



NEWSLINK

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

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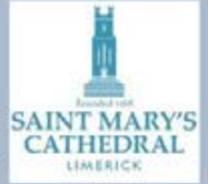


Rev Phyllis Jones launches fundraising by walking the Camino de Santiago
(photo: Mossy Donegan)



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Bishop Kenneth writes – Looking forward to General Synod

Editor: General Synod 2018 takes place Thursday 10 May – Saturday 12 May.

It hardly seems like a year since the General Synod of the Church of Ireland met in Limerick. The wonderful opening service in St Mary's Cathedral is still remembered fondly as is the welcome extended by the diocese to members of General Synod, many of whom had travelled long distances, and for some of whom it was the first visit to the diocese and to the south west of Ireland.

This year General Synod will be held in Armagh, as is now the pattern. In each three years, or "triennium" (Synod representatives are elected for three years at a time), one meeting of General Synod will be in Armagh, one in Dublin, and one in another diocese.

Most of the agenda will be fairly predictable, but each year a number of issues surface in importance. This year I expect a substantial discussion about Safeguarding Trust, our child protection policy. This issue has always been a priority for us as a church as we strive to ensure that children and their parents are assured that the church is a safe place for young people. Recent and current legislative changes in both the Republic and Northern Ireland require us to tighten up our processes and procedures further, and these will be discussed at General Synod. Extending appropriate protection to vulnerable adults will be an important part of the discussion this year.

The Church and Society Commission report usually sparks some lively debate. This year the repeal of the 8th amendment in the Republic is likely to surface, as is continuing and growing concern about Climate Change.

Some time ago I responded to some concerns that parishioners in more remote parts of the diocese did not have access to a service of Holy Communion at Christmas and Easter by authorising a Service of

Holy Communion by Extension for use on specific occasions. This service "extends" the service of Holy Communion at another church by administering bread and wine for them during a service conducted by a Diocesan Lay Reader. I understand that the Liturgical Advisory Committee will propose such a service for use throughout the Church of Ireland. Hopefully that will be approved.



The interesting parts of General Synod are always the surprises! Often an issue or speech by a member of Synod strikes a chord with others, and a lively debate ensues. That is the great value of having such a democratic system of governance in the church.

Of at least equal value are the friendships and informal meetings over coffee. The exceptionally good relationships on this island between North and South which have developed in recent years have received something of a setback because of Brexit, so these North/South friendships and meetings are even more important. I look forward especially to hearing from those living in border counties as to how they see possible effects in their lives of altered relationships with the European Union.

With all good wishes

+ Kenneth

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Diocesan Calendar

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

Tue 8th May, 7.30pm Finance Committee

Thu 10th – Sat 12th May General Synod, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh

Sun 13th May, 3pm MU Diocesan Festival Service, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. Followed by Mums in May Tea Party.

Tue 15th May, 7.45pm Diocesan Council for Mission, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

Wed 16th May, 6.30pm Mothers' Union: Listening, Observing and Acting, Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh

Thu 17th May Joint Property Committee & Glebes Committees 6.45pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm

Sat 19th May, 5pm Three Choirs Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick (tickets €10/€8 from 061 310293)

Sat 26th May, 9.45am – 4.30pm Children's Ministry Training & Resource Day (with Lydia Monds & Lynn Storey of Children's Ministry Network), South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick City

Fri 1st – Mon 4th June Diocesan Confirmation Weekend with Tuam Diocese, Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co Kerry (2017 & 2018 confirmation candidates)

Sat 9th June, 12.30pm Shinrone Fête & Fun Dog Show, Cloughmoyle School, Shinrone

Sat 16th – Mon 18th June GFS Diocesan Camp, Durrow Faith Centre

Sat 23rd June Diocesan Synod, Villiers School, Limerick (Registration from 10am, Synod Eucharist 4pm)

Fri 29th June – Tue 3rd July UDYC Summer Madness with Cork Youth Council, Glenarm Castle, Co Antrim (14+)

Sat 30th June, 3.30pm Service of Welcome for Rev Paul Fitzpatrick as curate in Limerick City Parish, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

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

Rev Paul Fitzpatrick to be curate in Limerick City Parish

The Dean of Limerick and Rector of Limerick City Parish, Very Rev Niall Sloane, has announced the appointment of the Rev Paul Fitzpatrick as curate in the parish, to work alongside Rev Edna Wakely. The Dean added: 'I look forward to welcoming the Rev Paul Fitzpatrick to Limerick City Parish and having him as a part of our team. Mr Fitzpatrick brings a variety of gifts and experiences, which I believe will be of great value to ministry here.'



Rev Paul Fitzpatrick of Aghancon, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary was born in Carlow and was educated at St Kieran's College, Kilkenny and at Maynooth, and served for over twenty years in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. More recently he has worked in the field of education for the past six years. Mr Fitzpatrick is married to Betty, and they have a young daughter Maebh.

On hearing of his appointment, Mr Fitzpatrick said: 'I look forward to getting to know the parishioners in Limerick City Parish and to sharing in the exciting programme of celebrations at St Mary's Cathedral!'

Mr. Fitzpatrick's Service of Welcome will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Saturday 30 June at 3.30 pm.

Editorial - Pilgrimage

Reading through this issue one idea leaps out and engages my attention – it is that of pilgrimage and being a pilgrim:

- Rev Phyllis Jones notes how St James' Church, Dingle is a place of pilgrimage, and she herself will walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela as a pilgrim to kick-start fundraising for St James' restoration (page 16).
- Rev Máirt Hanley envisages pilgrimage as a key practice of the Community of Brendan the Navigator which he is seeking to form (page 14).
- A prayer from the Arusha Call to Discipleship talks of us 'becoming pilgrims of justice and faith in our time' (page 5)

WHAT IS PILGRIMAGE?

Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place, and a metaphor for our Christian life. It is an opportunity for us to step out of the non-stop busyness of our lives and make a space for simply 'being' rather than always 'doing'. In that space of quiet and reflection we can refresh our faith, and 'walk through' those issues that we have on our minds, whatever they might be.

But in my experience pilgrimage is not just for the solitary and the pious. It can be a highly sociable activity, in which we enjoy the company of others we meet on the road, while we reconnect with our cultural heritage and the natural world and discover new things. It is in fact a kind of holiday in which to re-energise mentally, physically and spiritually. No doubt this is why pilgrimage was so popular in Medieval times, and why it is becoming popular again in our own time as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims walk some part or other of the Camino de Santiago.

MY DREAM

I have a dream that our own diocese will become a centre for pilgrimage in Ireland, where pilgrims from around the world gather to follow the path of St Brendan to his great monasteries of Ardfert and Clonfert and other pilgrim paths. The tourism business such pilgrim paths would bring would be of immense benefit to our rural communities.

God bless, Joc Sanders



Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Registration from 10am; Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.

Yvonne Blennerhassett, Diocesan Secretary

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe Et 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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NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2018

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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - May 2018

Each Sunday in May

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Kenya and Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya.

Diocese: For the Killarney & Dromod Union of parishes, Archdeacon Simon Lumby and the congregations of St Mary's Killarney and Holy Trinity Muckross.

10th May, Ascension Day, White or Gold

A hymn of glory let us sing

New songs throughout the world shall ring

Christ, by a road before untrod

Ascendeth to the throne of God.

Alleluia.

13th May, 7th Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome & the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand and Rt Revd Victoria Matthews, Bishop of Christchurch.

Diocese: For the Roscrea Group of parishes, Canon Jane Galbraith and the congregations of St Cronan's Roscrea, St Burchin's Bourney, Christ Church Corbally and St Molua's Kyle.

20th May, Pentecost (Whit Sunday), Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Colorado, USA and Rt Revd Robert O'Neill, Bishop of Colorado.

Diocese: For the Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of parishes, Rev Terry Mitchell, and the congregations of St Kieran's Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Ballingarry and Borrisnafarney churches.

27th May, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea and Most Revd Onesimus Dongsin Park, Primate & Bishop of Busan.

Diocese: For the Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of parishes, Canon Patrick Comerford, and the congregations of St Mary's Askeaton, St Brendan's Kilnaughtin, Holy Trinity Rathkeale and Castletown church.

3rd June, 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Melanesia and Most Revd George Takeli, Archbishop of Melanesia and Bishop of Central Melanesia.

Diocese: For the Tralee & Dingle Unions of parishes, Rev Jim Stephens, Rev Phyllis Jones and the congregations of St John's Tralee, St Brendan's Killiney, St James Dingle, Ballymacelligott, Killiney and Kilgobbin churches.

Rogationtide Intercessions

from the Church of England's 'Times & Seasons'

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Let the earth be fruitful

and its resources be hallowed.

(Bidding & Response) We ask in faith: we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands;

may all find dignity and just reward in their work;

free the exploited and oppressed.

(Bidding & Response)

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide us into a sustainable future,

and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

(Bidding & Response)

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.

Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,

and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

(Bidding & Response)

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.

Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;

where war brings want, and children go hungry;

where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,

give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.

(Bidding & Response)

We ask you to hear us, good Lord,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer from the Arusha Call to Discipleship

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty.

Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to find the lost, to free the oppressed, to heal the sick, and to convert the self-centred.

Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world and are poured out into our hearts.

As we live in the Spirit, may we also walk in the Spirit.

Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus: becoming pilgrims of justice and peace in our time.

For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth, and the glory of your name.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

The World Council of Churches held a major conference on World Mission & Evangelism in Arusha, Tanzania in March 2018, attended by over 1,000 delegates from all denominations – Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. To read the important document agreed at the conference google 'Arusha Call to Discipleship'.

Referendum on repeal of the 8th Amendment

A Letter to the Diocese from Bishop Kenneth Kearon

The Church of Ireland seldom takes an "official" line on an issue, especially on ethical issues where personal responsibility and conscience are paramount. Instead the church offers guidance and help to those making decisions while respecting the rights of all to differ from that advice and to decide freely according to their own conscience. It was in that spirit that the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin issued their joint statement on the 8th amendment some weeks ago, and it is in that same spirit that I address that same issue now. In this letter I am simply responding to a number of questions I have received recently, and the opinions below are simply my own.

Traditionally, the Church of Ireland has been opposed to abortion, but also accepts that some exceptions have to be made, especially where the life of the mother is at serious risk, or where it is clear the future baby won't survive. Some would also include situations of conception after rape or incest.

For that reason, the Church of Ireland was generally opposed to the introduction of the 8th amendment to the Constitution in 1983, and so today it is entirely consistent to support the removal of that same amendment, as is proposed in the upcoming referendum.

I have greater concerns about the draft legislation which has been published and will be proposed should the referendum succeed – it will of course be open to amendment as it passes through the Oireachtas. This proposes termination on any grounds up to 12 weeks, and appears to be based on the pragmatic argument that this is already available through the internet, and so by making it legal it opens the possibility of medical supervision and assistance. That is hardly an ethical argument.

Behind much of this is the question as to when life begins. The Bible certainly speaks of life in the womb before birth (Ps 139. 13-14,

Luke 1.41-45, Psalm 22. 9-10, and many other references), but none of these seek to identify the moment when life begins, and do not say that life begins at conception. When we look to the traditional teachers of the church, St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas for example, we find speculation about the beginning of life, often equating it with ensoulment (when the soul enters the body) or with the time when the mother first "feels life" or movement, all of which are stages long after conception has taken place. Modern biology which recognises that very many conceptions do not continue on through the various stages of development to become births but are "lost", does appear to support this line of thinking also.

So I would encourage legislators to adopt a more ethical instead of a pragmatic approach to termination of pregnancy, and I look for legislation which permits termination when the life (not just the health) of the mother is at risk, or when the future baby will not survive (not on grounds of disability), or when conception has occurred after violence or abuse, when having to carry a baby in addition to the violence surrounding conception can be genuinely described as destructive of a woman's life. Hopefully any such cases would be rare, but provision does need to be made for them.

Legislators are in a difficult position at this time, and most are courageously seeking to approach this issue in a responsible manner. They deserve our prayers and our support at this time. So far the debate has been serious and respectful, and let's all try to keep it that way.

These are important and difficult issues on which each of us has to make up our own minds in conscience. Do please consider these issues seriously and prayerfully in the coming weeks.

12 April 2018.

A clergy woman's view

Editor: The Archbishops in their statement on repeal of the 8th amendment (see Newslink March 2018 p9) 'acknowledge that too often in this debate the voice of women has not been heard'. In that light I invited all women clergy in the diocese to contribute a personal view to Newslink so that their voices might be heard. Only Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke has taken up the offer.

From our Scriptures – the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1) – how do we regard Mary's 'yes'? Was it a word of docile obedience, or was it a full, free, informed, authoritative consent?

If the former, then Mary was nothing more than a walking incubator, embedded in a culture where women (and any contents of their wombs) were the property of their fathers or husbands.

If the latter, then we must accept that behind Mary's 'yes' was the possibility and consideration of saying 'no' – not consenting for her eggs and her womb to be utilized by God. Refusing. In her 'yes' Mary partnered with God to bring something new and wonderful to our world, but that partnership can only be regarded as authentic if the consent was not a dumb submissive response.

The decision to carry a pregnancy to term – to enable the 'potential' to become the 'actual' is not one that can be forced upon women; it is for them to make the decision based upon their circumstances and their beliefs. It is they who have the authority here, whether or

not to offer the hospitality of their womb and the hospitality of their home, their commitment and energy for the following demanding 20+ years of child-raising. We may grieve the loss of the potential – but as a community and nation we simply cannot have punitive legislation against this.

Too many of the voices I hear appear to focus only on bringing a pregnancy to term and birth, and ignore the enormous challenges of parenthood that inevitably follow. Such attitudes lurch towards 'cheap ethics': they cost nothing.

