3.00pm (tentative) - Harvest Festival in Kilmallock, with refreshments afterwards. The preacher will be the Rev. Tom Sherlock.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER:

1 October: 9.30, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton (Holy Communion); 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Morning Prayer).
8 October: 9.30, Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Pallaskenry (Holy Communion); 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale (Morning Prayer).

Ardfert Diocese

15 October: 9.30, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Holy Communion).
22 October: 9.30, Castletown (Morning Prayer); 11.30, Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Holy Communion).
29 October: 11 a.m., Holy Trinity, Rathkeale (Holy Communion).

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

Friday 6 October: 8 p.m., The Harvest Thanksgiving Service in this Group of Parishes takes place in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton. This year's preacher is the Revd Father Seán Ó Longaigh, Parish Priest of Askeaton and Ballysteen. Father Seán brings a wealth of experience in ministry, including chaplaincy and counselling and four years of mission experience in West Africa.

Monday 9 October: 8 p.m., Harvest Service in Ballingrane Methodist Church; preacher: Canon Patrick Comerford.

SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS:

Tuesday 17 October, 7.30 p.m., Askeaton and Castletown vestries, the Rectory; Thursday 18 October, 7.30 p.m., Rathkeale Vestry, the Rectory

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Amy and Damian Shorten on the birth of baby Arthur James Shorten on 12 September 2017, weighing 7 lb 4 oz. He and Amy are doing well.

And congratulations too to Fiona Noonan-Taylor and Claire Noonan from the West Limerick Physio Clinic in Newcastle West who recently graduated on the same day at the University of Limerick with degrees of Master of Science in Advanced Healthcare Practice.



Fiona Noonan-Taylor and Claire Noonan recently graduated on the same day at the University of Limerick with degrees of Master of Science in Advanced Healthcare Practice

TARBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Patrick Comerford has been invited to speak at monthly lecture at Tarbert Historical and Heritage Society on Saturday 14 October. He is speaking at 7.30 p.m. in the Bridewell, Tarbert, on 'The Revd Sir William Augustus Wolseley (1865-1950), an exceptional curate in Kilnaughtin and Aughavallin.'

RECENT HOSPITAL VISITORS:

A number of parishioners have been in hospital please pray for their health and those who care for them.

DIOCESAN CLERGY CONFERENCE:

Patrick is taking part in the annual clergy conference in Galway on 11-13 October.

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: stjohns.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

HEALER PRAYER GROUP: The healer group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 8.00pm in Teach an tSolais. The names of those who have asked for prayer will be remembered. Books where names can be entered are provided in each church. All are welcome to this short service Which is followed by light refreshments and further fellowship.

MARAQUITA BLENNERHASSETT: Maraquita departed this life on the morning of the 20th August and her removal and funeral services took place in St John's, Ashe Street on the 23rd and the 24th August, followed by burial in Ballyseedy Churchyard. The large crowds that attended were a reflection of the esteem in which she was held in the parish and in the community. She will be greatly missed by the parish which she served so well as a member of the ministry team, and by her friends who knew her so well and enjoyed her company. We extend our sympathy to her sister Patience and to her brothers Frank and Godfrey and their families at this sad time.

SABINA HICK: Sabina late of Ventry, Dingle passed away in the first week of September, her funeral service was held in St. James' Church, Dingle on Wednesday 6th September followed by burial beside her late husband Joe in Ventry Cemetery. We offer our prayers and sympathy to her daughters, Mary, Jacqueline, Beatrice, Catriona, Sarah, Joanne and Heather, sisters Marguerite and Sr. Ann Coyle, brothers Tom and Michael, grandchildren, sons-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to Winnie and Patrick Knightly and their children Samantha, Natasha and Christopher on the death of Patrick's mother, Ann Knightly on 29th August. Her funeral service took place in St. Gertrude's Church, Firies, on Friday 1st. September.

