



# NEWSLINK

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

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Children of St Nicholas NS, Adare enjoying a picnic in the grounds of Adare Golf Club, close to where John Wesley preached, with the Franciscan Friary in the background

# Care for Creation

## Plastic Waste

The recent Blue Planet II series exposed just how much plastic waste is an issue in our seas. It is one of the great environmental scourges of our time. The best estimates suggest 10 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans, contaminating and killing sea life. How should we view this issue from a Christian perspective?

When God created the universe, He saw 'everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). He calls us to share in His care of creation: 'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.' (Genesis 1:28). Our rule over living creatures is not an excuse to exploit them in a selfish way. As those who made in the image of God, we are entrusted to care for them with responsibility and trustworthiness.



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Why do the sea creatures being killed by plastic matter? Because of human rebellion against God (see Genesis 3), our relationship with God and His creation was damaged. No longer do we live with living creatures in harmony and interdependence. Yet after the flood, when Noah rescued the animals in the ark, they were included in God's everlasting promise to protect the earth: 'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you.' (Genesis 9:9,10).

What is our response to be? Where is God calling us, as his people in this time and place, to make a stand in protecting His creation? Time for a plastic revolution?

## Archbishop Michael Jackson on Climate Change

Speaking at the Church & Society Commission Seminar on the Role of Faith Communities & Climate Change on 26th April in Trinity College's Science Gallery, the Archbishop of Dublin said:

*Climate Change Awareness ties in directly with the call to the avoidance and the eradication of selfishness; with the call to more equitable distribution; with the recognition that Western-style consumer choice is not sustainable in the havoc it plays with eco-systems and human survival in the places of origin of the raw materials of the consumerism and the energy we long ago claimed as an entitlement. We who live this style of life must also be aware that, in terms of the values of community and simplicity, of unclutteredness and rhythm, we can and must always learn from those who have less than we have at the very point when we want more and more.*



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# Bishop Kenneth writes - Respect for creation as God's gift

Some years ago when I was working for the Anglican Communion I was present at an international meeting of bishops in London. It was a long meeting, lasting several days, and at one very boring stage a bishop from Bangladesh suddenly became very upset and left the room.

There was massive flooding in his home diocese in Bangladesh he explained. It's a huge and very flat country, hardly a hill in sight, and almost all of it only a few feet above sea level.

We in Ireland know about flooding, but imagine a country as flat as Bangladesh where the smallest rise in water level means many square miles are flooded in a short time. In a country where water systems and sewage works are poor or non-existent the consequences of flooding are unimaginable. Poverty means that houses are very simply built and so fall down with the slightest flooding – no wonder that bishop was upset as he received messages from home.

It was this that brought home to me the reality of climate change. We live in a globalised world where we are all interconnected. Weather and climate knows no boundaries, and what we do in one country has an impact on people living thousands of miles away.

We in Ireland have been experiencing climate change in recent years. Long spells of very wet weather, very heavy rainfall, long hot periods of sunshine, are not the usual sort of weather we used to experience. Those involved in farming are having to adapt and change to new patterns of weather. The rest of us put up with and grumble about the rain and cold, and enjoy the sunshine when we get it.

All of that is a world away from the experience of those living in parts of the 2nd and 3rd world, where changing weather patterns really are matters of life and death. Prolonged drought in parts

of Africa, especially Sudan, means grass doesn't grow, cattle die, and soon there is famine. Famine and drought often leads to violence and death. Flooding in other parts of the world leads to drowning and loss of land and homes.

And we are all interconnected. What we do in Ireland can and does affect not only our own climate but the world weather systems.

The Church of Ireland has taken a lead in seeking to highlight what we ourselves can do. Our own diocesan synod passed a resolution last year on climate change, but passing resolutions must lead to action. Switching away from fossil fuels to renewable energy; using cars that are more fuel efficient; reducing our use of packaging to reduce the amount of plastic in the environment – all of these are simple actions, but when undertaken at a national level can do a lot to improve our climate.

As Christians, especially at Harvest time, we affirm our respect for creation as a gift from a loving God. We must treat our world and our environment with respect.

Kind regards  
+ Kenneth

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## Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at [joc\\_sanders@iol.ie](mailto:joc_sanders@iol.ie)

**Sun 15th – Fri 20th July** UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Lissadell Youth Centre, Co Sligo (10-13)

**Sun 29th July, 4pm** Annual

**Sun 19th – Fri 24th August** UDYC Senior Summer Camp,

**Thu 6th** Mothers' Union Holy Communion Service, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (Limerick & Killaloe are hosting)

**Sat 8th September** UDYC Fundraising Car Treasure Hunt, Cloughjordan Hall (all ages)

**Tue 11th** Diocesan Council for Mission, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

**Fri 14th – Sun 16th September** UDYC Taking a Leading Role - Part 2,

**Sat 15th September** Ministry Conference (clergy & readers), "Ministry among young adults", details to be confirmed

**Thu 20th September** Finance Committee 4pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm

**Fri 21st** Service of Celebration for Kiltallagh NS, Kiltallagh Church, Castlemaine

**Sat 22nd September** UDYC Multi Activity Day, Birr Outdoor Education Centre (3rd-6th class NS)

**Sun 30 September, 11am – 6pm** Diocesan Council for Mission Fun Day at Clonfert Cathedral

See also the diocesan website [www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar](http://www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar).

## Open House

**Janet White Spinner's annual Open House Day**

**11am – 7pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**  
*(first Friday of Birr Vintage Week)*

**St Alban's, Church St, Birr R42 Y586**  
**in aid of Alzheimer's Society (Birr Branch)**

*Come and have a cup of tea or coffee*

*Sit down and chat, meet friends or make new ones!*



# Editorial - God in the Garden

What a wonderful world we live in, overflowing with the diversity of living things, filled with beauty at every scale from the gigantic to the minute, and able to feed us all if we use it as we should. It is our Garden of Eden - God has made it for us and all his creatures, he continually remakes it through evolution, and in the words of Genesis he sees it to be good.

One of the delights of summer for me is to spend time in the garden - my wife Marty and I have our own parts, since 2 gardeners into 1 garden does not go. Other pleasures are visiting other people's gardens, and botanising in wild places like the Burren, a natural rock garden. Such places are miniature versions of God's good world.

Back in 2006 I started a blog called 'God in the Garden' in which I celebrated the glories of God's creation including my garden, and mused on our place as Christians within it. Five years later I abandoned it and have posted nothing for years, but like all things digital it still lives on in cyber space - you can find it at [godinthegarden.blogspot.com](http://godinthegarden.blogspot.com).

I have decided to restart it and set myself the goal of posting something at least weekly as a small personal spiritual discipline, part of my commitment to the Community of St Brendan. I know that God is in the Garden, and I pray that in words and pictures I may praise him and reflect his glory, however dimly. Do have a look if you have any interest in the idea, and feel free to comment.

God bless, Joc Sanders

## Letter to the Editor - An appeal following the Referendum

Clearly, there are Christians and others of good faith who voted on both sides in the recent referendum. My own pastoral experience in the UK led me to vote 'no' - but the referendum decision was made democratically and delivered a clear 'yes' result, and it would be wrong to deny the validity of that.