I shall be voting to repeal the 8th Amendment.
Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke (mother, grandmother)



Your dwelling-place

Lord, grant me a simple, kind, open, believing, loving and generous heart, worthy of being your dwelling-place. John Sergieff, Russian priest, 1829 – 1908

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

– All things have been reconciled



I do hope that everyone is having a splendid Easter. It started superbly well for us at the Easter Vigil Celebration on Saturday night in Lorrha and again on the Sunday morning in Birr. I do hope also that those of you who found time to read the dying, rising and ascending accounts about Jesus found the immense variety within the records stimulating, challenging and ultimately immensely satisfying. John differs from Mathew, Mark and Luke about how the timing relates to Passover Night. Different

words from the Cross are recorded. The treatment of the Last Supper differs. The records of the discovery of the tomb to be empty do not accord. The stories of the encounters with the Risen Lord are complementary but not repetitive. That the combined records contain this degree of variation must cast real doubt on the viability of holding a literalist interpretation of the biblical writings. However, this variation does affirm the authenticity of the fundamental integrity of the record. We all know from our own experience that the accounts of different eye witnesses of the same traumatic event can and do differ widely. What is of central importance is that together they bear witness to the reality of the one fundamental experience. If we can understand that we can then understand the basic importance of those who cherish the fundamentals of our faith.....Christ has Died.....Christ has Risen.....Christ will Come Again. Those who seek to express the fundamentals of the faith in each generation are the anchor folk given by God as a core gift to his Church.

BUT if they seek to imprison the core of the faith in a verbal formula to which literalist subscription becomes a necessity for faith, then they have set themselves on the road to defying God. Put simply they are in denial that the Word became Flesh and pitched his tent among us and we beheld His Glory, such Glory as comes from Father to only Son, full of Grace and Truth. For generations God used words to treat with humankind through prophets and judges and kings and inspirational leaders and on occasion through pagan nations. The effect gave little satisfaction and therefore Word had to replace words. We live in the Word dispensation and we know that all our words and all our utterances are but pale and imperfect reflections of the Word, namely Jesus. To capture imagination in the heart and the mind of humanity words need to be the utterance of lived experience. And lived experience must begin and end with loving. And true loving can never act to the exclusion of the Other.

To achieve such lovingness the Church, the Body of Christ, needs to contain within itself an amazingly broad spectrum of understanding balanced with the elegance of motion achieved by a slightly inebriated ice-skater. You wait for disaster, but it doesn't happen, because room has been allowed for the Holy Spirit, that great mover of women and men, who at Pentecost set the Church alight with such a vision of the impossible that those who were touched by the flames were able to turn the world upside for Christ's sake. For the Christ's sake in whom and through whom all things have been reconciled making Peace by the blood of the Cross. That affirmation of the work of Jesus on the Cross is so cosmically inclusive - ALL THINGS - HAVE BEEN - RECONCILED - that no one person or group of people dare claim a totality of understanding of it, or indeed, by word or deed act exclusively in respect of the Kingdom whatever about the Church. Thank God for that! More next time!

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

KILLALOE & CLONFERT DIOCESAN SERVICE & PRIZE DAY 2018
See page 18 for a report and photos

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Mini-Market ended in March. The Branch thanks all who supported the market and are delighted that money raised was donated to GFS Mission and World Project.

The branch enjoyed playing Bingo and using their new parachute. New presses have been fitted and new equipment has arrived, thanks to the grant received from Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB).

The girls are looking forward to a visit to the Heritage Centre in Cloughjordan. More about this next month.

ROSCREA

Girls are taking Tennis lessons at the Tennis Club, Roscrea Leisure Centre for a couple of weeks. This has been made possible by funding from Tipperary ETB. Girls are looking forward to learning line dancing as part of their Dance Badge. Enrolment service will take place in St Cronans's church on 27th May at 10.45.

NENAGH BRANCH

Girls are busy doing their badge work - Citizenship and Drama. They are enjoying music lessons with the new music instruments purchased with an ETB Equipment grant. Thanks to Mrs Rosemary Smyth who is assisting girls with their preparation for their Enrolment Service in June.

CONDOLENCES

GFS Diocese extends sincere condolences to Mrs Norma Jean Kearney on the death of her brother in Canada.

UP COMING EVENTS

- Central Council Meeting will take place in Armagh on Saturday, 12th May at 11am. Results of All Ireland competitions will be announced at that meeting and the new Central President will be commissioned.
- Roscrea Enrolment Service will take place in St. Cronans's church on 27th May at 10.45.
- Nenagh Enrolment Service, St. Mary's Church, Nenagh on Sunday 3rd June at 11 am Morning Service.
- Diocesan Camp
- Camp is organised for the weekend of June 16 - 18 in Durrow Faith Centre. Save the date, don't book anything else and look forward to an action packed fun weekend. Full details available from Branch leaders.
- All Ireland Training for newly elected officers is scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of June in the Theological Institute, Dublin - starting Friday evening at 5pm and finishing on Saturday at 4pm.



Leaders receiving their prizes from Mrs Sylvia Quinn, outgoing All Ireland President



Mrs Norma Jean Carney presents flowers to Mrs Sylvia Quinn



At the Lady Day Service in Adare – (l-r) Diana Williams, Rev Canon Patrick Comerford, Janet Bray, Canon Liz Beasley

ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION, BALLINASLOE

Colour, fun and enjoyment were the result of the April Mothers' Union meeting in Ballinasloe. Members were joined by visual artist Rosemarie Langtry to try their hand at Encaustic Art. Pigment and a wax medium combine to create vibrant and spontaneous artworks with the aid of a special iron and other tools.

Everyone had the opportunity to experiment with the colourful waxes and made cards with their finished pieces to take home. Rosemarie's demonstration work was framed and 4 lucky members took home a sample of her work.

Plans are being made for the branch's summer outing to a garden in Roscrea followed by a meal and a new and exciting programme is being prepared by the committee for 2018/2019.

The Feast of the Annunciation was celebrated with a service and a talk by our Diocesan President Lucy Kavanagh on the work of the Mothers' Union.



Ballinasloe members displaying their encaustic artworks

Mothers' Union **Mothers' UNION** Christian care for families

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- May 13th - Diocesan Festival Service, St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick 3pm
- May 16th - MULOA - A meal and an opportunity to share experiences of MU with each other. Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh 6.30pm.

MULOA - an unusual title given to an exciting Mothers' Union initiative to share and learn more about our experiences of Mothers' Union and how we do things within our branches. MULOA stands for Mothers' Union Listening, Observing and Acting. The workshop will help to give us time to pause, think and draw strength from one another as we look to the future of Mothers' Union, gaining ideas from each other and hopefully a new approach to MU. We are very privileged to have All Ireland President, Phyllis Grothier and Iris Suitor to lead us in the workshop.

LADY DAY SERVICE

A wonderful Lady Day Service was held in St. Nicholas Church, Adare in April. The Church was packed with MU members from Adare Branch, Kilcornan Branch and Limerick City Branch. The service was led by Canon Liz Beasley and the address was given by Rev Canon Patrick Comerford. Canon Comerford spoke very movingly about the role of Mary and what an important role she has played, notwithstanding the fact that through many generations Mary has been somewhat sidelined.

The service was followed, as always, by a cup of tea and a wonderful display of scones and tray bakes etc.

United Diocesan Youth Council

SPRING MADNESS

A good weekend was enjoyed by all who attended Spring Madness Adventure Weekend for secondary school students at BCM Centre, Castledaly, Athlone, Co. Westmeath from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March. There was a mixture of activities throughout the weekend such as karting at Galway City Karting, Pure Skill Indoor Sports Activity Centre Galway, Swimming, Slides and Inflatable Obstacle Course at Leisureland Galway. There were also some good onsite

activities included such as icebreaker games, table quiz, manhunt, capture the flag, human football and movie night. The theme for worship times was "Journeys". We looked at the journey of Jesus during his life. We also reflected on our personal life journeys by reflecting and looking back at past events including faith events and plans for the future with the inclusion of faith journey.



Fun and Games at Spring Madness Senior Adventure Weekend

MIDLANDS ALIVE

On the weekend of Friday 13th – 15th April, a group of 10–13 year olds came together for the Midlands Alive Junior Weekend at the Faith Mission Centre in Durrow, Co. Laois. The weekend started off with the usual icebreaker games, as well as worship. The worship theme for the weekend was 'Live Life to the Full with Jesus' which involved looking at our lives so far, our dreams for the future and our life of faith. A wide variety of activities was also included in the programme such as Splatball, Bubble Soccer & Hell's Kitchen Assault Course at Kilkenny Activity Centre, Bowling, Laser Quest and Roller Skating Disco at Roll & Bowl Portlaoise, Swimming with Inflatable's at Portlaoise Leisure Centre as well as games and disco onsite. The weekend concluded on Sunday after a fantastic weekend.



Group at the Midlands Alive Junior Weekend

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Diocesan Youth Council AGM took place at the Basement Meeting Room, Richmond Terrace, Limerick on Saturday 21st April. At the start of the meeting a short time of prayer was led by Rev. Charles McCartney (Clonfert Group). After various reports followed by discussion the elections were held. The following were elected to the committee for the forthcoming year:

- Chairperson – Nicola Downes (Castletown Parish)
- Treasurer – Edward Hardy (Banagher)
- Secretary – Andrew O' Brien (Castleconnell)
- Public Relations Officer – Oscar Egbulam (Limerick City)
- Limerick Representatives – Laura Cooke (Kilpeacon) and Valerie Walker (Croom)
- Killaloe Representatives – Vacant * 2
- Ardferd Representatives – Ciara Fitzell, Vacant * 1
- Board of Mission Representative – Canon Jane Galbraith (Roscrea)

- Ordinary Committee Members – Beverly Callendar (Kilpeacon), Kieran Sparling (Limerick City), Vacant * 3

The following are also members of the committee:

- President – The Venerable Wayne Carney (Birr)
- Villiers School Representative – Awaiting Confirmation.
- Diocesan Council – Alan Armstrong (Kinnitty)

FUTURE EVENTS

Children's Ministry Training & Resources Day

The Diocesan Council for Mission with Lydia Monds and Lynn Storey from Children's Ministry Network are organising a Training and Resources day at Great National South Court Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick City on Saturday 26th May 2018 from 9.45 am to 4.30 pm. This day is particularly aimed at all those involved in Children's Ministry. The cost of the day will be €20 which will include all refreshments, lunch and training. Booking is essential on or before Friday 18th May 2018 to Edward Hardy texting/calling on 087/2907553 or e-mailing at edhardy70@gmail.com.

Diocesan Confirmation Weekend

Our United Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will take place this year from Friday 1st – Mon 4th June 2018 (June Bank Holiday Weekend) at Muckross Youth Village, Killarney, Co.Kerry. It is hoped to be a joint event with Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry. We do hope that it will be possible to offer transport to those attending from our Diocese this year from the following locations: Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh, Birdhill, Limerick, Adare, Newcastlewest & Farranfore.

Who can come? Anyone who was confirmed during 2017 or 2018 as well as anyone awaiting Confirmation this year from throughout either United Diocese and beyond. If anyone feels that it might be easier to come with a friend from their local area even if not for Confirmation that would be fine too. The weekend will be an ideal chance to get to meet other Confirmation Candidates from throughout either United Diocese and possibly from other Dioceses! Why come? Confirmation is a time to stand up and be counted; a time to make a clear statement about who you are and whose you are; a time to make a serious commitment about your place in the Family of God. To help you make your commitment, an exciting, dynamic and enjoyable worship programme will be on going throughout the weekend. We are delighted that Steve Grasham Youth Ministry Development Officer with Church of Ireland Youth Department has agreed to come to lead teaching times during the weekend.

How Much? The weekend will cost €100 per person and this will include all transport during weekend including return transport to/from event, food, activities and accommodation. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 25th May 2018.

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

MISSION EVENING, 13 MARCH – 'SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE'

The choice of urban Belfast cleric, Adrian McCartney was not an obvious introduction to fresh expressions of ministry and mission in this traditional and rural corner of the Church of Ireland. But the fact that the faithful few took until 11pm to disperse from the venue at the South Court Hotel, Limerick said much about the inspiration provided by one of our Northern brethren!



Rev Adrian McCartney, speaker at 'Sowing Seeds of Hope'

"Dig a well in desert land and you build a community"

That was the experience of faith-venturer and pioneer Abraham, and later his faithful son Isaac, who repaired sabotaged wells founded previously by his father. This serves for a beautiful metaphor for Ballymacarett in Belfast's shipyard-backwater. Once served by a parish of three churches and a rector and five curates, it is a paramilitary-haunted community with high unemployment which doesn't do church, as such, anymore - post-Christian, as the speaker described it. In 2009, with the permission of the Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rev Adrian began a pioneer ministry in Ballymacarett, amid the tightly packed streets of terraced houses and gable ends with loyalist and paramilitary murals. Starting with one redundant church as a meeting place, and no other resources - they lived on his wife's salary as a teacher - he began his mission project entitled "Boring Wells".

Adrian has since moved out to suburban East Belfast and has time to reflect on how God has blessed his eight-year-old ministry in this once proud and busy working-class community, which had been somewhat dispirited on his arrival. One measure of success is that work continues under the leadership of a lady colleague.

What came over in his talk was the courage and vision of this Church of Ireland cleric to step outside his comfort zone of settled church community and start again among disadvantaged people without any knowledge of Church or care for it. He would serve them by meeting their needs.

The church would come to the people where they were and be a bridge to God by serving. Unlike the South American bridge which became redundant when floods changed the course of a river, the community of God's love slowly built up at Ballymacarett around Adrian as he and the growing number of his supporters attended to the real needs of people. They converted the redundant church into a reception centre, where a food bank was set up to "feed the five thousand". It became a gathering place for fellowship, for sewing and knitting classes, cookery lessons, a crafts centre, a children's crèche and a library - eventually growing boxes were built outside the centre for people to lease and grow their own vegetables.