YOUTH CLUB: The youth club will recommence again in October and will meet monthly. Membership is open to all those who have been confirmed up to and including all those who were fifteen this year. Gerhardt and the Rev Jim will coordinate the youth club and we would like parents to get involved as well with us. Times and dates will be announced in Church or through the Newsletter. Please encourage our young people to get involved.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING:

Three services are planned for the parish during the month of October.

- The first will be in St John's, Tralee on the 1st October at 10.45. The preacher will be the Rev Fr Donal O'Connor, who is the Chaplain at the IT in Tralee. The Children from the school will take part and it is hoped to have refreshments in Teach and tSolais after the service. This will be a united service.

- The second will be The Kilgobbin Ecumenical Harvest Thanksgiving which will include the Dingle congregation, as well as Father Jerry Keane and friends from St. Mary's RC Church, Camp at 3.00pm on Sunday 1st October, This will be followed by tea and fellowship in the Old School Rooms.
- Ballyseedy and Ballymacelligott Harvest thanksgiving will be held on the 15th October in Ballymacelligott Church at 11am, This will be a united service for the whole parish.

BAPTISM: Paul and Lynsey Graham brought their son Cian to St John's for baptism. The Graham family live in the UK. Cian's grandmother Dora lives in Tralee and the family wished to have their son baptized in The Kingdom.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION: An ecumenical service to mark and celebrate the week of prayer for the care of creation was held in the Town Park in Tralee on Friday 1st September. This was organised by Sylvia Thompson of the Diocese of Kerry and it was lovely to be involved. The Town Park is a beautiful space and an ideal place to give thanks for the beauty of creation. Margaret Groves took part in the liturgy.

TWO FURTHER EVENTS: Tuesday 12th September 'Reducing Food Waste and Composting', was led by Donal O'Leary in John Paul II Centre, Killarney. And on Thursday 28th September, 'Being Creative with Leftovers' a cooking demonstration with Mark Doe, was held in St. Brendan's Parish Centre, Tralee, at 8.00pm.

EDUCATION: Congratulations to everyone who has moved on to the next stage of their educational journey, whether starting Primary School, Secondary School, PLC, FAS, or College. We wish them, their parents and teachers every blessing as they settle down into the new school year.

BIRTHS: Congratulations to George and Kathleen Poff on the birth of their new grandson, baby George!
Congratulations also to Joanna Martin and Patrick O'Donnell on the birth of their son Oisín
Best wishes to all the families at this happy time.

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL:

The annual Harvest Service took place on Sunday October 1st and as always St Mary's looked very impressive. Sincere thanks to all who put in such an effort annually to ensure that everything looks so well.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Following on from the September Select Vestry meeting we are currently considering our options for re-commencing Sunday School for the children of the parish. With Lynda on a sabbatical we are short of teachers and being cognisant of the Safeguarding requirements for two people at all times we will need more help. If anyone has further suggestions or wishes to nominate themselves for training, please contact Rev. Simon.

SELECT VESTRY:

Is there any institution in the world comparable to the Church of Ireland Select Vestry? In parishes across the land stress levels can rise to inconceivable heights – and often over very minor decisions which need to be made. Sometimes issues can become so divisive that legacy issues arise between parishioners which can take years

or even generations to overcome. This is not a healthy way for parishes to operate as, by their nature, decisions taken at Select Vestry level have long-lasting impacts and whereas unanimity of opinion in decision taking is not always possible, consensus and compromise should be the order of the day.

Occasionally big issues need to be decided and we had a few such issues at the September meeting. For Newslink readers it is not important to know what those issues were, but it became obvious very early on that there was a polarisation of opposite views. Thankfully the members of St Mary's Select Vestry are a mature lot and critical decisions were made which have a long-term impact on the future of the church. To a degree this involved a bit of "backing down" and an openness to finding resolutions. In my opinion "backing down" is not a sign of weakness, but of maturity. Too many people in the modern world refuse to compromise their position and the world is a poorer place for that.