However, I would now like to appeal to all to ensure that this decision was not a slippery slope leading to further demands such as abortion on demand up to 24 weeks (possibly even up to term); severe pressure, even sanction, against medical and administrative staff who have a conscientious objection to assisting in an abortion procedure; and - what is most worrying - an increasingly loose definition of foetal 'abnormality' that may be as simple as cleft palate, and could conceivably lead to pre-birth gender selection and issues of eugenics.

Furthermore, the pro-choice argument against the pro-life lobby that after 35 years, it is a little late to start talking about increased care and compassion is demonstrably true. Let us all then work to promote readily-available contraception; early, mandatory and continuous sex education from primary school onward; a non-judgmental support environment for women both pre-and post-abortion; and increased support for parent and child health care in all circumstances.

Yours etc.

Rev Michael Cavanagh, Priest-in Charge, Church of Ireland Kenmare & Dromod Union

# Newslink

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

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

## Editor

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

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

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## Deadlines

The next issue will be for September 2018, published for Sunday 2nd September. There will be no issue in August.

**All material must reach the Editor by Friday 17th August 2018 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.**

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

## NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2018

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## NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2018

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

# Prayer Corner

## Partners in Prayer - July 2018

### Each Sunday in July

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry and Bishop Patrick Rooke.

### 1st July, 5th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United) and Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh, Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Jabalpur.

Diocese: Kenmare & Dromod Union of parishes, Rev Michael Cavanagh and the congregations of St Patrick's Kenmare, St Michael's Waterville, the Church of the Transfiguration Sneem, and John the Baptist's Valentia.

### 8th July, 6th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (United) and Most Revd Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar & Moderator of the Church of Pakistan.

Diocese: Nenagh Union of parishes, Rev Rod Smyth, and the congregations of St Mary's Nenagh, and Killodiernan and Templederry churches.

### 15th July, 7th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea and Most Revd Allan Migi, Archbishop of Papua New Guinea.

Diocese: Limerick City Parish, Dean Niall Sloane, Rev Edna Wakely, Rev Paul Fitzpatrick, and the congregations of St Mary's Cathedral, St Michael's Pery Sq, and St John's Abington.

### 22nd July, 8th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines and Most Revd Joel Atiwag Pachao, Prime Bishop of the Philippines & Bishop of North Central Philippines.

Diocese: Kilcolman Union of parishes, Rev Isabel Stuart, Rev Ann-Marie Keegan and the congregations of St Michael's Killorglin and St Carthage's Castlemaine.

### 29th July, 9th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda, and Most Revd Onesphore Rwaje, Archbishop and Bishop of Gasabo.

Diocese: Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh, Rev Bob Hanna, and the congregations of St Columba's Drumcliffe (Ennis), St Fachan's Kilfenora, Christ Church Kilfarboy (Spanish Point), and Kilnasoolagh church.

## August 2018

### Each Sunday in August

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough and Archbishop Michael Jackson.

### 5th August, 9th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church and Most Revd Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness.

Diocese: For those from our diocese away from home on holiday, that they may return refreshed and invigorated.

### 12th August, 10th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of South East Asia and Most Revd Ng Moon Hing, Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of West Malaysia.

Diocese: For those who work and play on our seas and lakes, and those who strive to keep them safe, in particular in the RNLI, the Coast Guard, Civil Defence, Air-Sea Rescue and Water Safety Ireland.

### 19th August, 11th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South India (United) and Most Revd Thomas Kanjirappally Oommen, Moderator of CSI & Bishop of Madhya Kerala.

Diocese: For summer visitors to our parishes, that they may feel welcomed and enjoy their time among us.

### 26th August, 12th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa and Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown and Primate of Southern Africa.

Diocese: For those from our parishes living and working overseas, that they may know they are kept in the thoughts and prayers of their loved ones at home..

### 2nd September, 13th Sunday after Trinity, Green

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Meath & Kildare and Bishop Pat Storey.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of South America and Most Revd Gregory James Venables, Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Argentina.

Diocese: For school children as they begin a new school year, many at a new school, and for their teachers, that our diocesan schools may be for them places of happiness and learning.

## Summer Prayer

Creator of all, thank you for summer!  
Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the long days.  
Thank you for the beauty I see all around me,  
and the wonder of your living world.  
Thank you for the time I spend with family and friends,  
and for the slower pace of the season.  
Draw me closer to you this summer.  
Teach me how I can pray,  
no matter where I am or what I do.  
Warm my soul with your presence,  
and light my path with your Word and Spirit.  
As I enjoy your creation, create in me  
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for you.  
Amen.

## Prayer of Joyful Access

Jesus, brother,  
you sat down at table with women who sold their bodies,  
men who sold their souls,  
and those whose lives were traded by strangers.  
You ate with them,  
and when you broke the bread wine and laughter flowed.  
As we feast with you now,  
may your bread strengthen us,  
your wine warm us,  
and your love cheer us for the days to come.  
Amen.

(by Janet Fife, Praying for the Dawn,  
Wild Goose Publications, 2000)

# Thirty Years of Chatting – Park & Play Group remembers & celebrates

'Feeling isolated and lonely... the Mother and Toddler Group provided the connection and friendships I desperately needed.' Anne Owen (March 2018), remembering the 1980s.

Back in 1987 Anne, a young American mother, walked into a Mother and Toddler Group in Limerick city. Her reason was typical of many who found themselves needing support and companionship with the general everyday caring of their children. Some were new Mums with understandable trepidation about first-borns, maybe twins, others were confident and knowledgeable, but all were in need of conversation, encouragement and a cup of tea. Barbara Thirde, now Bingham, was another such woman. Newly divorced with a three year old son, Andrew, she had moved back to her hometown of Limerick to be near her parents. She too was in need of support and company and happily joined a Mother and Toddler Group at Christchurch Hall in O'Connell Street and met Anne from America. They became lifelong friends.

This was a very successful and booming group and it soon became evident that it was getting too big. Barbara offered to start a sister group at St Michael's Hall in Barrington Street on a different morning and so a new group first opened its doors on Thursday 25 February 1988. Thirty years on this is the longest running playgroup in the city and the playgroup can still be recognised for its original values and aims.

"I wish I had taken some photos back then to show the continuity of fun days and smiling faces. Days that were memorable included those when new toys were added ...Testing them out became serious fun", said Barbara.

She still remembers the generous gift of a huge gas range cooker that was sold for funds to buy toys. St Michael's National School gave some low-level tables and chairs for the children, and a lovely man gave a ruck-sack and camp bed that were subsequently bought by the youth hostel across the road from the hall. "That provided us with lockers to store everything" she recalled.

Newsletters and radio interviews were the social media of the day in the 1980s and word soon spread of this group. As Barbara said in an interview, "The concept is all about prevention. If childhood ills and accidents can be prevented by the sharing of experiences rather than needing a doctor's visit for a solution to an existing problem, then a playgroup can be invaluable."

It worked then and it continues to work today. The present Park and Play Group is run by a group of parent volunteers led by Maebh Enright, Martina Shanahan, Sarah O'Halloran and generously supported by ABC Start Right. Highly successful and very much loved, this community playgroup, opens every Thursday morning from 10am to 12pm, where a friendly informal environment allows parents with their babies and children to chat and have a cup of coffee while the little ones play. On any given Thursday there are up

to twenty parents with their children.

The group reflects the cultural melting pot that Limerick city has become with parents from all four continents, including Walid Tabarka from Tunisia. "I moved to Limerick three years ago. Not long after I was suddenly bereaved and became a single father. I knew nobody and I was lonely. Being part of the Park and Play Group has changed all that for me. Now I can't go down the street or to the playground without bumping into someone I know. I have made beautiful friends and finally feel at home here."