While there was no formal restoration of liturgy in the deconsecrated church, relationships developed around real need and Christian sharing and music prevailed. Boring Wells was enabling fresh springs of life to appear. Among visitors and admirers was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby.

Rev Adrian's project, while far away in Belfast, has something to say to us in Limerick and Killaloe by way of inspiration to face our own challenges of declining church numbers and isolation. He himself is motivated by words of American author and anthropologist Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The final day of term before the Easter break brought everyone out to the school grounds for an Easter egg hunt. The senior pupils helped to hide the eggs for the junior pupils and there was great excitement and running around to find as many eggs as possible! Thank you to the Parents' Association who organised our annual Bake Sale in the Village Hall on April 20th. This provided an opportunity to meet friends for a cuppa, a scone and a chat while stocking up with delicious treats and a good book.

Our Active Schools' Committee and our Health Promoting Schools' Committee are up and running and planning to organise some activities before the end of the year. Active Week will take place in May with a variety of activities planned.

Well done to our senior girls' soccer team who made it through to the second round of the 5-a-side soccer competition on April 11th. The school photographer was in school on April 19th and we were blessed with a bright, dry day which meant that the group photographs could be taken outside in our beautiful grounds. It was almost too sunny, imagine that!

The girls from 3rd to 6th classes took part in a local Gaelic football blitz on April 26th and well done to all involved.

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

We are delighted to start our news this edition with celebrations. Congratulations to Mrs Slattery and her husband Shane on the birth of their daughter, Kate. Congratulations to Mrs Cavanagh and her husband Charlie on the birth of her twin sons Charlie and James. Best wishes to you all from the pupils and personnel at St. Mary's! Swimming lessons will continue until mid-April. French conversation with Ms Healy Bernard continues for term three, and our music classes continue with Mrs Smyth for the term.

On 22nd March, the pupils ran a mini-fair. They raised €571 for the school. Many thanks are due to all the pupils for their hard work. Thanks to all the parents and helpers at home who nurtured the baking skills and guided the hands!

Standardised testing takes place annually in May, and this year the tests will take place for all classes during the week of 14th May. These tests are a vital part of the school plan and help to inform better teaching practice as well as effective allocation of teaching supports.

Villiers Secondary School has kindly invited us to participate in their open Sports Day on Thursday 17th May. Our Senior Classes are delighted to attend each year, especially as they get to meet a number of our past pupils on the day.

With the national roll out of a new English Curriculum and Child Protection Training in the academic year 2017-2018, schools have been mandated by the Department of Education and Skills to close/close early on some days to facilitate staff training in both areas. The last of St. Mary's closures for this academic year will take place on Friday 4th May, with school finishing at 12:00 on that day.

In upcoming dates; we have planned for Sports Day to take place on Wednesday 20th June, weather permitting. Our Sixth Class graduation service will take place on Friday 22nd June.

St. Michael's National School, Limerick

To our absolute delight, our Buy a Brick fundraising campaign has got off to a great start! To date we have raised €2800 which is most encouraging. The very first brick bought was by Chris Doswell, whose daughter Kate, attended Saint Michael's NS many years ago and responded so promptly, having seen a post on Facebook. Our newly-launched website is making it very easy for people to buy a brick with payment being possible online.

We are particularly getting wonderful support from our older generation, who understand the importance of helping us to sustain and provide the best possible primary education for the next generation. Our numbers have grown steadily for the past ten years, and we have simply outgrown our classroom space.

In order to regain use of our General Purpose room (which is presently divided into two classrooms), it is imperative that we are able to begin building. Sadly, government funds only stretch to 80% of the cost of building. The school must find the remaining 20%. We would be extremely grateful to those of you who would like to help us raise this money. Please see details regarding our Buy a Brick fundraiser in the advertisement in this issue of Newslink.



Funding required for Buy-a-Brick

Following our feast of food at our International Food Fair, the Limerick Leader has very kindly done a centre-page feature on it, having visited the school. This has been another very valuable exercise for us to let the public know of our building plans.

St Cronan's National School, Roscrea

It has been a very busy year so far in St. Cronan's National School as pupils have been enjoying Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Music and Dance Lessons. Swimming lessons are due to commence in May.

Pupils have taken part in and experienced great successes in a Debating Competition, The Credit Union Quiz, a Rugby Blitz and a Tennis Tournament.

Pancake Day marked the launch of our "Lenten Project" which this year raised €231 for Irish Heart Foundation. 6th Class hosted the occasion with great style and a very pleasant morning was enjoyed by the many families and friends who joined us.

St. Cronan's National School were the proud joint recipients of the Bernie's Super valu Perpetual Trophy for their magnificent and very colourful entry in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Roscrea. Many thanks to the Parents Association for co-ordinating this event.

Many thanks also to the Parents Association for their hard work and dedication in organising a Cookery Demonstration by Ailish Hennessy in Racket Hall which raised much needed funds for the school. Thanks too to all who helped out and supported it in so many ways.

Enrolment is now open for September 2018. Please contact the school office at 0505 21636 for information.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS.

September next marks the 80th anniversary of the enrolment of the first pupils in Kiltallagh National School and we believe there is indeed much to celebrate in both the last 80 years and the present healthy state of the school.

Preparations are in full swing for the 80th Celebrations to mark the opening of Kiltallagh School, in September 1938.

The commemorative event will take place on Saturday September 22nd-commencing with a service in the school at 12 noon- led by our Bishop Kenneth Kearon

Afterwards, all guests will enjoy a BBQ and light refreshments. We hope to have many photos and memorabilia on display for all to browse.

A book will be also published to mark this very special occasion. The pupils in our school have been busy writing their narrative stories for this book. In the coming weeks, they will also write a little story about their favourite time in Kiltallagh.

We also hope that some past pupils may write a brief paragraph recounting a memorable moment they had in years gone by. I'm sure there will be some very funny and interesting scéaltais to be written and read!! If you know of any past pupil, we would ask you to encourage them to write a few lines about their time in Kiltallagh. All written pieces should be emailed to info@kiltallaghns.ie before May 31st 2018.

If you have any photographs or articles about Kiltallagh School over the years, please forward them to us. We will scan them and return them back to you immediately.

We wish to extend a warm invitation to you all, past and present pupils, teachers, principals, parents, Board of Management members, clergy, parishioners and the many friends of Kiltallagh, to our Service of Celebration in Kiltallagh School, Castlemaine with Bishop Kenneth Kearon.

Save the date: Saturday September 22nd -12 noon.

We hope you can all share in our special Day of Commemoration. Bígí ann, Bígí linn.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Thanks to all the parents, teachers and children we raised €1381.22 for the Water Project in Swaziland. Later we hope to link up with a school in Swaziland so that our pupils can learn from their students about their lives.

FITNESS TRAINING

Pupils from first class to sixth will receive fitness training on Wednesday in school. This programme will be delivered by the Offaly Sports Partnership.

Thanks to all of the Parents who donated books, cushions and chairs to the school Library, it is a lovely comfortable area now and should enhanced the children's enjoyment of reading.



A comfortable place to read

Fifteen 6th class pupils will be leaving in June and we have six Infants starting in September so we are in a position to offer places to at least five children next year, so if you have friends, relatives or neighbours with children looking for a school place, please get in touch.

The Travelling Book Fair will be coming to the school on Monday the 23rd April for the week

Oxmantown National School will be taking part in Food Dudes, this programme gives the children a chance to taste different foods which aids and encourages them to eat more healthily.

5th and 6th class are taking part in a four week programme on cycling safety. This course is aligned to cycle right, the National Standard for Cycle Safety Training in Ireland and is delivered by qualified trainers from the national register.

Oxmantown National School has been presented with their third Green Flag. Congratulations to all the people that worked so hard to be rewarded with this.

Rathkeale No.2 National School

We all took part in the Team Limerick Clean Up on the final day of term before the Easter break. Pupils from 2nd to 6th class picked up litter along a short stretch of the Great Southern Trail, beginning at the Palatine Museum and ending at the old railway bridge. The junior pupils tidied up the school grounds and the area immediately around the school.



Cleaning up in Rathkeale

We were delighted to hear that our 5th and 6th class pupils, Declan, Cathal and Lauren's Scratch Project has qualified as one of just 31 projects throughout the country (in both primary and secondary schools)to make the national finals. Scratch is a coding program and can be used to create games and animations. This year's final will be held in the University of Limerick on April 26th so we should have news of our project by the time this gets to print.

On the same day (April 25th) we have arranged for a visit from Dogs Trust. The pupils are looking forward to hearing about how we should look after our dogs and also about the work of Dogs Trust.

Our senior pupils are looking forward to this year's Sports Day in Villiers later in May.

We will be having a sponsored cycle on Saturday 9th June to raise funds for our school. We intend to cycle from Ardagh to Rathkeale along the Great Southern Trail.

This year's school tour will take place on Friday 22nd June. We will visit Lets Go Camp at Delta Sports Centre in Limerick.

Villiers School

Congratulations to the senior girl's hockey team who played magnificently and earned a well-deserved victory securing the title of Munster champions as they lifted the Munster Senior A Plate.

Also in sport, the junior boy's rugby managed a very impressive performance in the semi-final of the Cleary Cup, well done lads and best of luck in the final.

Our fifth year students took part in Limerick's fittest school competition. The boy's coming a very credible second while the girls secured a fourth place spot.

Congratulations also to Emily, Saira and Rachel on receiving a BSTAI award in the University of Limerick for outstanding Junior Cert Business Studies awards.

The Green school and Community groups joined forces to raise awareness of how blessed we are to have clean water on tap. They organised a sponsored walk to the banks of the Shannon and filled buckets of water and then carried them back to the school to fill our water butts in the garden of remembrance.



NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

The month of April brings us to a time of the oral and practical exams for the Junior and Leaving Cert students. This always raises the tension in the campus and as a result the Sanctuary starts to really live up to its name as a place of healing, hope and safety. Stay calm everyone, all will be well.

As ever, the community group has been working hard at raising awareness and spreading wellbeing among our community. Preparations are well under way for the pilgrimage trip to Santiago de Compostela. The group are raising funds to help pay for operations for disabled children in Uganda and as they put it to me recently they are walking not just to help children to walk but who cannot walk for themselves at the moment.

As I am writing this the sun is shining and I realise that a favourite pastime of ours is to discuss the weather. The month of April of course is rather famous for both sunshine and rain. Those April showers can see it being wonderfully sunny one moment and then raining the next. It's during those showers that summer can seem a long way off yet. This is still Eastertide and like the weather we are still in a transitional period between April shower weather and summer and the risen and ascended Jesus. This made me think of that old saying, 'April showers bring forth May flowers'. This is saying

that the rain and wet weather that we get in April helps the flowers to grow and by the time May comes along they begin to flower and bloom. Patience is required and a certain amount of perseverance. If we think about it, situations that we face might be unpleasant at the time, but bring positive results eventually. In some situations, just like the rain we experience in April, or upcoming exams, we have to find ways to manage and to make sure that we are prepared. We can see glimpses of progress, but we also need to be patient.

The Bible makes a similar point where it talks about positive reward after a time of struggle. In 1 Peter 5:10 the Bible says, 'And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you.' I think that it would be wonderful if we could take time to be quiet, be still and reflect on the things that we find difficult about any situation or struggle that we find ourselves in. What is it that you struggle with? Let's also think about the people or things that make it easier

for us to trust that a brighter future is coming. Just as when we see a rainbow in a downpour, it reminds us that there is sun as well as rain. Who are the people in our life who bring us hope that we can succeed? What helps us to believe that the hard work and patience will be worth it? Then take a moment to offer a prayer and be grateful for these people and things.

Dear God, in this month of April, when we face unsettled weather, we remember that life is not always easy and straightforward. We face challenges and difficulties. It can be hard to see that there is a brighter future coming. God, grant us patience and a sense of hope. Give us people who encourage us to believe. Help us to see the positives and look for the rainbows around us. We ask you to strengthen us and establish hope and a sense of your love in us. Amen.

Until next time, Blessing and Peace, Chaplain Jackie McNair

Conference on World Mission & Evangelism

Arusha, Tanzania 8-13 March 2018, A reflection by USPG General Secretary Duncan Dormor

"I have agency, I am worthy, I have a voice, and I am free!"

The voice in question is that of Adi Mariana Waqa, a young woman from the Aisokula tribe of the northern island of Taveuni in Fiji – who spoke powerfully last week in Arusha, Tanzania, about God's mission being at, and critically from the margins.

Arusha was the setting for a truly global gathering of the nations organised by the World Council of Churches, with over 1,000 delegates from all denominations – Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. The ethos was deeply shaped by African Christianity – most evident in the joyful worship that even set stiff-limbed northern Europeans in motion; and the tone by the strong representation of women and younger speakers, especially those of young indigenous leaders.

Mission from the margins: Again and again, this theme emerged powerfully in Arusha: that the poor and the marginalised are not mute and invisible; are not simply beneficiaries (and certainly not objects of sympathy, pity or charity), but rather transformative agents of change.

This theme was enshrined early with a keynote speech from Dr Mutale Mulenga-Kaunda, who spoke powerfully out of her own personal story of profound struggle of poverty compounded by the death of her mother from Aids: *"I am young, and an African woman, but I am more than that"*.

Her personal testimony to resilience and transformative agency found an echo in the voice of the Patriarch of Antioch and of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church, Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, who spoke movingly of a range of relief and development initiatives throughout Syria and Iraq that would primarily benefit the majority Muslim population, alongside some Christians.