I'm delighted to say that an openness to listening to others opinions has won the day in St Mary's and we move forward together. The reason for the foregoing is to highlight the work done at parish level across the diocese and to illustrate how grateful we should all be that we have so many "ordinary" people wishing to serve for the betterment of our churches. Years ago, when I was a young man who thought he knew everything, my dad took me aside one day and said "you've a pair of ears young fellah, but only one mouth; learn to use them in proportion". By listening to others we are all open to influence and having the ability to change our minds and that is as it should be.

On behalf of every member of the Church of Ireland in our diocese, can I offer a sincere thank you to everyone who serves on any forum which contributes to the sustainable future of our churches. We are sincerely grateful for your efforts, even if we don't always verbalise that sentiment!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

St Michael's, Iveragh Road, Killorglin

Et St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.

Vacant.

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Simon Lumby,
Mob 086 8703997 Et 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 Et 4th Sundays in both churches,

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

We are looking forward to a variety of preachers coming to us and we are thankful for them all.

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

THE REV ROMAN ROLDAN www.gracechurchwfp.org

You know from previous issues that the Rev Roman was here with us during the summer on a sabbatical from his parish in Louisiana. Watching the news these days it seems that the hurricanes that are doing untold damage in the Caribbean Et regions of the southern states of north America are getting close to his home town, we are not aware that his Parish has been affected yet.

CHANGES IN SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS:-

The congregation in St Carthage Church in Castlemaine have agreed to move their Holy Communion service during the vacancy to the 2nd & 4th Sundays in order to make it easier for the Clergy who are coming here to administer Holy Communion, which will take place in both churches on the same Sundays.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING:-

This service will take place in St Michael's Church in Killorglin as a combined service for both Churches on 1st Oct at 11am. We hope to have our National School, Our Sunday School and the Killorglin Mens' Social Club Choir all involved to make it a Harvest Thanksgiving for Skills as well as for the produce of the land. The Rev Joe Hardy has accepted an invitation to preach for us.

ANNUAL SALE OF WORK:-

This very successful event takes place this year in Killorglin CYMS Hall on Sat 28th Oct beginning at 1pm.

WELCOME:-

St Michael's in Killorglin is open every day for a period of peace and quiet prayer during the week and our 11am service on Sunday is 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

Across the evening sky, all the birds are leaving. But how can they know it's time for them to go?

The tourists are mostly gone – it's possible to park in town again – the Barbeque sets are half price in Lidl – here comes the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. But that doesn't mean that the shutters are closing, and the churches quiet until the Songs of Springtime come.



Pat and Robin's Teddy

As we do, we went down to the woods on September 10th in St Patricks, and about thirty teddy bears invited us for their annual Teddy Bear Service and Picnic. Patsy Devoy, MU President of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocese brought husband Robert and her own Teddy to join us and talked about how Jesus is always alongside us, even when we're miserable, and how He can always bring a smile back to our faces. There were a couple of late-season coach-tour stragglers, actually – you could tell they were visitors by their somewhat bemused look, but once given a

tambourine or bodhran, they soon got into the Holy Spirit of things. And just to make the point, although we clapped and looked happy, no-one walked out to search for a sermon in the style of Amos Starkadder instead.

We took a couple of nice pictures of the Teddies and their friends, but unfortunately the Revd. Grumpy pressed the wrong button and deleted them all – so instead this is a picture of Pat & Robin's Teddy, who offers an all-year round welcome to St Patrick. If you're ever passing, come and say hello.

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 evening, as the monthly Ecumenical service in Charville resumed after the summer break, we sang that wonderful hymn of praise by Thomas Chisholm, 'Great is Thy faithfulness'. As we sang those words I was reminded not only of the faithfulness of God but also of His greatness. He, our Creator, our King, our Saviour, our Lord, our Master, our ... etc., He is great in everything. Whatever way we turn, whatever aspect of His character we dwell on, whatever is happening in our lives, He IS great. His love for us surpassing anything and everything we can imagine.

Does it sound like I am struggling for words? I am! I can't properly put into words what God has meant to me in past trials and joys, what He continues to mean to me today, and what He will mean to me in the future. As the leaves continue to change colour, as we continue to celebrate our harvest thankfulness let our hearts whisper, shout, & sing praise to God for His greatness, His faithfulness, His love, His ... etc.!!!