St Michael's Church Park and Play Group celebrated its thirty years with a service of celebration in St Michael's Church, Barrington Street, Limerick on 17th June. After the service, members of the Park 'n Play Group gave a wonderful anniversary party for all the congregation, to celebrate 30 years of the Play Group's existence. Founding and former members were present, as well as members from the current Play Group. The celebrations were to say "Thank You" to St. Michael's Church for hosting the Play Group, which fostered many friendships formed over the years, not to mention all the advice, support and encouragement of the members, one for another.

The party was much appreciated by all those present, and the refreshments included a magnificent anniversary cake. Much fun was enjoyed by all and there were some short speeches of reminiscence and thanks.



*At Park & Play's 30th birthday celebration - (l-r) Maebh Enright, Martina Shanahan, Rev Edna Wakely, Andrew McCormack & Barbara Bingham*

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Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/Parkandplaygroup>

# The Five Marks of Mission – 1: “Tell”

**By Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chairperson of the Diocesan Council for Mission**

The first Mark of Mission, as formulated by the Anglican Consultative Council back in 1984, is “Tell – Proclaim the Kingdom of God”. How very un-Anglican! We don’t talk about our faith – most of us were taught from an early age that the two things we never talk about in public are politics and religion!

And yet, surely some of the difficulty we have in our parishes is that many of the families of our older parishioners seldom come to church. Could it be that our reluctance to share our faith with our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbours and friends has contributed to that? What can we do, to overcome this problem?

Well, the first thing we have to understand is that doing nothing is not an option. The numbers in our pews are not increasing in most of our parishes, and as our existing congregations age, the inevitable gradual decline will lead to closed churches. But just think what would happen if all those folks on our parish lists (or who should be) began coming, taking part, contributing their time and talents and money. We would have the resources and the people to start investing in the future.

Some will say, “That’s the job of the clergy, to bring those people back to church.” Well, quite simply, that doesn’t work. Most people come to a church (and keep coming!) because they are brought by family or friends – and because the church building, the worship

and especially the congregation are inviting, attractive, and friendly. They come if they can sit beside someone they know, who will help them with their books, and introduce them to others over a cup of tea or coffee after the service. How many of us would go to a strange church if the only person we’ve met – the Rector – is up at the front, unable to assist us in taking part?

There is another, far more important aspect to this than merely saving our congregations. Are we Christians just because we’ve always been Christians, or because we truly believe what we profess on Sundays about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, in this life and the next? And, if we do believe the Good News, surely we want others to believe it too – and especially our family and friends. Our faith should help us, in good times and bad; and surely we believe our family, our community, our world would be better off if they shared that faith as well. We “proclaim the Kingdom of God” primarily by our example. If our children and grandchildren, our friends and neighbours see us going to church, see us being the Church by our words and actions, and see our faith having a positive influence on our lives, then they are far more receptive to being invited to come and be part of a congregation that lives their faith.

The first Mark of Mission is “Tell”. May we tell others about the Kingdom of God by our words, our deeds, our lives, and invite them to share the treasure that God has given us – our faith.

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## Memorial service recalls Holocaust victims in Crete

Canon Patrick Comerford (Diocese of Limerick) and Barbara Comerford were guests at a memorial service in Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania – the only surviving synagogue in Crete – to mark the anniversary of the destruction of the Jewish community of the Greek island during World War II.

In June 1944, the 256 remaining Jews of Crete were being sent by the Nazis for deportation to Auschwitz when the Tanais, the container ship carrying them from Chania to Athens, was torpedoed by a British submarine HMS Vivid, off the coast of Santorini.

In all, about 1,000 prisoners were on board the ship, including 400 Greek hostages and 300 Italian soldiers. No one survived.

The service in Etz Hayyim Synagogue on Sunday 17 June was led by the Chief Rabbi of Athens, Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, and Patrick and Barbara Comerford were invited to join reading the names of the 256 Jews from Crete who died on board the Tanais.

During the Haskhavah or memorial service, the New York-born poet Natalie Ventura, who now lives in Crete, read her poem ‘Memorial Service’.

‘This was a humbling occasion, and as a visitor to Crete for 30 years it was deeply moving to have been invited to take part in this service’, Patrick Comerford said to Newslink. ‘In a cruel twist of fate,

the Jews of Crete were destroyed by fire in the Holocaust, but not in the way the Nazis had planned. The crew of the HMS Vivid believed they were sinking an enemy target, but never realised the horrific purpose of its voyage or who was on board.’



*CanonPatrickComerford&RabbiGabrielNegrin.JPG, caption: Canon Patrick Comerford with Chief Rabbi Gabriel Negrin at the Holocaust Memorial Service in Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania, Crete*

# The task of physicians of the soul is the cure of souls

## By Canon Patrick Comerford

I was catching up on some back-reading the other day when I came across the obituary in *The Tablet* on 24 March 2018 for Cardinal Karl Lehmann.

He has been described as the face and voice of Catholicism in Germany for over 35 years, and he was the Bishop of Mainz and former Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the University of Mainz. In the 1960s, he had been an assistant to Karl Rahner, the Jesuit theologian, during the Second Vatican Council.

His obituary quotes Johanna Rahner, who teaches dogmatics at Tübingen University and who had told the German weekly *Die Zeit*: 'He interpreted the Church's teaching as a *seelsorger* (a 'carer of souls' – a German word for priest) and not in the narrow, doctrinal, sense.'

I like the idea of seeing the priest or the pastor as the physician or doctor of souls. The German theological journal, *Seelsorger* describes itself as a 'Journal for the Contemporary Cure of Souls,' and the topics on pastoral care it discusses range from sexuality to post-modernity, the conscience to the use of story, vice, virtue, and baptism and the dangers and blessings of a long-term pastorate.

The soul is the deepest centre of the psyche. Problems at the level of the soul radiate out to all levels of the psyche and even the body.

The priest, the soul doctor, traces the problem to its deepest point. A hurting person should be addressed at all of those levels, but it is the soul doctor who addresses the very deepest level.

Among the Patristic writers, Saint John Chrysostom says that every priest is, as it were, the father of the whole world, and therefore should have care of all the souls to whose salvation he can co-operate by his labours. Besides, priests are appointed by God as physicians to cure every soul that is infirm. Origen has called priests 'physicians of souls,' while Saint Jerome calls us 'spiritual physicians.' Later, Saint Bonaventure asks: 'If the physician flees from the sick, who will cure them?'

Canon 21 of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 drew an analogy between the physicians of the body and the physicians of the soul. This analogy between medical or physical care and spiritual or pastoral care was enthusiastically developed in mediaeval sermons and penitential literature, opening the door to many further comparisons.

The English word *curate* refers to a person who is charged with the care or cure (*cura*) of souls in a parish. In this sense, 'curate' correctly means a parish priest. In France, the cure is the principal priest in a parish, as is the Italian *curato* and the Spanish *cura*. But in English-speaking places, the term *curate* is commonly used to describe priests who are assistants to the parish priest.