Indeed, it is those on the margins, who in articulating stories of hope and transformation in the midst of struggle are often most capable of speaking the language of prophetic discipleship; of bringing the most powerful articulation to the "Nazarene manifesto" (Luke 4 16-20). And indeed, to deny the agency of such discipleship through continued, unreflective paternalism is to perpetuate the injurious wounds of those colonial encounters that "wrote off" whole cultures as "savage" or "barbaric".

The challenge in hearing of a mission from the margins does not lie with the voice, but rather with the hearing. All too often such voices have been talked over. Because that voice can be a challenging one. This is most obvious when we reflect on the environment. Adi again: *"as an indigenous person, I cannot help caring in my being and bringing along with me the pain and cry of mother earth which is God's precious creation"*.

As the economic imperative drives people to the ends of the earth and to the bottom of the oceans to "harvest" or squeeze every last drop of sustenance from mother earth, so the awkward voices of those who hold the land and the sea and the air to be sacred hit a discordant note. Yet as wealth continues to be used to capitalise on the vulnerability of people these are exactly the prophetic voices that need to be raised for the benefit of all, if the earth is to remain our common home.



Voices from the margins are also challenging for they so often carry the scars that remind western Christians of the past, and ongoing, patterns of exploitation that followed "discovery" and colonialism: the scars of genocide, of enslavement, of displacement and of the destruction of peoples and cultures.

The ecumenical nature of the Arusha gathering was also a powerful reminder that Anglicans (six per cent of those present) are but a small part of a rich, diverse, global family; of brothers and sisters. In the face of such hospitable and joyful company – with English the dominant language – the only possible response, as a member of the Church of England is humility.

Humility, because it is especially in such company that one fully realises the degree to which British identity and self-worth is still nurtured by nostalgia for a "glorious" past. We remain sharp of hearing when our African sister or Indian brother articulates a partial defence of the British Empire.

Yet, as British Christians, many of us remain deaf to its many destructive legacies and continue, unwittingly, in paternalistic patterns of thinking. Yet the mission of Jesus Christ is from the margins. For, we will only begin the journey of being set free and start the process of transformation, if and when we sit down, break bread, and listen to the voices of others.

Editor: Such humility is also appropriate for us in the Church of Ireland, since we too are deeply implicated in the legacy of British colonialism. Google 'Arusha Call to Discipleship' to read the agreed statement from the Conference.

Community of Brendan the Navigator - Cumann Brendán Naofe

Ven Simon J Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick & Rector of Killarney writes

Our friend Rev Mairt Hanley has written a piece in the Church of Ireland Journal SEARCH suggesting the establishment of a Church of Ireland spiritual community to be called the Community of Brendan the Navigator. He hopes it will become a "New Monastic Community" for the 21st Century, a grouping of people who want to explore spirituality and pilgrimage in a new way, without living in a monastery/convent. This proposal has come off the back of the failure of the Church of Ireland proposal to have a Retreat Centre established.

Fair play to you Mairt; I agree with you.

He writes, "It is truly amazing how people will engage with an idea or question when it is writ large before them in the landscape, or with a story if they can imagine the people in the story standing where they are. If you relate a point of spirituality to a particular rock or story of a place, it is no longer an abstract thing but something tangible and handle-able." I couldn't have described our diocesan Spiritual Tourism project better!

The work I'm doing on Spiritual Tourism is seeking to help the ordinary visitor/tourist to find a new language to explain their own experience of place in the Celtic landscape from a spiritual perspective; and using the old stories of spirituality to give them a way into it. So the idea of growing a new spiritual community based on a local saint and his endeavours and enterprise is very appealing.

I happen to be a member - a 21st Century monk - of another "New Monastic Community": the Community of St Aidan & St Hilda. It is based on Lindisfarne "Holy Island" off the Northumbrian coast of England. It's founded on Celtic spiritual principles and involves us in daily prayer and activity influenced and underpinned by the early Celtic saints and their lives. Mairt's suggestion will have been

inspired by that as he was still in Kerry when our founder the Revd Ray Simpson came to Kerry to give some talks a few years back. In our Community one of the things we do - when we take our first annual vow - is the First Voyage of the Coracle, inspired by St Brendan and underpinned by a liturgy drawn from his "Voyage" narrative. So I'm fully engaged with St Brendan as a spiritual guide and heavenly mentor of my own walk of faith.

What Mairt is suggesting is a particularly Anglican way of approaching the idea of spiritual community; as opposed to a Roman way. But let's finally get over the old-fashioned rivalries and suspicions of the old days in Ireland and break free of the self-imposed strictures of Protestant/Catholic demarcations.

The idea of making a commitment to undertake four times a year a spiritual journey - like a mini day-long camino - with others of like mind, to explore together in fellowship and community and deepening of our faith and faithfulness to God in Christ, is a very good way to engage in the new religion of our age: spirituality. Young people will especially warm to this as it's not stuck in the old churchy ways and it's not hidebound by religious bureaucracy.

The reason Spiritual Tourism is so important is that life is intrinsically spiritual and people have lost that sense. Well, let's say they've lost it outwardly. But, deep down in their heart and soul it's still active. This is what draws them and inspires them and why Mairt is right in what he says.

So let's get behind this new initiative and support Mairt in the setting up of the Community of St Brendan. You can communicate with me on this at archdeacon@limerick.anglican.org or with Mairt at rev.hanley@gmail.com

Rev Máirt Hanley, Rector of Baltinglass writes

I am running a short retreat in Holy Trinity Church at the Rock of Dunamase on Wednesday 16th May, St Brendan's Day, from 2pm till about 4 or 5pm. My hope is that we will gather, maybe have a walking reflection around the rock, discuss what shape the community will take and then have a Communion service, at the end of which some of us will make a commitment to this fellowship. If you are interested please email me at rev.hanley@gmail.com or text 087 6194733.

My initial thoughts on the Community are as follows:

- All are welcome, as they are. Listen, don't judge. Each pilgrim is on a journey and it is not for any human to dictate someone else's walk with God.
- Every member would undertake to regular contemplation, annual retreat and to undertake four pilgrim events a year.
- Every member should have a companion, someone to just walk with them and listen on their journey. Not a director, not a mental health practitioner or adviser, but a sounding board

- Affirmation: the Apostles' creed - it says enough to bind us, everything else is a matter of personal faith, this should be enough to keep us from heresy without excluding anyone
- Community involvement - you may join if you have attended at least two events, then commit to attending 4 events a year and be regular in contemplation and public worship
- Personal spiritual discipline - this is up to each member to figure out and could involve several practices. There should be three and whilst there may be short term disciplines taken up, the 3 should be for a year or more. These should be professed publicly, possibly at a community service.
- The rhythm of events would be that for every 4 events two would be pilgrimages, one silent and one a reflective discursive event, such as a Communion service followed by a talk on an aspect of spiritual life that members could discuss and think about how it would relate to their personal spiritual discipline.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com



Brian Boru and his brother Mahon made a special appearance for school children when the signs were unveiled at Tuamgraney Church. Also present: Paul Brooks of Tuamgraney Development Association, Dean Garry Paulsen & Councillor Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Killaloe Municipal District

The Heritage Council funded signage for the church in Tuamgraney under its community grant scheme and Tuamgraney Development Association undertook the project. The signs will aid visitors to

this 10th century church, which has the distinction of being the oldest church in continuous use in Ireland. The pupils of Tuamgraney National School were guests of honour when the signs were unveiled by the dean of Killaloe and Councillor Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of the Killaloe Municipal District. The church is open during the daytime from April to September.

HOLY WEEK

Holy week saw services in all the churches. On Good Friday we conducted a prayer pilgrimage in the cathedral ending at the prayer tree. Those present then could tie a ribbon to the tree following an ancient Irish custom of tying a piece of cloth to a tree as a prayer. The Easter Triduum then concluded on Easter day when Bishop Kenneth conducted the church service at Killaloe Cathedral. It was lovely to have the children also present and fortunately we had enough Easter eggs for the 17 children present. Reuben Kol was baptised at our Easter morning service. Our congratulations and good wishes to parents Fatih and Susan.

THE FUNERAL OF ERWIN DEN DIRKEN

The funeral of Erwin Den Dirken, husband of Laura Gill, was conducted by Dean Gary Paulsen at All Saints church Castleconnell on 13th April. Dean Niall Sloane was also present as the vergers at St Mary's Cathedral, Avril Gill, is Laura's mother. The parish priests Fr Brendan Kyne and Tom Whelan were also present. A large congregation was present to say farewell as Erwin was laid to rest in the church grounds. Our condolences and prayers to Laura and the children; Sam, Faye and Lucas and the extended family.

In spite of all the recent controversy around Facebook, All Saints Church in Castleconnell now has a Facebook page. Please visit the page and 'like' us. It is a useful tool for distributing information.

Continued on page 20



MOTHERS' UNION
DIOCESAN FESTIVAL SERVICE
SUNDAY MAY 13TH 3PM
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL LIMERICK
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FOLLOWED BY OUR
MUMS IN MAY AFTERNOON TEA

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COLLECTION IN AID OF MOTHERS' UNION PROJECT WORK



Lunchtime Concerts May 2018, 1.15pm

Wednesday 2nd May
Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)
Music by Beethoven and Chopin

Wednesday 9th May
Frank Schaefer (cello), Ethna Tinney (piano)
Music by Kodaly and Shostakovich

Wednesday 16th May
Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

Wednesday 23rd May
Sabine Ducrot (piano)
Music by Chopin

Wednesday 30th May
Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary's Cathedral please log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

Julian of Norwich honoured on 8th May by Canon David Winter

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.



An icon of Julian of Norwich with her cat

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell', with only a cat for company.

Her masterpiece, Revelations of Divine Love, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practice.

She is honoured on 8th May in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because – over 600 years ago! – she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. Revelations is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

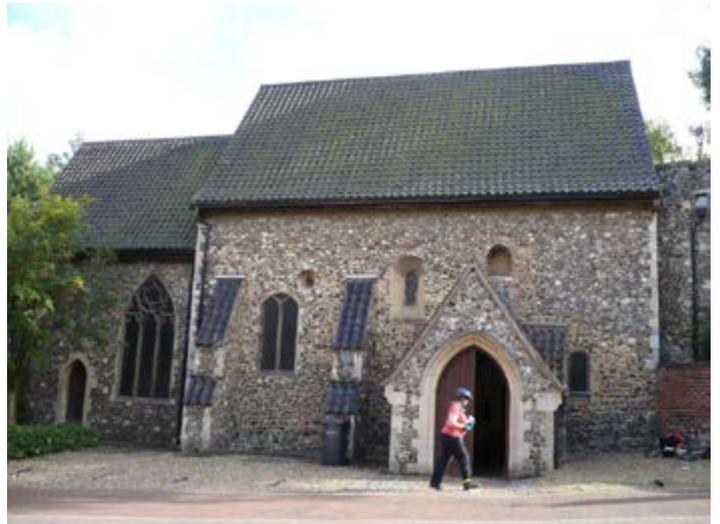
Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well' – words that have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

More sayings of Julian of Norwich

The greatest honour we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love.

Our Saviour is our true Mother in whom we are endlessly born and out of whom we shall never come.

Prayer is a new, gracious, lasting will of the soul united and fast-bound to the will of God by the precious and mysterious working of the Holy Ghost.



St Julian's Church in Norwich (photo: Charles Hitchins, London, UK)

UNITED DIOCESE OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT

DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR MISSION

Invite you to

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING & RESOURCES DAY



Saturday 26th MAY 2018

GREAT NATIONAL SOUTH COURT HOTEL, RAHEEN, LIMERICK CITY

Speakers & facilitators on the day: Lydia Monds and Lynn Storey from Children's Ministry Network (www.cm.ireland.anglican.org)

From 10.00 am (with tea/ coffee and scones) – 4.30 pm

Cost €20 (includes lunch- main course, desert with tea/coffee)

Booking Essential to Edward Hardy by telephone, text (087/2907553) or e-mail (edhardy70@gmail.com) no later than Friday 18th May 2018

All involved in Children's Ministry Welcome to Attend.



STOP PRESS - The waiting is over in Kilcolman Union

Rev Sisters Isabel Keegan and Ann-Marie Stuart write on 22nd April 2018

Over the many years of our ministry we realised, to our surprise, that we have worked in at least five different dioceses, Canterbury, Salisbury, Carlisle, Truro, briefly back to Salisbury and then finally home to Limerick and Killaloe & Ardfert in particular.

Sherborne Abbey in Salisbury diocese gave us the best and warmest of farewells, but here in the Kilcolman Union of Parishes we received the warmest and best of welcomes.

Our welcome service on 20th April was amazing as we realised that some of the Clergy and Readers had travelled for three hours or more to come to support and encourage us, which they did, and also that some of our soon to be Ecumenical friends came for a similar reason. Best of all however was the genuine and caring warmth of the welcome from the Readers, Churchwardens and people of Kilcolman Union.



At the Kilcolman Service of Welcome: (l-r) Reader Eric Champ, Ven Simon Lumby Archdeacon of Limerick & Ardfert, Rev Sr Isabel Keegan, Bishop Kenneth Kearon, Rev Sr Ann-Marie Stuart, Very Rev Niall Sloane Dean of Limerick, Reader Barbara Buckley

The Killorglin Men's Social Club Choir sung their hearts out and better still the congregation raised the roof with the first hymn, our own Franciscan hymn based on the Canticle of Creatures written originally by St. Francis of Assisi – O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder. The organist did us all proud and the piper played too in the last hymn – Amazing grace.