Thank You Lord God, You are GREAT.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER:

1st	Rev. Ruth Watt	Services of Holy Communion
8th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Ballingrane Harvestcelebration for the family @ 11am.
9th	Canon Patrick Comerford	Ballingrane HarvestCelebration followed by Supper and Auction. Special music provided by Cappagh Choir.
14th	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	Saturday evening service @ 8pm in Ballingrane
15th	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	Sunday morning service @ 11am in Adare
22th	Rev. Ruth Watt	
29th	Rev. Britt Gilmore	United service in Adare @ 11am followed by a congregational lunch with our friends from Knock Methodist Church (Belfast).

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



Kim

We'd like to say a big 'thank you' to Kim for the two years she worked with us in CB1. Kim, with Sarah, started Knitters 4 Life which is going strong in CB1 every Monday and Tuesday and has just had its first exhibition. Kim has headed off to spend more time with her family in the UK and we will miss her wonderful way with people, her real joyfulness and her missional spirit. We wish her every blessing in this new stage of her journey. See www.facebook.com/Knitters4Life.

LIMERICK

Sunday Service 11.30am
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Family Service 3rd Sunday
Sunday School/Youth Group 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
'Last Thursday' informal worship – each month 8pm –
UL Contemplative Centre
Prayer before Sunday Service 11am – Upper Room
Youth Group Monday 7.30pm
Music Group – Friday evening 7.30pm
Bible Study group Wednesday 3.30 & 7pm –Meeting Room
Brazilian Worship (Portuguese & English) Sunday 7pm
CB1 open Monday to Friday 11am – 5pm
'Knitters 4 Life' CB1 Monday and Tuesday mornings – all welcome
Community Art Group begins Tuesday 2-4pm – all welcome

A poem from Eddie Askew for all who express their faith in mission

*Not always easy, Lord
to balance my loyalty to you
with all the pressures of daily life.
I feel I'm on a tightrope, Lord
and fighting to maintain my equilibrium.*

*It's hard at times
to stand up for the truth,
refuse to make the little compromises
other folk expect,
cut corners, ease the way.
It's tempting to give in,
to swing to one extreme,
forget about the other.
To turn my back,
merge with the crowd
and go along with what the world accepts.
Expects.
That may bring temporary ease
but doesn't help solve the deeper questions.*

*The cutting edge of faith is found,
not sheathed in Sunday morning services –
although I'm told I need those too –
but sharpened in the give and take of life.
Faith cotton-woolled in isolation
grows dull and blunt,
it needs constant honing in reality.
So help me, Lord,
to keep the faith,
to stand up for what I know, deep down,
is right.
It can be hard,
but then, I guess you know.*

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

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

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

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

KILLARNEY

Sunday services 9am and 11am
Prayer meetings Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 9am
Lent Bible study Wednesday 7.30pm
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)
Bible study Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am

Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

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

Have you ever participated in a spiritual retreat? Retreats are a designated time when we 'retreat' from the routines of regular life in order to spend time learning, reflecting, and encountering the presence of God through worship, prayer, and fellowship. There are a variety of retreats and the ordained are not the only ones who retreat! Laity enjoy the benefits from these Kairos (special set-apart) times just as much as clergy. Some retreats are silent while others are very lively. A retreat can be for several days while others can be for an afternoon. Retreats are often held in monasteries or other places where it is quiet so people can relax and de-stress from their busy lives. The place and the length of time of retreats vary, but the vital component is centring one's mind on God and the things of God.