However, the word *curate* in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer means the incumbent of a benefice, who is licensed by the bishop to the 'cure of souls.' The shared cure of souls is made clear by the

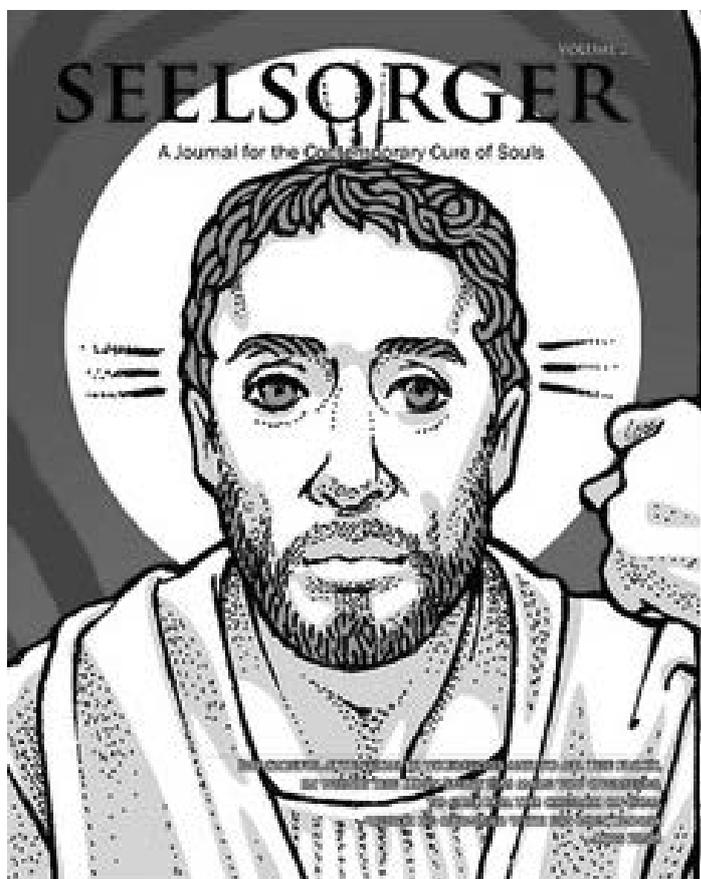
traditional wording of the bishop's deed of institution to a new incumbent, 'habere curam animarum, et accipe curam tuam et meam, receive the cure of souls which is both mine and thine.'

In other words, when a parish priest begins his or her new ministry, the bishop is sharing the care of the parish – described traditionally as 'the cure of souls' – with the priest, but the bishop does not give it away. The 43 Canons of the Church of Ireland, listed in Chapter IX of the Constitution, refers specifically to cures rather than parishes.

The soul is just as complicated as the body, just as rich and strange and puzzling. And it needs just as much attention. That does not mean that any priest can necessarily address these soul problems. But the true soul doctor is the depth psychologist.

When we think about salvation, it is worth recalling that the English word 'salve' is derived from the Latin *salvus*, which means healing. The priest, as an *alter Christus* is seen as one who mends broken hearts, heals hurting souls, and applies God's soothing balm on pained and wounded lives.

The priest truly is the 'doctor of souls.' Perhaps theology is the technical language of soul doctoring. But the prescription is the word and the medicine is the Eucharist, regular confession and daily prayer. The proper exercise is found in prayer, regular good deeds and acts of kindness.



*Saint John Chrysostom says priests are appointed by God as physicians to cure every soul that is infirm*

# St Mary Magdalene – the woman with a past

On Sunday 22nd July Christians all over the world will commemorate perhaps the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her 'past' is that Jesus had cast 'seven devils' out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of 'fallen women'.

Some see her as the woman 'who was a sinner' who washed Christ's feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that 'she had been forgiven much' and consequently 'loved much'. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener

revealing himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can't leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

## Diocesan Organisations

### Girls Friendly Society

#### CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Cloughjordan Branch held their Open Night on Wednesday, 23rd May. Diocesan President, Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney, presented the badges to the girls. Congratulations Rebecca Mooney who represented the Diocese at All-Ireland level and came 2nd in her category. The night included Branch Awards, speeches by Rev. Terry Mitchell and Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney and photographs.

The girls sang two hymns: "Give me oil in my lamp" - using percussion instruments for the chorus - and "Colours of day." Mr. John Armitage accompanied the girls on the keyboard and played music during the evening.

The Junior Group introduced the audience to some puppets with "The G.F.S. Puppet Show." The Middle Group showed that everyone is important in God's eyes with "We Are the Greatest" and the Senior Group sang "Georgie's Medicine" reminding us about safety with medicines. Well done girls! Leaders and parents are very proud of all the girls. The evening ended with a raffle and refreshments. The branch thanks everybody who assisted in the preparation of an enjoyable Open Night.



Cloughjordan GFS

#### BIRR BRANCH

Birr branch finished up on 22nd May with their badge awards. The girls completed their Citizenship and Drama badges and the afternoon culminated in a performance of 'The Lost Sheep', a short bible-based play written by the sixth class members and very successfully directed by Leah. All the girls had parts and the lost sheep was convincingly played by Charlotte! This was well received by the parents who attended and many thanks to Mrs Valerie FitzGerald for judging and awarding the badges. Thanks also to the leaders for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year and to the parents who support the branch and, of course, to the girls themselves for all their enthusiasm. The branch says goodbye to five members who are heading off to Secondary School: Sinead, Leah, Julia, Sofia and Viktoriya - wishing you the very best and do come back to visit your friends in GFS.

#### NENAGH BRANCH

The annual Enrolment Service for the Nenagh Branch took place in St. Mary's church on Sunday, 3rd June. Rev Rod Smyth led the service of Morning Prayer. GFS girls took an active part in the service with the readings, collection and sang "We can make a difference" as the GFS song piece. During the service the girls played some of their new music instruments to the new song "Be Strong and Courageous". Thanks to the girls for taking part in the Service, to Rev Rod Smyth for organising the Service and Rosemary Smyth who played the music and taught the girls the new songs. New girls were enrolled into the Branch and one new leader, Avril Murphy. Girls also received their merit badges for Drama and Citizenship. The service ended with refreshments and everyone had an opportunity to view the wonderful work of the girls which was on display. It was a truly lovely occasion. Thanks to all the leaders who give freely of their time and talents. Special thanks to the girls for their participation in the service and well done for their work during the year.



Nenagh girls enjoying some gardening!

The work of GFS in Nenagh Branch is made possible with the help of a grant from the Tipperary Education and Training Board as part of the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme. The support of ETB is greatly appreciated by GFS Nenagh Branch. This year the branch also received the ETB Equipment grant which was used to purchase the new Music instruments.

#### DIOCESAN CAMP 2018

Diocesan Camp took place in Durrow and Dunmore East over the week end of 15-17 June. Everyone had a wonderful time – full report in the next issue of Newlink.

- GFS All Ireland Training for newly elected officers was scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of June in the Theological Institute, Dublin – starting Friday evening at 5pm and finishing on Saturday 4pm.
- GFS Diocesan Fun Day will take place on Saturday 22nd September 2018 in Cloughjordan.
- GFS Diocesan Council will take place on Monday, 22nd October in Nenagh.
- GFS Christmas Craft Day will take place in Roscrea on Saturday, 1st December.
- GFS Diocesan Prize Day & Service 2019 is due to be held in Roscrea – date to be confirmed.

#### WHAT IS GFS?

GFS plays an integrated part in the life of the Church and community, offering members education through fun, while helping them to live a Christian life. Members are encouraged to achieve their best in a variety of areas such as drama, first aid, environmental awareness, arts and crafts and church life. All our leaders are volunteers and if you would like information on joining GFS as a member or leader please see web site <http://www.girlsfriendsociety.ie>

May you all have a lovely summer and come back to GFS in September refreshed and full of energy.