Bishop Kenneth was the person we first met after he replied personally to an enquiry from Isabel concerning available posts in his Diocese. His unfailing encouragement and kindness brought us here to a place where we noticed that people in general are really rather nice to one another. I wonder whether you realise how impressive it is to see traffic stop in the road for young mothers with children, for the frail and elderly just out for a walk, and even for two wet behind the ears Franciscan Nuns who happen to be Priests, as we try to find our way around our new Parishes. The reading from St. John's Epistle on Sunday said it all really at our first Eucharist. "We know love by this, that He laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for one another".

This Kingdom of Kerry rightly advertises the wonder, and the beauty of its mountains and seascape but you need to remember

to advertise your ability to dream dreams and devise fascinating visions. We feel at home in this place already having been here less than a week, so let's dream some lovely dreams together and devise ever more creative and flexible visions for the future. After all we have our traditional Church building in Kiltallagh providing us with our stability in faith and our modern one in Killorglin which points us ever onwards towards a more creative and inventive future of dreams made concrete and real for today.



Kilcolman Church Wardens Matt Murphy & Shirley Day with Rev Sisters Ann-Marie Stuart & Isabel Keegan



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Killaloe & Clonfert GFS

Diocesan Service & Prize day 2018



The Annual Diocesan Service & Prize day took place on Saturday, 24th March in St. Brendan's Church, Birr. The Service was led by Revd Canon Jane Galbraith, GFS Diocesan Chaplin, with Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, Ven Wayne Carney, Revd Terence Mitchell and Revd Roderick Smyth in attendance.



Bishop Kenneth presented Bible Study prizes

The girls took an active part in the Service - carried banners, received the collection and Mission contributions from each branch.

We thank Canon Jane Galbraith for arranging and leading a meaningful service for us all. The importance of friendship is at the centre of GFS. This was demonstrated by the use of colourful pipe cleaners - we began with a single pipe cleaner and ended by joining our pipe cleaners together to make a link of friendship. This was a very strong symbol of GFS.

During the service the new Diocesan Officers were commissioned: President: Rose Langley; Secretary: Gillian Grant; Treasurer: Diane Dagg. All good wishes as they prepare to take up their new roles in July.

Sincere thanks to the outgoing Diocesan Officers for all their work for GFS: Norma Jean Carney, Michelle Armitage & Linda Gill. The Diocese wishes them well in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to all prize winners on the day. Each and every girl had completed wonderful work both in crafts and Bible Study. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and the sales stalls in Oxmanstown National School. Thank you to Birr Branch for hosting the event this year and providing wonderful refreshments. A good day enjoyed by everyone.



Mrs Sylvia Quinn presented prizes for Craft Work



Crafts on display in Oxmantown School



Yet more crafts on display

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St. James' Church, Dingle Restoration Project

By Rev Phyllis Jones



Since coming to look after the churches on the Peninsula, St. James has become very close to my heart. It is an iconic church, renowned worldwide, much due to it being the venue for 'Other Voices' over the past 16 or 17 years. It has been a platform for talented young people, many of whom have gone on to become very successful and famous. Yet it still excites those who are chosen to perform there to this day.

It is very much at the heart of the Dingle Community and throughout the year plays a role in the many festivals for which Dingle is famous. Visitors come especially to see the church and hundreds of people experience the ambiance and spiritual presence of this special place.

Which leads me to say that first and foremost, St. James is a place of worship. It attracts Pilgrims walking the Dingle Way, as well as its pilgrimage links to Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims from Spain in Medieval times were thought to have been instrumental in building the church and named it after their own St. James. In the following years, many pilgrims set out from Dingle on spiritual journeys to Santiago de Compostela to follow the Way of St. James.

HALF A MILLION EUROS NEEDED

St. James was rebuilt in 1808 and, like many old buildings, now urgently needs repair and restoration – the cost of which will be in the region of €500,000. To launch the fund-raising and to raise awareness of the project, I will be rekindling our links to St. James of Santiago de Compostela by walking the last 116km of the Camino in Spain, starting on 1st May 2018.

I would be most grateful if you would sponsor me on my journey. With your help and by God's grace, St. James Church, restored and improved, will continue to serve God and the community into the next century.



St James' Church is at the heart of the Dingle community & famous worldwide for 'Other Voices'

HOW TO SPONSOR REV PHYLLIS

if you would like to sponsor me on my journey, please donate as follows:

- On line at 'ifundraise.ie St. James, Dingle'
- By cheque made payable to Kilgobbin Church Dingle Union (and marked on the back 'St James Restoration Fund'), c/o The Reverend Phyllis Jones, The New Rectory, Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry. V92 W0Y5

Editor: Rev Phyllis has really got the fundraising campaign rolling – see the excellent interview she gave to Seán Mac an tSithigh of RTÉ News on April 21st at www.rte.ie/news/munster/2018/0421/956201-dingle/

NEW 2018 **ROBERT WYSE JACKSON**

A FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO AN OFTEN TURBULENT ERA OF CHANGE.

This enticing 250 page book is the result of painstaking research into the turbulent life of clergy and laity of the (ancient Celtic, catholic and protestant) many faceted Church of Ireland during political upheavals, the influences of plantation and of ecclesiastical establishment.

Robert Wyse Jackson, onetime lawyer, country clergyman and eventually Bishop of Limerick, had a deep understanding of both rural and urban 17th and 18th century ecclesiastical society. Here he writes with confidence and uses contemporary quotations to present a true, amusing - even compulsive - read.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND 1600 - 1800

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CELEBRATING MARGARET JACKSON

About two years ago Margaret Jackson, the organist in All Saints Church, Castleconnell offered to try to play a few bars to give us "a note" just to tide us over until we acquired some professional solution. With a lot of practice and growing confidence Margaret now accompanies almost every Sunday.



Peace be with Margaret in the loft!

One day she confided that all alone, high in the organ loft, she was missing out being one of the congregation, especially when we exchanged the sign of peace! We were all so intent on trying to shake everyone else's hands that we never looked up to reciprocate Margaret's greeting as she hung over the edge of the balcony being ignored! A plan was put in place to rectify this unintentional oversight. The procedure to be adopted was passed around the congregation and as soon as we exchanged the sign of peace, we went to the front of the Church, turned, waved and chorused in one loud voice "Peace be with you Margaret".

On Easter Sunday Rev Lucy invited Margaret to descend from her lofty perch to be presented with this framed "moment in time", to place on her piano as a constant reminder of our love and appreciation for her enthusiasm, her dedication, her friendship and above all her beautiful music.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

PRAYERS

We remember Holly Dagg, Iris Dyer, Betty Eades, Pamela Edge, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse in our prayers.

CONDOLENCES

Lee Robertson, brother of Norma-Jean Carney, passed away on Palm Sunday, the 25th of March, in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada, after a long illness. The Archdeacon and Mrs Carney were pleased to have been able to see him in February, and are grateful for the expressions of sympathy from so many people.

Beatrice Fletcher passed away on the 10th of April, in her 105th year. Her funeral service, on the 12th of April, was conducted by Archdeacon Carney, assisted by Canon Ruth Gill. Sincere condolences to her son, Leslie, and her family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

After a death in the family on Palm Sunday, the Archdeacon and Mrs Carney were delighted to celebrate the arrival of a new grandson, born on Good Friday. Blaise is the son of Kathleen and William, and little brother to Owen and Lucien. They live in in Plumaudan, Brittany, France.

BIRR FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

At this writing, we are looking forward to the 2018 Birr Festival of Music and Voice which is running from Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May. To share in this wonderful event, our Sunday Eucharist on 6th May at 11:30 am will be enriched by a group of singers from the 2016 Cantata choir who will sing music by William Byrd (1539-1643) and Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), two of the greatest Elizabethan composers of choral church music, whose music could well have been sung in the pre-Reformation church here in Birr. The Birr Methodist congregation will join us for this celebration.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING & RESOURCES DAY

Parents, grandparents, and all interested in what we can do for children in church in our parish, are invited to the Training and Resources day at the South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick City, on Saturday 26th May 2018 from 9:45 am to 4:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to reimagine children's ministry in our parish. The leaders are from the Children's Ministry Network, formerly called the Church of Ireland Sunday School Society. More information can be found elsewhere in Newslink. Please speak to the Archdeacon if you are interested in going, so lifts can be arranged.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Some future dates to keep in your calendars:
- Thursday, 10th May: Ascension Day – Holy Eucharist in Dorrha Church at 8:00 pm.
- Sunday, 20th May: The Day of Pentecost – Group Holy Eucharist in Birr Church at 11:30 am.
- Sunday, 27th May: Trinity Sunday – Dean Niall Sloane will be Celebrant and Preacher in Birr.
- Sunday, 24th June: Service of Confirmation in Birr (time to be announced).
- Sunday, 1st July: Joint service in Birr Methodist Church, followed by meal together.
- Saturday, 14th July: Tentative date for our second annual Parish Pilgrimage.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

St Burchin's Church Bourney, Christ Church Corbally, St Molua's Church Kyle, with St. Cronan's Church Roscrea

Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

FROM THE RECORDS

Friday 13th April 2018. Robert Roe aged 77, was laid to rest in Skeirke graveyard after a very large funeral in Christ Church, Corbally. Deepest condolences are extended to Doreen and to Peter, Suzy and Mandy and their families. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, they are blessed indeed says the Spirit for they rest from their labours.'

Holy Baptism: Lottie Marian Benn, baby daughter of Sarah Jane and Jason Benn entered the Church in St Cronan's Church Roscrea on Saturday April 14th.



Sarah-Jane and Jason Benn with Godparents Avril Benn and Adam Kelly 'holding on' to baby Lottie

BOOK LAUNCH IN CHRIST CHURCH CORBALLY, ROSCREA.

'Life in the Church of Ireland 1600-1800' was launched by Dr Ed Walsh in Christ Church Corbally on Thursday April 26th at 7.30pm. This book began its life as 'Scenes from Irish Clerical Life in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries'. It was written by Robert Wyse Jackson during his time as Curate in Charge of Corbally and then as Rector of Ballymackey near Nenagh. See the advertisement on page 19.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

We look forward to having Bishop Kenneth come to St Cronan's Church Roscrea on May 20th at 11am to hear our candidates confirm their membership of the Church of Ireland. All seven candidates are working hard as they continue to discern their way forward towards Confirmation. Many congratulations to Sam Dudley and Josh Irminger who were confirmed in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny on April 22nd.

GARDEN DEMONSTRATION

This popular fundraising event by Lawlor's Garden Centre Durrow, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16th May. The Abbey Hall is the venue, the time 8pm. It is an evening with lots of useful advice as the growing season gets going. Questions are welcomed by the speaker who has a huge knowledge of things horticultural.

GFS Enrolment Service will be held on Sunday May 27th in St Cronan's Church at 10.45am.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Services in Holy Week were very well attended. On Monday we were in Templederry for a Service of the Word, Tuesday in Killodiernan for Compline and Wednesday in St Mary's for Evening Prayer. At each service there was a short meditation on one of three phrases from the Apostles Creed. On Maundy Thursday, in St Mary's, there was a Eucharist with the washing of hands, as opposed to feet, as a symbol of service, followed by the stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday there was the 'Three Hours' and the liturgy of Good Friday led by the Rector. Later in the evening, in Templederry, there was an ecumenical walk of witness and stations of the cross, beginning in the Church of Ireland Parish, and making its way to the Roman Catholic Church, where devotions were led by Father Willie Teehan.



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Cheques should be made payable to St.Michael's PTA & posted to Saint Michael's N.S. ,11 Barrington Street,Limerick marked 'Buy a Brick Campaign'.

On Easter Eve, in Templeberry, there was an Easter Vigil, complete with bonfire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle. The Church was in darkness as the Paschal Candle was brought in, everyone taking a taper light for their own candle as the light spread throughout the church. As we proclaimed the Resurrection, the lights in the church were turned on as a joyful fanfare was played on the organ and members of the congregation rang hand bells – a joyful and imaginative way to usher in the great Festival of Easter! Easter Ceremonies and Eucharists were held in St Mary's, Nenagh and Killodiernan Parishes on Easter Day.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

The Easter General Vestry was held on Wednesday 11th April in St Mary's. The Rector, in his address, highlighted the successes of the last year including the Christmas Tree Festival, the successful, 'Songs of Praise' service in November and, most importantly of all, how members of all three congregations in the Union had worked so well together in the past twelve months. He outlined his priorities and ways in which he felt the Union could develop in the coming year. He had one or two challenges for the Union to consider as we move forward. As a result of elections, a full Select Vestry was appointed for the coming twelve months.

THE DEATH OF ANDREW YOUNGHUSBAND

Members of the Nenagh Union were saddened to hear of the recent sudden death of Andrew Younghusband on 13th April. As we go to press, there are no firm arrangements for his funeral, which will be held in St Mary's Parish Church, Nenagh within the next fortnight. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Franny, his daughters Joanna and Charlotte, and to the extended family circle.

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

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

Easter General Vestry meetings were held in Cloughjordan, Moneygall and Borrisokane over the course of the last month. Congratulations to all those who were elected to the Select Vestry and thank you to those, who having served for many years in various capacities, have retired. Your contribution to the life and witness of the various parishes is appreciated, as well as your many years of faithful service.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes are in full swing at the moment, as the candidates are being prepared to make their own commitment to the Christian faith. The material used in the classes is the Believe Handbook, produced by the Church of Ireland Youth Department. Some of the topics include an understanding of God, who is Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments and the work of the Church. We pray that God may bless them in their preparations, as we look forward to the Confirmation Service on the 24th of June.

SAFE GUARDING TRUST

A Safe Guarding Trust training for panel members was held at St Kieran's, Cloughjordan on the 20th of March. I would like to thank Gabriel Chrystal for the training and those panel members who attended.

THURSDAY CLUB

The Thursday Club meets monthly and is an important social occasion for the members who attend, as well as the chance to invite and hear from speakers about various topics of interest.