Ladies, here's a retreat to consider. Retreat leader and spiritual director, Lisa Frost, from the Louisiana United Methodist Church, is coming to lead an afternoon retreat on Sunday 15th October from 2-4:30pm at Mt. St. Joseph Monastery Guesthouse in Roscrea. Here is her invitation:

The changing of seasons might prompt us to take a bit of time away to listen and speak to one another and God, and to find the new rhythm that we are being called to. In Louisiana, it is still warm and sunny, but even here I feel the wind shift, the evenings cool, and thankfully—the humidity lower. Rev. Shannon DeLaureal and I would love to spend an afternoon with the ladies of the N. Tipp area! Come to the Monastery Guesthouse for some tea, some talking, a little bit of quiet, and if the weather is grand, some walking! Wear your comfy clothes and bring a journal and a favourite pen. I look forward to seeing you!

If you're interested, please contact Rev. Shannon to book a place. In addition, you may dine at the Guesthouse for lunch at 1:15. 4 course meal €20; 3 course meal is discounted. Tea and biscuits available in late afternoon.

If you have never retreated before, come and see what this is all about. You won't regret it!

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER:

9th October 7:30pm – Child Protection Training in Portlaoise Methodist Church

Boys' Brigade – Our Company will meet on Friday 27th October in Roscrea Church Hall for a night of Halloween games, craft-making and treats.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

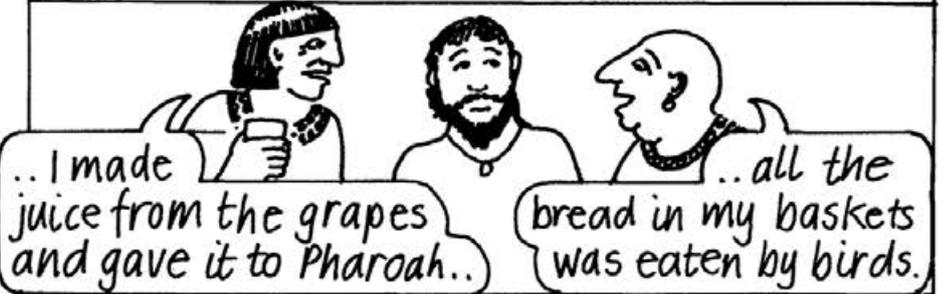
It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapters 39:20-41:44

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave and he had ended up in Egypt. Then he was wrongly accused and was sent to prison.



Joseph was trusted to look after the other prisoners.

Then Pharaoh's butler and baker were sent to the prison. One night they had strange dreams.



.. I made juice from the grapes and gave it to Pharaoh..

.. all the bread in my baskets was eaten by birds.



God knows what your dreams mean - you will be pardoned ... but you won't.



The two men left the prison.

Don't forget me!

But they did

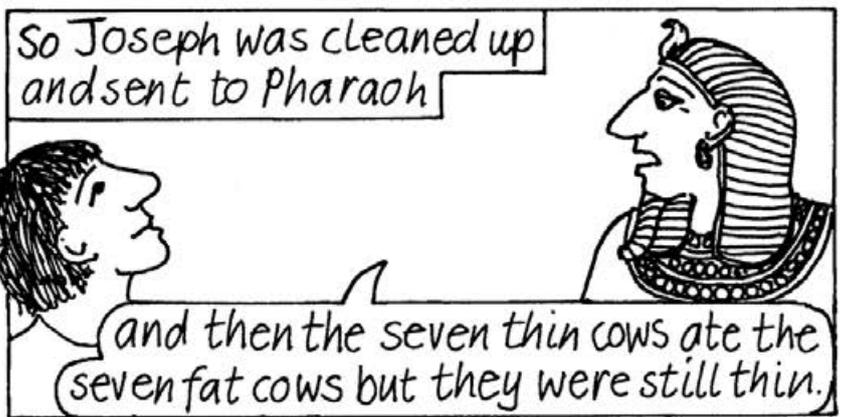


Two years later Pharaoh had a dream



None of his advisors could explain it...

.. then his butler remembered Joseph.



So Joseph was cleaned up and sent to Pharaoh

and then the seven thin cows ate the seven fat cows but they were still thin.



God says there will be seven bumper years, then seven years of famine.



You must choose someone trustworthy to store the spare food in the good years



Pharaoh was so impressed he gave Joseph the job!

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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.

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