*GFS world President visiting clonmacnoise with All Ireland President, Sylvia Quinn, and Grace Healy, Cloughjordan GFS leader*

## Boys' Brigade



#### 1ST TRALEE COMPANY

The Parents' Evening marked the end of another action-packed session for the 1st Tralee BB Company as the Boys and Girls demonstrated their marching skills, physical activities and games to their families and friends.

The Captain, Mrs. Collette Price thanked all the Leaders for their time and commitment – Mrs. Dawn Darcy, Messrs. Danny & Rory Giles, Mr. Gerhardt Maritz and Mr. David Tough. As both Dawn and Gerhardt are leaving this year as Leaders an appeal was made for new Leaders to continue the good work of the Company.

Rev. Jim Stephens also thanked the Leaders in particular the Captain who puts so much work into the varied programme each week.

During the year, Rev. Jim enrolled the Company at St. John's Church, Tralee and the Boys and Girls produced a "Fruit and Vegetable People Display" for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

A varied programme of Physical, Spiritual, Community, Interest and Adventure activities was carried out during the year including Cooking, Easter Arts & Crafts, St. Patricks' Day Parade, Car Wash fundraising for Parish Youth Club, Sunday Club and Parochial School, a Family Hike and barbeque with visits to the Pantomime and Fenit Lifeboat Station.

At the Parents Evening, all the members received various badges.

Congratulations to Iona, Emmet and Graham on Best Attendance Award, Sarah Lynn, Kayla and Lee on their Friendship Badges and to Rourke for Overall Friendship Award.

Congratulation also to Billy on receiving the Captain's Prize and to Isaac who received the Anchor Boy William Fitzell Cup, and Rohan who received the Junior Section Pam Cooke Trophy.



*Billy - Captain's Prize*



*Rohan - Pam Cooke Trophy*



*Isaac - William Fitzell Cup*

## 1ST NENAGH COMPANY

A year of some change for us as Ger Maher, who has been a super captain from our beginning, left in preparation for the arrival of a new baby! We sent him off with a lovely Boys' Brigade watch, which we engraved with our thanks. We are extremely grateful for his dedication and effort and wish him well with his growing family. We managed to recruit a new helper, one of the dads, so welcome Joe Quirke!

Dr. Marty Sanders has been helping us keep sight of the "bigger picture". The first step of our programme planning is an overall view which balances our suggested activities across the main concepts of Boys' Brigade, namely Spirit, Body, Mind, Community, Creative. Needless to say, with a group of such young lads, the balance tips towards "body" and the physical!



*Anchors Away!*



*Nenagh Boys learning surfing techniques*

One of our main aims this year has been to instil an understanding of how things are for other people. One of our mums spent an evening teaching the boys sign language, we have played wheelchair basketball (twice – it's such great fun!) and we have played blindfolded darts. You will be relieved to know they were Velcro. In the same vein we gave a presentation on and discussed diversity and the value of difference. Huge thanks to Marty for putting this together for us, it was an inspired idea and a massive success with lots of interaction. The best part? The boys were already on board and had lots to say!

We had a huge financial boost this year as the government decided to award sports grants to youth groups. We have bought some fantastic equipment which we have already spent a couple of evenings trying out. Tesco also presented us with a cheque from their blue token initiative which was very welcome. Not all our evening programmes cost though; a favourite this year has been the "selfie treasure hunt". In case you are wondering, this is two teams finding landmarks and items around the town, from strange and obscure clues given by yours truly – then taking a group "selfie" with it in the background. Loads of simple fun!

We had a fabulous summer trip to treat the boys for their attendance

and commitment this year: Surfing in Lahinch! Followed by a trip to Cratloe Woods and, of course, McDonald's.

We finished this year with our usual BBQ and we presented our two boys who are going on to secondary school with photobook reminders of their time in BB – although of course we hope to see them back in September. Good luck to Jack Powell and Andy Cao! A special presentation was also made to Adam O'Brien for a year's full service and to David Hayes, who hasn't missed a single BB evening since he started five years ago. That's commitment!

We have been operating for six years now! Thank you to the wonderful leaders and helpers that make this possible: Nichola Hayes, Jim Stone, David O'Brien, Joe Quirke and Marty Sanders.

Signing on behalf of the captain we don't have yet!...

Lisa Drummond,  
1st Nenagh Company

## Mothers' Union

As we break up for the summer we look back on all that we have achieved over the last few months and, particularly, our Mums in May Tea Parties. This fundraiser has always been a great success and great fun too, and I hope you have all enjoyed them. Some of our branches are holding their Tea Party in the Autumn so more to look forward to!

Our Women's Getaway Weekend, which is 12th and 13th October in Cavan, is a wonderful time of relaxation, reflection and sharing friendships. The theme is "Stepping Out in Faith" and the speakers are Archdeacon Andrew Forster and Mrs Heather Forster. Heather is an MU member and her speciality is in family and child care but also in the representation of children going through court proceedings. If you would like to attend you can get the forms from your Branch Leader or contact me directly, and remember, you can attend on the Saturday only if you wish.

I really do hope that you all enjoy the well deserved summer break to recharge the batteries!

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President



*Chill at the Mill*

### ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION BALLINASLOE Chill at the Mill

Sunshine, chat and good company resulted in a great summer outing for members and friends of St. John's Mothers' Union Ballinasloe.

Starting with a visit to Fancroft Mill and Gardens, Roscrea and a warm welcome from Irene, tea and homemade cake preceded a tour of the the newly restored water mill and beautiful gardens,

Loaded up with plants and homemade preserves the ladies headed to the The Thatch in Crinkle where they enjoyed a super meal, lots of laughs and a great end to a really lovely Summer outing.

An exciting new programme for 2018/2019 has been circulated and starts on September 18th 2018 with the Opening Service in St. John's Church Ballinasloe at 7.30 followed by refreshments. For further information about the branch's activities please contact Jackie on 0872341535



Enjoying Fancroft Gardens

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- September 6th - MU Holy Communion Service, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 11.15am. Limerick & Killaloe Diocese are hosting
- October 12/13th - Women's Getaway Weekend, Cavan Crystal Hotel
- October 20th - Trustees & Diocesan Council, Embury Close, Adare 10am
- November 3rd - All Ireland Council, Springfield Hotel, Leixlip 10am

## United Diocesan Youth Council

### DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend this year was held from Friday 1st to Monday 4th June at Muckcross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co Kerry. Steve Grasham (Youth Development Officer - Church of Ireland Youth Department) led our worship during the weekend. Using the theme of journeys throughout the weekend, he talked about how Confirmation is one of the milestones in our life journey as well as in our journey of faith. Steve also talked about how there are other events in our lives and people that shape our journeys of faith. On Sunday evening a number of prayer stations were set up and the engagement by those present was amazing to witness. It was also great to have Steve speak, and have the group involved, at the family service in St Mary's Church, Killarney on the Sunday morning.

The weekend also involved a number of offsite activities. On Saturday everyone enjoyed a trip to Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre where we enjoyed the day rock climbing and kayaking. Sunday after church, we went to Ballyhass Lakes Activity Centre where we spent the day flying through ziplines and challenging each other on the gladiator challenge. On Monday we returned to Ballyhass to have some fun at the Aqua Park. It's safe to say that everyone also enjoyed the onsite activities during the evenings such as the table quiz and disco. Overall, a great weekend was had by all the young people and leaders who attended. Our prayers continue to be with those who have been confirmed or are yet to be confirmed.