On the 4th of April, the Thursday Club heard about a very significant discovery, which was made in the bog at Faddan More, in the parish of Lorrha. This has come to be known as the Faddan More Psalter and is now displayed in the National Museum of Ireland. It was discovered by Mr Eddie Fogarty while operating a peat-digger on the 20th July 2006 and carefully excavated. Contained within a leather cover was a psalter dating back to the 9th Century, used possibly by the monks in a monastic order in Birr. The text was based on the Gallican Psalter, a version of the Latin Psalter that had become popular in Gaul and widely used in medieval Ireland.

So many of our hymns, as well as the Canticles, have their origins in the word of the psalms and have become a distinctive part of our worship. One of the reasons the psalms are so accessible to a life of prayer, in that they arise out of real life situations, reflecting not only an understanding and experience of God, but also our human condition. It is encouraging to consider how the psalms have fed and nurtured the prayer life of people for so many generations, and this living link with the past is a reminder to us to continue in this tradition of praying the psalms.



The Latin Text of Psalm 83:4-9 in the Faddan More Psalter

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Vacant

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly, R42 HT20
Phone: 05791 35341: email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The four churches looked beautiful for Easter Day, each provided a bright backdrop to worship in the season of hope and joy. Well done to all concerned.

The following Sunday, 8th April saw the return to services in each church every Sunday. Many thanks to Alan Algeo, Alan Armstrong, Aaron Ellison-Jones, David Frizelle, David Meredith and Iris Peavoy for their help in leading services of Morning Prayer.

THE REVD. PAUL FITZPATRICK

Congratulations and every blessing to Paul as he prepares for the next stage in ministry in Limerick City Parish. He will have many talents to offer, not least his interest in people, to help promote the Cathedral in its 850 year celebrations. His Service of Welcome will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, on Saturday 30 June at 3.30 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Amanda and Derek Grant on the birth of a baby boy on the 19th April. Another grandchild to proud grandparents Willie and Florence!

Thursday, 10th May is the Ascension Day. It is also the first day of General Synod in Armagh. There will be a service of Holy Communion to celebrate our Lord's ascension in Eagla Lodge at 7 p.m.

FASHION SHOW IN GLOSTER HOUSE

The Fashion Show was a resounding success! The venue was the perfect setting for the beautiful clothes on display. It's not possible to thank people individually here but the positive feedback is testament enough to amount of work and time given to the planning beforehand. A sincere 'thank you' to Tom and Mary Alexander and is also extended to all the generous sponsors and to parishioners who supplied prizes for the raffle during the show. Funds raised will go towards painting the interior of St. Mary's Church, Shinrone.



A small sample of the lovely clothes shown at the Fashion Show in Gloster House

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AGHANCON COMMUNITY HALL

The AGM was held recently when the past year was reported on and plans for the future were proposed. A novel form of fund-raising offers a way of tidying out the wardrobe! A collection of clothes, clean and in good condition, will be held on the 28th/29th May at the Hall. Further details from Mrs. Ina Blackwell at 05791 91253.

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

No notes received.

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

The staff, students and parents of the Glebe National School, along with the wider parish community, offer their deepest sympathies to the family of former student James Curley, who died suddenly on April 20th. His funeral service was held in St Augustine's Church Clontuskert on April 24th. Our thoughts and prayers are with his three children in the school Jack, Emer and Kate.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to enrich our worship throughout Holy Week and into the season of Easter. We are particularly grateful to the Reverend Patrick Towers who led the Palm Sunday services in St John's Ballinasloe and St Catherine's Church Ahascragh, as well the Holy Communion services for the Second Sunday of Easter in St John's & Holy Trinity Church Aughrim.



Ecumenical Way of the Cross service at St John's Ballinasloe on Good Friday

The Easter season has given us wonderful opportunities to come together as a parish community, including the united services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day and the united service on the Fifth Sunday of Easter in St Matthew's Church Clontuskert (Glan). We are renewed in energy in our worship and work each time we connect with each other as a parish family. The monthly family service in Aughrim on the Third Sunday of Easter once more proved a great chance for children and families from our different churches to come together for a fun-filled time of songs, stories and prayer. It is encouraging to see a growing circle of youngsters taking responsibility for leading our worship in those services, offering their talents to lead our music, prayers and readings.

The Easter Vestries for the Aughrim & Creagh parish unions were held on April 17th and 19th respectively. As we look back at the work and witness in our parishes over the last year and prepare for the journey which we will travel together in faith over the year ahead, we are deeply indebted to the commitment and devotion of all who serve on our Select Vestries and in elected posts. In their stewardship and spirituality we pray that they will know God's blessing and guidance in the year ahead.

Many thanks to Rosemarie Langtry who gave a wonderful craft presentation on 'ironing with wax' to St John's Mother's Union on Tuesday 17th April in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe. We send our blessing to Reverend Gary Hastings, formerly of Galway Parish, following his appointment as Rector of Holy Trinity Church Killiney. The Rector was pleased to attend his service of institution on April 20th. We also offer our warmest welcome to Reverend Isabel Keegan & Reverend Ann-Marie Stuart following their service of welcome in Killorglin Parish on April 20th. Congratulations also to Father Christy McCormack, who celebrated his big birthday in Fohenagh on April 21st.

As we prepare for Rogation Sunday on May 6th, it is timely that local children from Little Smarties Pre-School in Aughrim and from The Glebe National School in Aughrim have been helping to plant the first crops of the year in The Rectory Garden Project. Many small hands make light work. On the first morning of planting, an enthusiastic class of three and four year olds planted beds full of cabbages, potatoes, onions, peas and lettuces. Sincere thanks goes to the dedicated team of Aughrim Development workers who are running the garden project this year for the shared benefit of the parish and community. They are to be highly commended for using the garden to give young people such rich learning experiences.



Planting seeds at the Rectory Garden Project, Aughrim

The Sunday After Ascension will be celebrated on May 13th with Holy Communion in St John's Church Ballinasloe, a Family Service

in Aughrim, and with Morning prayer in Ahascragh. May 20th is Whit Sunday and we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost with Holy Communion in Woodlawn (10am) & Aughrim (11.30am) and with Morning Prayer in Ardahan (10am), Ballinasloe (10am) and Glan (midday).

During the month of May Our Lady of Clonfert church attracts over 50,000 visitors for a series of monthly masses. As part of a series of different guest preachers each day, the rector will be preaching at the mass on Tuesday 22nd May at 8pm, joined by Reverend Charles McCartney of Clonfert Parish. Ballinasloe organist Michael McCullagh has composed a new hymn, Our Lady of Clonfert, which will be sung for the first time at this year's services.

Moving towards the summer, we are hoping that the sun will shine on two parish outings planned for the month of June. On Saturday 2nd June we will be leading a parish pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick, then on Saturday 23rd June we will be joining with Galway Parish for a Teddy Bear's Picnic in Turoe Pet Farm, near Loughrea.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney

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

Mob: 087 709 4468

Email: dunroamin.mccartney@btoopenworld.com

Clonfert Group of Parishes

CHURCH SERVICE PLAN FROM MAY 2018

- Portumna 10.00am, 1st Sunday Morning Worship & 3rd Holy Communion
- Eyrecourt 10.30am, 2nd Sunday Holy Communion & 4th Morning Worship
- Banagher 12 noon every Sunday, 1st Sunday Holy Communion
- Clonfert Cathedral 11.00am, 5th Sunday Holy Communion - Joint Service

My thoughts this month are to say thank you to those who supported our Lenten Bible Study in the Rectory, Holy Week services and our Easter weekend services.

Easter Day for us started on Saturday evening in Portumna and set the scene for all our services with children very "present". Asking Charles serious questions requiring serious answers. I hope we managed - cornered by a great young person. This theme really continued and Easter Day services were very busy in both Eyrecourt and Banagher. Thank you for the family support and just so great to see our largest Church in Eyrecourt looking well filled. A family from Liverpool on holiday found us and enjoyed the fellowship. Banagher continued and coped well with the Baptism of our latest grandchild Eva Louise. Both of our Sacraments at the same service with young families, Easter Eggs and it was an exciting day. I missed the family photographs after the service in the excitement of the day but caught up in the Rectory after.

Again thank you for the preparation of our Churches, the flowers and lots of chocolate eggs large and small. Thank you for your support and a great weekend celebrating the "Empty Tomb". Thank you for all the Easter Vestries and for the way we coped with a few changes.

Thank you to all in any way for your support.

Finally just Thank You Lord Jesus Christ for Your Sacrifice which is beyond our experience. For your love which held You on the cross for each of us and for the great Easter Event the Empty Tomb.

In closing I have managed to catch up with a photo of Cecilia and myself with Eva Louise Cleland



Proud grandparents of Eva Louise after her baptism

We also had the opportunity to take part in Birr Methodist and baptism of Kayleigh Dorothy Hazel Eades Bracken, another great day.



At the baptism of Kayleigh Dorothy Hazel Eades Bracken in Birr Methodist Church

We also had a Delahunt Baptism in Banagher Church, great to welcome Archdeacon Wayne and Norma Jean back to Banagher. Family returned for the day from far and near and we will have a photograph next month.

What is left to say? THANK YOU!

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Very Rev Niall Sloane

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061 310 293

Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org

Website: www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org

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Newslink Distributor: Gillian Cheatley

FROM THE DEAN

During my address at the Easter General Vestry I spoke about the many aspects of life and ministry in Limerick. I want to reiterate my thanks to everybody who is involved in the life of our parish. For the coming year I invite you to pray for the new Select Vestry, for me and for this parish as we seek to discern God's will for Limerick City Parish in 2018 and beyond.

CONFIRMATION

Please pray for those preparing for confirmation in St Michael's Church on Sunday 29th April.

ST MARY'S 850TH

The programme of events is well underway – please visit www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org for more information. The next major event will be the Three Choirs Festival on May 19th.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

These popular events continue on Wednesdays at 1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral. Free Admission.

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

St Mary's was delighted to host recently a service for the Lutheran Community in Limerick.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

The Easter General Vestry was held in St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 15th April following morning service. As well as the presentation of the annual accounts and Rector's report, the following were appointed:

Churchwardens

St Mary's Rector's: John St. George

People's: Emma Meelin

St Michael's Rector's: Victor Dreaper

People's: Keith Morrow

St John's Rector's: Tony O'Connell

People's: Bertie Swanton

Glebewardens Rector's: Tracey Lyttle

People's: Richard Brickenden

Select Vestry: Lindsay Boyle, Victor Brown, Gillian Cheatley, Craig Copley Brown, Philip Cullen, Susi Eckhardt, Louise Fitzgerald, Lucy Kavanagh, Trevor Lyttle, Margaret Schutz, Kayt Shier, Kieran Sparling

Hon. Secretary: Tracey Lyttle

Group Treasurer/Treasurer Saint Mary's Cathedral: Terence Cusack

SELECT VESTRY

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 24th May at 8pm in St Mary's Cathedral.

MOTHERS' UNION

St Mary's will host the diocesan festival service on Sunday May 13th. All are very welcome to attend.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School meet in St Michael's Church on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.

Godly Play meet in St John's, Abington on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

An Abhainn was launched just after Easter. Thank you to the editor, Jeanne. The next edition will appear in June.

ST MICHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Please see elsewhere in 'Newslink' for news from our Parish School.

ST MICHAEL'S HALL

For booking enquiries please contact the Hall Manager, Suzi Eckhardt.

HOSPITAL VISITING

The Clergy would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from them or in the Church porches.

PARISH ARCHIVES

We are looking for any photos, information or historical artefacts relating to any of the churches in Limerick City Parish. If you have any such records, please contact the Dean.

READERS AND INTERCESSORS

If you would be interested in reading at services and/or leading the Prayers of the People at Parish Communion once a month please speak to a member of the clergy.

CHILDREN AND CHURCH

We are grateful to the leaders of our Sunday School who have organise a wide range of events and activities. Children who wish to remain in church can avail of the Children's packs at the back of the church and/or follow along in our Parish Communion services with the 'I can join in the Holy Communion Service' booklets.

COELIAC?

Communicants who wish to receive gluten-free bread please inform the Clergy or a Churchwarden

ECO CONGREGATION IRELAND

Keep an eye on the notice board in the Church on news and updates.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved

- Jennifer O'Leary and her family on the death of her mother.
- John Heaton and his family on the death of his brother.
- Peter Barley and his family on the death of his aunt.
- Avril Gill and her family on the death of Erwin Den Dikken.



Baptism of Ruairi Lee, with his parents Nick & Gill Lee and grandparents Trevor & Tracey Lyttle in St. Peter's Church, Benfleet, UK

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

BAPTISMS

Two baptisms were held at St. Nicholas Church, Adare, in recent months. On 11 March, we welcomed Josey Schoepfel into the Christian life as she herself took her baptismal vows. On 8 April, we again celebrated as Lennox De Wet was baptised. Congratulations to both, and to their families!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

We had a good round of services during Holy Week and for Easter Sunday, and there was an especially good spirit in them this year. On Palm Sunday, the students preparing for confirmation assisted in reading the Passion Gospel in Adare. Croom Church hosted the Tenebrae service on Tuesday in Holy Week; we observed Maundy Thursday in Adare; and Good Friday services were held in both Kilpeacon and Adare. As is the custom, the Kilpeacon service was aimed at children (of all ages!). The children learned the story of Good Friday and Easter in several ways and then made artwork and an Easter Garden for decorating the church for Easter.