At the 2018 Diocesan Confirmation Weekend in Killarney

### SUMMER MADNESS – Friday 29th June – Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Hopefully when these notes appear in Newslink our Group, who are joining with Cork Youth Council this year, will be soaking up the sun and hopefully not the rain at Summer Madness at Glenarm Castle Estate in County Antrim. We look forward to providing a full report in next Newslink.

FUTURE EVENTS - See advert on page 21

### JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP Sunday 15th July – Friday 20th July

What? Our ACTION- PACKED and FUN FILLED Junior Summer Camp will be a superb opportunity to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing adventure and activities and awesome opportunities to learn more about God in the middle of the summer holidays. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Where? Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo.

Who? Our Junior Summer Camp is for those between 10 – 13 years. Final date for bookings by text, call or e-mail to Edward is Friday 6th July 2018 to confirm you are coming, with booking form arriving by post no later than Monday 9th July 2018.

What's on? On our packed programme on Junior Summer Camp there will be much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine, including: Creative Worship & Workshops; Two days of Outdoor activities at Donegal Adventure Centre, Bundoran ([www.donegaladventurecentre.net](http://www.donegaladventurecentre.net)); Day Trip to Lough Key Forest & Activity Park ([loughkey.ie](http://loughkey.ie)); Trip to town of Bundoran for swimming at Waterworld; etc, etc.

How Much? The Junior Summer camp fee will be the same as the last number of years at €220 for the full week.

**SPECIAL OFFER - €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event over summer 2018 from same family. This discount includes Summer Camps & Summer Madness. A non-refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs.**

### SENIOR SUMMER CAMP Sunday 19th – Friday 24th August

What? Our Senior Summer Camp will be a superb opportunity to join old friends, make new friends, try new things, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Where? Carhue Centre, Carhue, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Who? For all those attending secondary school and upwards. Final date for bookings by text, call or e-mail to Edward is Friday 10th August 2018 to confirm you are coming with booking form arriving by post no later than Monday 13th August 2018.

What's on? Our action packed programme will include the following: Creative Worship & Workshops; Outdoor activities at Oysterhaven Activity Centre, Kinsale, Co. Cork ([www.oysterhaven.com](http://www.oysterhaven.com)); ZIPIT Forest Adventures at Farran Wood, Co. Cork ([www.zipit.ie](http://www.zipit.ie)); karting and more at Kartworld Adventure Centre, Watergrasshill ([www.kartworld.ie](http://www.kartworld.ie)); etc, etc.

How Much? The Senior Summer camp fee will also be the same as the last number of years at €220 for full week.

**SPECIAL OFFER** – €20 discount off every booking if booking for more than one event over summer 2018 from same family. This discount includes Summer Camps & Summer Madness. A non-refundable deposit of €100 must accompany all bookings. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs.

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

Until next month, Oscar, Mobile: 086 247 6327

## Diocesan Council for Mission

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING & RESOURCES DAY

This one-day conference took place as planned on Saturday 26th May 2018 in the South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick City. It was specifically aimed at all those involved in Children & Youth Ministry. It was really brilliant to have leaders from throughout our United Diocese present on the day to meet each other. It was truly an inspirational day of fun, games, ideas, prayer, activities, reflection, resources, chat, refreshments etc. for all that attended.

The principal speakers were Lydia Monds and Lynn Storey from Children's Ministry Network. The two speakers arrived in Limerick with large car loads of equipment and resources and our thanks to them for doing this. It was so brilliant to experience two people so alive, enthusiastic and full of energy with an absolute willingness to share their knowledge and experiences with others. Our thanks to Lydia and Lynn for their valued presence.



*Listening to great ideas at the Children's Ministry day*



*Some resources on display at the Children's Ministry day*

### FAMILY FUN DAY

It is proposed that a Family Fun Day will take place on Sunday 30th September 2018 commencing at Clonfert Cathedral & Community Hall from 11 am until 6.00 pm. The day will commence with an informal family Worship service in the Cathedral. After a family lunch there will be Fun Activities & Games, Car Treasure Hunt & Bar- B- Que. Full details in September 2018 Newslink magazine.

### DIARY DATES

Sunday 30th September – Family Fun Day at Clonfert Cathedral & Community Hall from 11.00 am to 6 pm (to include Worship, Lunch, Fun Activities & Games, Car Treasure Hunt & BBQ)

Tuesday 16th October – "Changing attitudes in our Stewardship of God's Creation" Mission Evening facilitated by Archdeacon Andrew Orr (Eco Congregation Ireland) at 7.45 pm

# SCHOOL NEWS

## St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

June is always a very busy month in school and this June certainly lived up to its reputation.

The senior pupils went on a Geography Field Trip to Ardnacrusha Power Station in Co. Clare. We were given a guided tour of the plant and learned how the power of water is harnessed to make electricity. It was a very informative and enjoyable trip.



*Adare pupils - pond dipping in Tralee Bay Wetlands*

The junior pupils went to Crag Cave for their annual school tour. The day was bright and sunny as the senior pupils waved them off on their journey. They had a wonderful visit to Crag Cave, time in the playground, a picnic lunch and the all-important visit to the shop. Everyone arrived back safely, very tired but happy.



*Adare pupils having fun on school tour*

The senior pupils also headed off to Kerry, first to Castlegregory and then on to Tralee. In Castlegregory they spent a few hours under the guidance of staff at Splashsports. Here they took part in body boarding in the waves, followed by fun on the water trampoline and in the canoes on the quieter beach. Following a picnic lunch they travelled into Tralee and to Tralee Wetlands where everyone enjoyed some games, pond dipping, orienteering and pedal boating in the

lake. Some of the staff also ventured onto the lake for some friendly boat races!



*Some Adare pupils in pedal boats in Tralee Bay Wetlands*

Mad Hair Day took place on June 19th with some creative hair styles on display for the day. Our GAA coach, Tony, wasn't quite sure how to react to the colourful and 'mad' looking pupils who greeted him that afternoon! This was Tony's last coaching session for this school year and we are very grateful for all his wonderful coaching in Gaelic football and hurling this year.

As I write this we are preparing for our annual Sports for All Day, Talent Show and the end of year service. 6th class pupils organise both the Talent Show and the service. At this service we say farewell to our sixth class pupils and thank them for their contribution to school life in Adare. We wish them well as they prepare for the next step in their education. We also say farewell and thank you to Ms O'Shea who has been teaching in our Junior Room since January 2017. Thank you to Rev Liz who takes all our school services and who visits us for assembly every Thursday morning.

Many thanks to our school staff, pupils and parents for all their work and support this year. Hopefully they will have a happy, safe and fun-filled summer break. School will re-open on Thursday 30th August.

## Cloughjordan No 1 National School

Junior Infants – Second Class enjoyed their School Tour to Turoe Pet Farm in May while our Senior pupils had a great day in Kilkenny, at Kilkenny Activity Centre and Kilkenny Castle. The sun shone on both days, how lucky we were!