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick



Children making artwork after the Kilpeacon Good Friday service

We returned to Kilpeacon on Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil. Thirty people, representing all the parishes, came out for this most important worship service of the Christian year as we heard the story of God's salvation and then joyously welcomed the Resurrection of Christ (and the end of Lent!). All the parishes celebrated Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

CHOCOLATE

The joyous theme continued in a completely different vein a couple weeks later on our Second Friday event. We went to Ash Hill Stud in Kilmallock, a beautiful old house that is now a B&TB, where Griselda Williams taught us how to make chocolate truffles. The evening was intended for all ages, but we remarked how easily the adults present became like children, as we dipped and rolled our chocolates in various coverings.



Making chocolate truffles at Ash Hill Stud, Kilmallock

DRIVEWAY

The latest news at the Rectory is that it has a newly tarmacked driveway. The old drive was falling apart completely, with large mud puddles just inside the entrance. The Vestry hired James Hayes of Kilmallock Tarmacadam for the job, and he and his crew did excellent work, assessing the problems and how to solve them. Many thanks to James Hayes and to the Vestry.



The new Rectory driveway – a terrible beauty is born!

EASTER VESTRY

Both Vestries (Adare/Croom/Kilpeacon, and Kilmallock) have held their Easter Vestry meetings. Below are the results:

Adare/Croom/Kilpeacon:

Churchwardens

Adare: Olivia Gardiner, Valerie Shine-O'Kelly
 Croom: Nuala Gardiner, Helen Davis
 Kilpeacon: Bobby Bingham, Dorothy Brislane
 Glebewardens: James Clarke, Kieron Brislane

Vestry Members:

Adare: Victor Alfred, Janet Bray, Caroline deBurca Murphy, Alan Mitchell, John Scanlan
 Croom: Robert Davis, Robert Walker
 Kilpeacon: Richard Blennerhassett, Sylvia Cooke, Burton Smith, Norman Wheeler

Kilmallock:

Churchwardens: Henry Hales, Jessie Griffin
 Glebewardens: Luke Lillingston, Chris Adams
 Vestry Members: Margaret Cahill, Helen Greene, Emily Hales, Simon Johnson, Ann Kenny-Ryan, Tabitha Lillingston, Stanley Wallace

Thank you to all those who were elected!

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown & Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Mob: 087 663 5116

Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

CHRIST IS RISEN!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter, with all its hopes and joys, has dawned ... and Patrick had an opportunity to commemorate Good Friday and celebrate Easter in Thessaloniki, where the Greek Calendar marked Easter a week later this year.



Following the Good Friday processions in Thessaloniki ... a week after Easter celebrations in the Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes (photo: Patrick Comerford)



Sharing the Light of Christ at the Easter celebrations in Castletown Church

Although the Easter Vestries have met, one after another, the Easter Season, with all its celebrations and liturgical greetings, continues until the Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday (10 May).

These celebrations continue with special celebrations marking three particular days in May:

- Ascension Day (10 May)
- The Day of Pentecost or White Sunday (20 May)
- Trinity Sunday (27 May).

Sunday 6 May (Easter 6): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.

Thursday 10 May (Ascension Day): The Feast of the Ascension will be marked with a celebration of the Eucharist at 11 a.m. in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton.

Sunday 13 May (Easter 7): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Castletown Church; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.

Sunday 20 May (Pentecost, Whit Sunday): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Saint Mary's, Askeaton; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Saint Brendan's, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.

Sunday 27 May (Trinity Sunday): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Castletown; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Holy Trinity, Rathkeale.

EASTER VESTRIES

Askeaton Easter Vestry: Churchwardens: Simon White (Rector's), Ann Drew (People's); Glebewardens: Simon White (Rector's), Ralph Drew (People's), Treasurer, Ralph Drew; Secretary, Anne Drew. Additional vestry members: Hilary White, Betty Cregan, Donogh O'Grady, Gerald Griffin, Richard Langford, Brian Fitzell.

Castletown Easter Vestry: Churchwardens: Declan Shier (Rector's), David Downes (People's); Glebe Committee: Thomas Downes; Treasurer, Thomas Downes; Secretary, Raylene Downes. Additional vestry members, Valerie Downes, Linda Smith, Victor Gardiner.

Kilnaughtin Easter Vestry: Churchwardens: Eric Parkinson (Rector's), Alan Fitzell (People's); Glebewardens: Alan Fitzell (Rector's), Joe Gleeson (People's); Treasurer, Nikki O'Mahony; Secretary, Margaret Fitzell.

Rathkeale Easter Vestry: Churchwardens: Niall West (Rector's), Daphne Casey (People's); Glebewardens: George Shorten (Rector's), Niall Shorten (People's); Treasurer, Jennifer Shorten; Secretary: Susan Shorten. Select Vestry: Edward Buckingham, Jean Fitzell, Pearl Mitchell, Evelyn Lambert, Shirley Sheehan, Isaac Langford.

Group Treasurer: Victor Gardiner.

RECTORY WORK PARTIES

Over three or four weeks, work parties have been busy in the Rectory Garden, cutting back the growth, pruning the shrubs and bushes, tending to the trees and the grass. The garden is now a welcoming place, and already, on sunny mornings, it has become a place to work, to think and to pray. A warm thank you to all involved.



The Rectory Garden in Askeaton ... ready for summer after successive work parties

FORWARD PLANNING

10-12 May: General Synod meets in Armagh;

23 May: end-of-year service in Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale.

24 May: Patrick Comerford speaks at book launch, *The Preacher and the Prelate*, by Patricia Byrne, O'Mahony's Bookshop, Limerick.

NEWCASTLEWEST FONT

The Baptismal Font from the former Church in Newcastle West is about to find a new home in the Desmond Castle in May. Parishioners interested in attending the events to mark this should contact Patrick.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Jim Stephens,

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

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

Email: stjohns.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Web: www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry V92 W0Y5

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

Mid-week Services: The services are held each Wednesday at 11.00am in St. John's, Tralee followed by coffee and fellowship.

Sunday Club (Sunday School): will be held on the following dates: 29th April, 13th May, and 10th June (last Sunday before the school holidays).

Healer Prayer: the prayer service for healing continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 pm in Teach an tSolais, followed by tea and fellowship.

Links Ladies: The final meeting for this season will be a makeup party. The scheduled weekend away in May has been cancelled until September as it would clash with the concert in St John's.

Spring Choir Concert: Queens Island Victoria Male Choir with a special performance by the Kerry Chamber Choir is planned for Saturday, 19 May 2018.

The members of the Boys' Brigade will be washing cars in Teach an tSolais car park on Sunday May 20th from 10.15 to 12.30 - all money raised will go to our parish activities (BB, youth club, etc) The cost to wash your car is €5.00. So please bring your car along and we will do the rest!

SYMPATHY

To the family of the late William Leslie of Kilfynn and formerly of Gortalea. William passed away in Kerry University Hospital on Friday 6th April. His removal and funeral service were held in Ballymacelligott Church and he was buried in the family grave in Ballyseedy churchyard. We extend our sympathy to his wife Nora, his daughters Louise and Davina and to his son James.

To the family of the late Evelyn Kelly. Evelyn passed away on Thursday 19th April. She and her late husband Cyril returned from the UK to be near her daughter Jackie and their family. They worshipped in St John's where they were much loved and held in high esteem. Her funeral service was held in St John's Ashe street, followed by cremation in Cork. We extend our sympathy to her daughter Jackie Ruttledge and her family in Tralee and to her son Paul and his family in the UK.

OUTWARD BOUND

Robert Hoffman from Annascaul and David Tough from Tralee, both members of Tralee and Dingle Union of Parishes, are taking part in a Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) team to visit Kenya in for two weeks in July this year.

CMSI has been involved for many years in developing partnership links with the Church in Kenya. The Team will help strengthen the link with Kajiado Diocese by engaging with ongoing ministries amongst the local community. There will be opportunities to do building/repair work, teaching/training of Lay Readers and craft training for women. The team will also see first-hand some of the projects supported by link parishes (e.g. Oltiasika water tanks, farm and tractor, women's empowerment, Oloosuyian Girls Secondary School).

Robert and David are looking forward to their visit to Kenya and any support you can give be much appreciated. On return we will be available to speak to interested groups about our experiences in Kenya. Robert Hoffman: 086-8855446. David Tough: 087-6428560.

There will be no service in Kilgobbin on May 6th as Feile na Bealtaine will be celebrated with a special service in St. James, Dingle at 11 a.m., followed by coffee in Benner's Hotel.

A gentle reminder that Rev. Phyllis will be walking the Camino to raise funds for St James' Church, Dingle shortly. Donations may be made through the following: On line at ifundraise.ie St. James, Dingle. By cheque: payable to Kilgobbin Church Dingle Union (marked on the back 'St James Restoration Fund') c/o The Reverend Phyllis Jones, The New Rectory Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry. V92 W0Y5.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God is greater than my imagination,
Wiser than my wisdom,

More dazzling than the Universe,
As present as the air I breathe,
And utterly beyond my control.

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

2018 CONFIRMATION

On Sunday April 15th Bishop Kenneth Kearon confirmed Natasha Poff, Adam Doherty and Patrick Sheehy. Archdeacon Simon and Diocesan Readers Barbara Irgang-Buckley, Eric Champ and Andrew Eadie assisted, while another Diocesan Reader Adrian Hilliard played the organ beautifully throughout. Adam is a regular church-goer at St Mary's while both Natasha and Patrick are from our neighbouring parish of Kilcolman. It was a wonderful occasion with a packed church welcoming family and friends of the three candidates from all over county Kerry.

Our Bishop - who was focussing on the candidates for Confirmation throughout - spoke on the importance of not only confirming the Anglican faith, but living the Word throughout life. He stressed the importance of the family meal which has been used to celebrate critical events in church life over the millennia. Addressing the entire congregation, Bishop Kenneth stressed the need for renewal and self-examination in the faith and this was warmly received by all present. As Confirmations at St Mary's are relatively rare it is important to thank all those who helped prepare the church for the day and those others who helped out in any way before, during and after the service.



Newly confirmed (l-r): Patrick Sheehy, Natasha Poff, (both Kilcolman Union) and Adam Doherty (Killarney & Aghadoe Union), with Bishop Kenneth & Archdeacon Simon

EASTER VESTRY

The turn-out for the 2018 Easter Vestry was quite poor and we're not sure of the reason for this. Having said that, over recent weeks - throughout Easter especially - people have put in an awful lot of effort in decorating, concert stewarding, etc., so perhaps it's understandable that time constraints on people are increasing in this faster and faster moving world. There was just one change in Church Warden for St Mary's with Tom Blennerhassett taking a rest after many years of service. Tom will be replaced by Susan Hutchinson who joins Gavin Miller at the helm. Robert F. Harman and Richard Hilliard remain on as Glebe Wardens, while Raymond Hilliard and Andrew Eadie have stayed on in their roles as Church Wardens for Muckross. Moira Wharton is a most welcome Select Vestry member for the coming year.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

It cannot have passed anyone by the number of times lately that we have seen alarming headlines citing the sad and worrying state of the planet. One recent trend which has been highlighted is the amount of micro plastics in salt water fish populations. What's seriously worrying is that increased ingestion trends have been identified not just from the littoral species (living in shallow sea areas) but also those in the deep profundal zones thousands of miles from our coasts. It is easy for us to blame others, but we seriously need to look at how we live our own lives because, like it or not, we are part of the problem, and we all need to change our purchasing habits to eliminate as much plastic – indeed all waste – as we can. If we're looking for God's guidance in this, we will find it in the very first page of the bible in Genesis 1:20 – 21:

And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly and swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly over the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.

God created the sea monsters and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good and He approved it.

If he created it and saw that it was good, then it goes without saying that each of us must do what we can to preserve it, otherwise we are going against the wishes and the word of God. It is incomprehensible that a lack of understanding of how nature works is seen as an excuse to keep destroying our planet. If we don't know why we need to minimise waste and increase composting we need to find out and then act. Whereas global warming receives some hysterical apocalyptic newsprint the fact that fish, fowl and people are dying all over the planet because of proven man-made pollution gets lost in the ether.

PLASTIC-FREE CHURCH?

Perhaps the first steps should be the simplest: if anyone is up to suggesting as to how we can make St Mary's the first plastic-free church in Ireland, we're all ears – and if we can do that, it can't be too much of a journey to see how we can do the same in each of our homes?

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

*St Michael's, Iveragh Road, Killorglin
& St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.*

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Isabel F Keegan, FJ, MA
Assistant Priest: Revd Ann-Marie L Stuart, FJ, MA

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

Web: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

SERVICES

St Carthage, Castlemaine – Sunday 9.45am.

St Michael's, Killorglin – Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.

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

NEW PRIESTS

By the time you read these notes we will have held a welcome service for our two new Clergy and if things fell into place for you, you were able to be here with us, and thanks for that. But if you were not the service was well attended with clergy, readers, parishioners, priests from neighbouring Roman Catholic parishes, TDs, Senators,

Councillors, the Mayor of Killorglin and many local business leaders, many of whom helped us raise the funds to pay for the building of our Church in the 1990's. Also present were representatives of many of the local community organisations and facilities. The singing of some of our more well-known hymns was ably supported by the Killorglin Mens' Social Club Choir. The organist was Edel Tracey of the Kingdom Music Academy who regularly plays for us on Sundays. That was followed by refreshments in the Manor Inn just across the road which altogether made a very warm welcome for the Rev Isabel & the Rev Ann-Marie as they begin a new phase in their lives. See page 17 for a note from Isabel & Ann Marie, with photos.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday 15th April Patrick Sheehy & Natasha Poff were confirmed in Killarney. We are looking forward to seeing them at Holy Communion in future.