Thank you very much to our wonderful PTA Committee who worked very hard to prepare for the Family Fun Day at school on Monday 4th June. It was a wonderful, fun-filled occasion and it was a particular pleasure to see so many people at the event. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the success of the event, whether by helping out before hand, on the day or afterwards and to so many for your support. Much fun was had by all present, in glorious sunshine. The event raised €1400.00 for the school, which we are truly grateful for.

We were delighted to welcome so many, including our new Junior Infants who will be starting school in September, to our 6th Green Flag Raising Ceremony and annual Sports Day on 8th June. The sun shone, as our guest of honour, Deirdre O'Brolchain, raised our new green flag and unveiled our specially designed new Green School sign for Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste. We are very grateful to Ms. Cromer for co-ordinating our Green School programme and for the support and enthusiasm from the whole school community. Thank you very much to everybody who provided such lovely refreshment, not least Lidl, Nenagh who provided drinks and refreshments for all the children. Thank you to our PTA and others for all the help on the

day. Thank you, also, to everybody who generously supported our Ice Cream Funday Appeal in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland at Sports Day and helped us to raise €320.



*Raising the Green Flag*

We say a fond farewell to our Sixth Class pupils and we wish them all the very best in Secondary School. Our Sixth Class this year move on to secondary school in Borrisokane Community College, and Villiers School, Limerick.



*6th Class leaving for Secondary School*

We hope that every body has a fun-filled summer, whether at home or away. Happy holidays!

## Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

### Kiltallagh N.S.

*Celebrating 80 years*

On Saturday September 22nd, we will celebratethe 80th Anniversary of the opening of Kiltallagh N.S.

You are cordially invited to join us in the school for a Service as 12 noon, with Bishop Kenneth Kearon.

Afterwards we will enjoy an open afternoon, where you will be able to browse over old photos and memorabilia whilst savouring some light refreshments

**Bigí Ann, Bigí Linn!**

## Oxmantown National School, Birr

Oxmantown National School is delighted to announce that they have been awarded the Blue Flag. They earned this for all their hard work on learning about European Union through quizzes, projects and hosting inter country soccer tournament.



*EU Blue Flag*

The Junior Infants up to 2nd class went on their school tour to Turoe Pet Farm. The weather was fantastic and the children had a ball.



*2nd class school tour*

3rd class to 6th class went to the Educational and Recreational at Baysports where they went on the Outdoor Adventure course & went on the Bush Craft Skills Tour. A great day was had by all.



*Baysports outdoor adventure*

## St. Johns Parochial School, Tralee

As part of our Green Schools initiative, the Green Schools committee have been encouraging the children to take responsibility for reducing waste across the school and the Junior Classroom have planted wild flowers and vegetables in the garden at the back of the school for all to enjoy.

The Student Council organised a very successful Easter Egg hunt to raise funds for the school and Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated with Parents attending a ceolchoirm in Teach an tSolais, where the children sang songs, recited poems and danced.

A poster competition for a concert in St. John's Church, was won by Kate from sixth class and all the children (and adults) enjoyed a visit from the ice-cream van that day!



*Kate and the winning poster*

The senior room visited Villiers Secondary School, Limerick, for a sports day where they competed against other primary schools in football, basketball, tag rugby and many other sports!

The 6th Class Graduation took place at a service in St. Johns Church, followed by refreshments in Teach an tSolais. We wish Alex, Amy, Rosie, Kate, Kelsee, Allie, Miszal, Roarke and Rohan well for the future.

This year our school celebrates its 60th year, so if you have any old photographs or would be willing to help with this please contact the school on 066 712 8142

## Rathkeale No.2 National School

Summer has come and our last few weeks in Rathkeale have been busy. Reports and book lists have been prepared and the children have completed their standardised testing.



*Visit to Rathkeale Firestation*

We had a visit from two of Rathkeale's firefighters recently who gave a presentation on fire safety both at school and at home. The pupils had to prepare an evacuation plan for their homes with their families as homework. We followed up with a visit to the fire station where we learned about what happens there as soon as a call comes in. We got to see over the station and had a very comprehensive talk about all the equipment carried on the engines. The children also examined the clothing used by the firefighters and got a chance to try some of it on. The highlight for most of the children was getting a chance to get into one of the fire engines.

*Continued on page 22*

# Edited highlights from Bishop Kenneth Kearon's Address to Diocesan Synod 2018

I often go for a walk out by Ardnacrusha or the Parteen Weir, and I never cease to be amazed at the thought and the vision that went into that extraordinary engineering project. In the 1920's the State was struggling to establish itself, national finances were poor and money was in short supply, and yet there were people with sufficient vision in government to undertake one of the biggest engineering projects in Europe, which led to rural electrification and literally transformed the country.

That same vision was there when an equally poor country in the 1950's built vast numbers of quality housing in our cities, especially Dublin in areas like Crumlin, Kimmage, Finglas and so on, but also in Limerick and Cork.

## OUR SOCIETY'S CHALLENGES

These days we listen to news reports about how successful our economy is and the dilemmas facing our Minister for Finance as to how to spend a surplus, and on alternate days hear that the homeless crisis is still growing and of the numbers in hospitals lying on trollies.

In the early years of this State, and before that, we hid society's problems in institutions of all sorts, and only now are we discovering what was going on behind those high walls, and we ask in despair 'how could this have been allowed to happen?' In fifty years' time will later generations talk about 'direct provision,' 'families living in hotel rooms' 'patients on trollies in hospital corridors' and ask 'how could that have been allowed to happen?'

Where is the leadership or vision which will solve this crisis, in this very wealthy country?

## OUR CHURCH'S CHALLENGES

Like every church we face our own challenges, but I am continually heartened by the willingness of all to face them positively and to find imaginative and creative solutions. The challenges are obvious. The general decline in religious practice in the Western world has been made much more serious by the phenomenon of rural depopulation which is affecting most parts of our country, apart from the East coast which continues to grow. In this situation, I believe it is important that as a church we 'remain present' in the community, both to ensure that we serve the needs of our own worshipping community, and also to contribute to the richness of local community life. Most of our parishes are actively engaged in such involvement, and I know this is welcomed by our local communities.

We have responded in a number of ways. First there is the initiative headed by Mr Edward Hardy, to encourage us to be a more welcoming church and that has changed attitudes in many places. Churches exist for the benefit of those outside of them, and unless we welcome others to our parish and to our worship, then there is little point in planning for the future, because there won't be one.

Allied to this, is our Spiritual Tourism project, promoted by Archdeacon Lumby, which is asking deep questions about how we relate to the thousands of visitors and tourists who visit this part of Ireland each year. Could a retreat be part of your personal refreshment? Perhaps the time is ripe for us to create a formal

structure for all of this, and to integrate it into the outreach of our diocese.

We cannot have outreach without education in the faith. I know many of you, especially clergy and lay readers, appreciate Canon Patrick Comerford's ministry in the diocese with respect to continuing education. I'm very grateful for what he does for us.

## FUTURE RELATIONS WITH TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY

One of the most important issues facing our Synod this year is our future relations with the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry.

At our joint Diocesan Clergy Conference in Galway last year, it was clear that easy friendships and common challenges were shared, and that, whatever the outcome of our talks, joint clergy conferences between ourselves and Tuam, Killala and Achonry will continue for the foreseeable future.

The proposals are before you. A vital feature of them is that they are OUR proposals for the future. We've had strong encouragement from General Synod and the wider church, but no interference. These proposals have been discussed by your Diocesan Council. It is now time for decision.