Natasha Poff with Bishop Kenneth



Patrick Sheehy & family with Bishop Kenneth and Archdeacon Simon Lumby

Our Services on Sunday 22nd & 29th April were the first services for our new clergy.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY This annual meeting took place on Tuesday evening 10th April at 8pm in St Michael's Hall. The following were elected: Shauna Moroney, Pam Byrne, Matt Murphy, Ivan Stephens, Shirley Day, Mervyn Boyle, John Flynn, Ken O'Neill, Linda Spillane, Alan Sheehy, Adrian Boyle, Nigel Boyle & John Orme.

MANY THANKS I want to thank the Rev Brian Rogers, the Rev Joe Hardy, the readers Barbara Buckley & Adrian Hilliard who came to our parish to lead services which took a load of pressure off my shoulders during the vacancy. I also want to thank those parishioners who read the lessons in church in Killorglin almost every Sunday. That created variety & interest and was a relief and a chance to sit down for whoever was leading the services.

A big THANK YOU is also due to those few dedicated members of the Select Vestry who gave so much of their time to get all this set up in time for the "welcome". This is a case of "so much owed to so few by so many". Many will think it just happens not realising that a lot of work has to go into it for it to happen. Even finding a suitable house for them was a struggle and we need to thank Matt for that. Owing to the difficulties of getting internet and phones connected to the Irish Servers we will have to wait until the June issue before we see any notes from Isobel or Ann-Marie. That should allow me to escape.

On behalf of all our Parishioners and Diocesan Clergy and all those involved in the Diocese I am taking the liberty of welcoming Isobel and Ann-Marie amongst us and I wish them both every success, support and enjoyment while they are here. Eric.

Editor: The Newslink team heartily welcome Rev Isabel Keegan and Rev Ann-Marie Stuart to the diocese, and we look forward to hearing from them in the pages of Newslink in due course. We also express our thanks to Eric Champ for providing us with news from the Kilcolman Union during the vacancy.

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

At last – we have finally signed the contract between the RCB and the Irish Rural Development Agency to take a ten year lease on St Michael and All Angels Waterville. Although the Church will still hold Services as usual, there will be opportunity to develop a Heritage Centre with exhibitions of local interest, in addition to a programme of Concerts and other events. A major benefit of the lease is that it now allows us to seek funding from a number of agencies to enhance the building's functionality. Initially, there will be provision of heating and sound equipment, plus the removal of dry lining to the ceiling (installed with the best intentions, but not really best practice in current building techniques), revealing the wonderful oak beams which were previously hidden. Future plans include proper disabled access, toilet facilities and improved car parking. The funding efforts of the local community have made a significant contribution to the feasibility of the scheme – and in addition, we have received two generous donations from past parishioners.

We are looking forward to the completion of the first stage of these developments, with a planned ecumenical service on Trinity Sunday, not just to celebrate the new life of St Michael's, but to give thanks to Fr. Gerald Finucane and the Roman Catholic congregation of St Finian, Waterville, for their generous permission to use the Waterville Oratory during the building work.

We should also mention the efforts of Churchwarden Derek Noble and local Architect Albert Walsh, who have worked tirelessly to achieve the objective of giving a new lease of life to our wonderful old building. It occupies a commanding view of the beautiful Waterville Bay and reminds us all of its role in local history. From Trinity Sunday onwards, there will be a regular Service every Sunday, starting at 11:30. We look forward to welcoming our regular summer visitors, following in the footsteps of Charlie Chaplin and General Charles de Gaulle – why not join them for a day out to the far West of the Kingdom of Kerry?



Beautiful St Michael & All Angels Church, Waterville

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

The end of this month brings the Home Mission team of the Methodist Church to our circuit. This will be an opportunity for us to seek knowledge and discernment from God about His mission in our churches, in our communities, and in and through us. It can be easy for us, no matter our profession, to get so bogged down in the practicalities of our lives that we forget that our lives are God's, our time is His to use for His Kingdom, our resources and gifts are His for the expansion of His Kingdom. Please pray with us as we use this time to discern His will for us individually and collectively.

UPCOMING: The Annual Field Meeting on the Adare Manor Golf Course will be held on Tuesday the 5th of June starting at 11:00 am (leave at least 10 minutes to get to the place where the meeting will be held on the course). Speaker: Rev. Paul Ritchie. (Event will move to the Methodist Church in Adare if the weather is too wet.)

SERVICES FOR MAY:

6th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Services of Holy Communion
13th	Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler	
19th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Sat eve Service in Adare, 8pm
20th	Rev. Ruth Watt	Sun morn Service in Ballingrane, 11am
27th	Home Mission Team	God's Mission, Our Mission in Adare, 11am

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

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

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Some of you might remember when our Community Art group began a couple of years ago. Like a lot of things I can't actually recall exactly how it all started but it was probably a conversation with a few people who enjoyed painting and drawing or enjoyed the thought of having a go. We were really so fortunate to get tutor Paul

Quane on board supported by the LCETB. I do remember that we had a few discussions about how the group would work. We knew that it would really have to be quite relaxed and flexible and we were delighted when the LCETB were able to go with this model. There is a core group (very diverse) and some people who come and go and there is the built in capacity for people to join at any time during the term. I drop in from time to time and there is always the most wonderful atmosphere in the room. On May 30th they will be starting their second exhibition in CB1. I'm really looking forward to it. I think a lot of the fun in making an exhibition is in hanging it and I've discovered that there's way more to this than meets the eye! Look out for the announcement of the launch on CB1 Facebook page and come along, or come along to the group at 2pm on Tuesdays in Christ Church Hall if you'd like to get involved.

One of the joys of having a bit of space to use is being able to help people out. The Community Substance Misuse Team had a burst pipe in their Mallow Street offices and needed a place to work from without delay. One of our other partners, Bushy Park, suggested they ask if we could accommodate them for a while in Central Buildings and fortunately we could. CSMT a multi-disciplinary team responding to under 18s with substance misuse issues in the Mid West. They work with youth, families and the wider community to lessen the impact of substance misuse. They use the Community Reinforcement Approach; a comprehensive behavioural programme for treating substance problems. CRA is based on the belief that environment plays a major role in determining whether an individual will use alcohol or illicit drugs. It teaches individuals how to examine the triggers and the consequences for drug use, and to then re-arrange their lives so that clean, sober behaviour is more rewarding than is using alcohol/drugs. We certainly wish them every blessing in their work.



Members of Christ Church Community Art Group with Paul Quane

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev Karen Spence
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Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
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Pastoral Assistant: Susan Gallagher
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THE LIGHTHOUSE MILLSTREET
Sunday Service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm

KILLARNEY METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday services 11am with tea/coffee afterwards

"Let's discuss Sabbath" a Bible discussion group Mondays at 7pm.
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am.
Soul Food Fridays –
Breakfast from 9am
"Known and Loved" Bible discussion group from 11am
Lunch 12pm.
Coffee & Chat 1-3pm.
FAB Saturdays – May 26th, and June 30th – 3-5pm.

The Gateway, KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee).
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am.
Bible study Wednesday 10am.
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am.
Praise & Play 11-12.30pm, Friday.



Zoe and Leanne drumming in the grounds of Killarney Methodist Church.



Edwin Spence, Christiana Hofmann and Olga Ncube serving teas and coffees at the church gate in Killarney.

Rev. Karen returns to work with a bang! Open house at the Manse with all welcome on Saturday May 5th. We give thanks for the Local Preachers and Rev. Wesley Campbell who have served willingly in our spaces as Rev. Karen took a well-deserved sabbatical. We are looking forward to hearing her story.

Our FAB Saturdays continue in Killarney using Messy Parables by Martyn Payne as our starting point. Saturday 26th May (3-5pm) will find us examining the wise and foolish builders including the building of a house – but what size is a secret! Looking forward to June and our end of year FAB banquet, Saturday 30th June. ALL WELCOME – from 0-99 or beyond are welcome to participate, there is a child and grown up stream and activities that suit all levels of mobility

BIBLE STUDIES

Gateway Church in Kenmare continues to meet every Wednesday morning with studies led by Rev. Karen and Rev. Michael. In April there was an issue led study in the referendum to change the wording of the 8th Amendment.

The LightHouse in Millstreet has Step by Step Bible Reading Group. This group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm and the discussion always lively and on point. They are studying Peter, the man, leader and follower of Jesus. This involves scanning the whole Jesus' earthly ministry with Mark's account and reading Peter's letters

In Killarney, due to the congregation's response to the cancelling of the mid-week Bible study, a Bible discussion group has continued through April but moved days to Mondays at 7pm. It will resume its slot on Wednesday evenings in mid May. They have been discussing Sabbath using the book Subversive Sabbath by A. J. Swoboda to dig deep into the concept of Sabbath.

In Killarney on Friday mornings we are using a study created by the UK based pioneer minister Chris Duffett. This is a gentle yet challenging study exploring how we can know and share God's love in our community. If you would like to try it in your area contact Susan (details above).

All our Bible studies are open to anyone to walk in and join in the discussion.



Eileen O'Riordan, Jasmine Shaw and Clare Newell outside The LightHouse, Millstreet on St. Patrick's Day

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal

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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

I want to thank all who attended our Holy Week and Easter Sunday services and participated in the special events. On Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, our churches in Borrisokane, Cloughjordan and Roscrea all had prayer rooms open for most of the day. People of all ages came and enjoyed a quiet hour of reflection and prayer. On Thursday the Church of Ireland Cloughjordan joined us in our Methodist Church for a service observing our Lord's Last Supper with the theme 'The Last Time We Spoke.' On a Friday, two ecumenical walks of witness were enacted in Roscrea and Cloughjordan. In Roscrea, national school-age children

got involved and showed great eagerness and satisfaction by carrying the cross from the Methodist Church to the Church of Ireland. Young people can be so inspiring! They led the 70+ person walk carrying the cross to its final destination.

On Good Friday evening St.Mary's Col Shinrone joined us in our wee church in Shinrone for a Tenebrae Service remembering Christ's death. Our church was nearly full which brought great delight to this minister! Sunday morning we celebrated Christ's resurrection and his victory over death. Family and friends from near and far attended worship on our circuit. Being that it was April Fools Day as well as Easter, it was duly noted that Christ was no fool! The 'joke' shall we say was on those who tried to put an end to Christ. Many thanks again to all who took time out of their busy schedules to mark this most holy of weeks through worship, prayer, ritual, and action. May we continue to find meaning, purpose and hope in our daily lives as we share the Good News of Christ's Resurrection.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

Christian Aid Coffee Morning – All are welcome to Roscrea Church Hall on Friday 4th May from 10:30am-12 noon for a coffee and sweet treats. Come and shop our cake stall as well as bric-or-brack stall which will benefit Christian Aid.

World Day of Prayer Service – This service had to be postponed due to the snowfall in early March. It is now scheduled for Friday 4th May at 7:30pm in Roscrea Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Circuit Meeting – Wednesday 9th May at 8pm in Cloughjordan Hall.

Ecumenical Women's Bible Study – We meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in Cloughjordan Methodist Hall at 10:30am. All ladies are welcome. We will meet next on the 9th & 23rd May

Confirmation Sunday Service will be Pentecost Sunday 20th May at 11am in Cloughjordan Methodist.

Ecumenical Bio-Diversity outdoor service will take place in late afternoon on 20th May.

Annual Circuit MWI Service will be Sunday 27th May at 7pm in Shinrone Methodist. Everyone's invited and bring a friend!



Supporting asylum seekers and refugees

The Church of Ireland Refugee Working Groups have updated their resource on supporting asylum seekers and refugees, which highlights opportunities to become more involved in this area of ministry and service. This is now available at <http://bit.ly/2GGEy0u>

The resource covers the Church's current and past responses to the refugee crisis; sources of further support for asylum seekers and refugees; definitions, statistics and processes regarding asylum and refugee resettlement; and examples of work undertaken by associated missionary societies and ecumenical networks.



Wicklow Parish Church is involved in a cross-community project which will bring a Syrian refugee family to live in the town. This is the first community sponsored refugee integration project on the island of Ireland

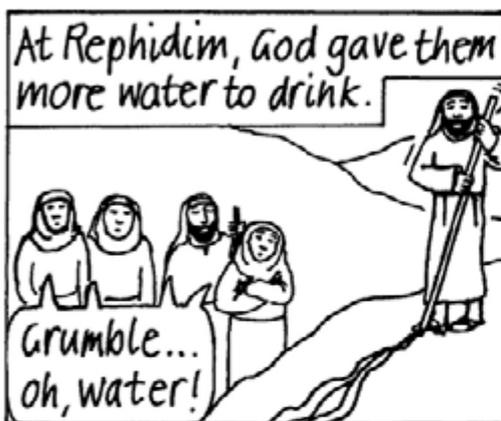
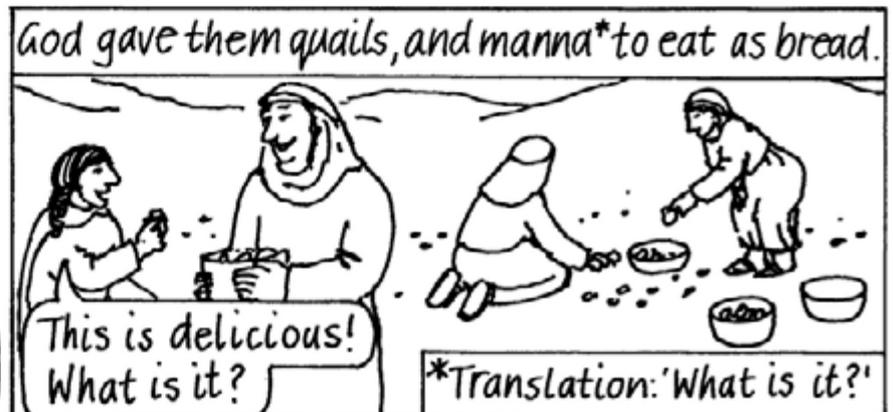


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15:22 to 19:2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days...



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