## REMEMBRANCE

A diocese is about people, and each year brings its changes. We note the passing of Mr Robert Roe who served Diocesan Synod, Council and Finance Committee for many years. He was central to the amalgamation of Limerick with Killaloe, and in the national church represented our diocese with distinction on the Standing Committee and on the very important Priorities Committee. Others have spoken of his enormous contribution to the livestock industry.

Peter Read also passed away during the year. One of my memories over the years of General Synod was of Mr Read's active participation in General Synod, ably representing the perspective of Killaloe and a voice for the church in rural Ireland. He was a very active member of the Board of Social Responsibility.

Canon Donald Atkinson was rector of Ballinaclough from 1962 – '68 and of Cloughjordan from 1968 – 1996, where he is remembered with great fondness as a caring and confidential pastor. He served as Chancellor in the Cathedral's Chapter. A great innovator in the parish he enjoyed the outdoor life, especially shooting and fishing which were his passions.

Rev'd David Earls was a Dubliner who served in this diocese first as rector of Rathkeale and then in Killarney. He served in the Cathedral's Chapter as Precentor. He went from this diocese to be Dean of Ferns.

We thank God on every remembrance of them.

So today at Synod, as we review the year that has passed, we thank God for the privilege of being part of God's Church and for the opportunities for service that it provides, and so we commit our proceedings today into God's hands, and pray for his guidance on our deliberations.

# Diocesan Synod 2018



*Rapt attention inside the Synod Hall – with some of the many stands around the walls*

The annual diocesan synod was held at Villiers School Limerick on Saturday 23rd June 2018, chaired by the President, Bishop Kenneth Kearon. Despite the blazing sun outside, and Ireland playing Australia, it was well attended.

After the usual formal preliminaries we welcomed ecumenical guests. Canon Donough O'Malley representing the RC Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy said in a speech filled with anecdote, 'Let us do together what we can do in conscience'. Rev Ruth Watt of Adare and Ballingrane Methodists representing the Methodist District encouraged us to work together in the spirit of the Covenant we share.

After elections to diocesan council and other posts (results to be reported in the September issue of Newslink), Bishop Kenneth gave his President's address, see opposite page for the main points.

## REPORT OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL & ACCOUNTS

Rev John Godfrey proposed the report of diocesan council and the diocesan accounts. 'We are blessed', he said, 'by the work of those who give their time voluntarily to diocesan council and in other ways.' To husband these resources, diocesan council has delegated decision making on minor matters to the Finance and Property Committees, allowing more time for sharing of ideas and prayerful discussion. Turning to the debate at General Synod 2018 on synod representation, which will be continued in 2019, he warned of the dangers of representation from the south and west of the island being reduced, declaring 'Our voice is precious'. It was seconded by Adrian Hilliard, who spoke of the commitment and love shown in the book of reports, and called on us to welcome and love Tuam, Killala & Achonry (TK&A) as ourselves if and when we are united.

## UNION WITH TUAM

Perhaps the most important business of the day was the resolution brought by the Inter Diocesan Working Group affirming the desire of our dioceses and the dioceses of TK&A to be united, and asking for a bill to be brought to General Synod 2019 to achieve this, on the basis of 'heads of agreement' agreed between the two dioceses. The heads of

agreement provide for the new united dioceses to be called the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, with a single diocesan bishop based in Limerick with a small flat and meeting room in TK&A, and a united diocesan synod, but with the existing finance schemes, diocesan structures and other committee structures continuing until the new united dioceses decide otherwise. This was proposed by Joc Sanders, who outlined the 'heads of agreement' point by point, and seconded by Dean Gary Paulsen, who spoke about the positive experience clergy and readers had of meetings and joint work with TK&A. 'This is a way forward', he said, 'to a sustainable and mutually beneficial union, of our choosing and on our terms'. The resolution was passed unanimously without dissenting voices, sending a powerful message to TK&A and the wider church.

An identical resolution will be put to the diocesan synod of TK&A in September, and if that is also passed, the timetable for union is likely to be as follows: May 2019 – General Synod pass union bill; later in 2019 – both diocesan synods ratify the bill; union to take place on the occurrence of an episcopal vacancy in either diocese under the remaining bishop.

After an excellent lunch provided by the kitchens of Villiers School, we heard from Ken Gibson, lay Honorary Secretary to General Synod, who wished us well and promised the support of all the Hon Secs as we walk together with TK&A, and also from Roger Thompson of CMS Ireland, who brought news of old friends Rev Keith and Lyn Scott, serving with CMSI in Kitwe, Zambia, and spoke of the forthcoming trip by David Tough and Robert Hoffman to Kenya (see page 20).

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with all the other reports in the book of reports – it is wonderful to hear just how much activity and mission goes on in our diocese.

After the business of Synod concluded, Bishop Kenneth presided at a moving Eucharist, with worship enhanced by a pop-up choir accompanied by Rosemary Smyth. It was sad to see how many left before it.



*Rev Bob Hanna addresses synod for the last time – with top table (l-r) Yvonne Blennerhassett (Diocesan Secretary), Bishop Kenneth Kearon, William Prentice (President's Assessor), Ven Simon Lumby (Archdeacon of Limerick*



*The pop-up choir rehearsing for the Synod Eucharist (l-r) Rev Michael Cavanagh, Rosemary Smyth, Audrey Clarke Gordon, Catherine Lidwill, John St George, Peter Whyte, Rev Rod Smyth*

# A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

## – From Jakarta, Capital of Indonesia



The View from the Pew on Sunday 17th June is of a packed Church and a huge congregation. There are 1,600 people within and without the walls. It is the 10am service and there have been two earlier services of similar size. There will be a fourth service later in the day especially for young people. That service will be even bigger than the earlier three. We are in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. The Christian Faith was planted here from the Netherlands centuries ago.

Today that faith is flourishing in the midst of a majority Muslim population.



*The National Church of Indonesia at worship, Sunday 10th June*



*The church from the outside, built in the 1980s*

The Liturgy begins with a procession of all those taking part in the service. Among them are three clergy, one for the Liturgy of Prayer and Praise, one for the Sermon and one for the Eucharist. The Parish has five clergy in total. Lay people have very prominent roles in the conduct of worship. There are two choirs, one mixed and the other all male. The backing music is provided by an orchestra with wind, string and

percussion sections. Everybody sings. Some of the hymns are traditional and some contemporary. There are some tunes which we recognise from the music of the church of the West. There are more than 700 languages in Indonesia. The language used in this service is Bahasa Indonesia which is the official language of the country. Our friend, a member of this congregation, provides us with the English text of the Bible readings on her mobile phone. So familiar is the structure of the worship that we can understand it without knowing the language. During the sermon we can understand its import from the cadences of the woman preacher's voice and the body language of her arms and hands and face. It is an exhortation that each and all of us should ensure that anyone and everyone who does the Will of God should be recognised as our brother and our sister. For the Lord's Prayer each person uses his or her own language. For the Peace there is a great sharing of joyful greetings. The ethos of worship is wonderfully relaxed and yet mightily reverent and respectful.

After the service we meet the congregation over refreshments. We are introduced to Government Ministers, to the former Governor of the Central Bank of Indonesia whose signature is on the Bank Notes, to Directors of major companies in Asia such as General Electric, to the Youth Leader who is recruiting for the Summer Youth Camp and many others. The friendliness is phenomenal.



*At the Youth Camp table after church with our Indonesian hosts*

Before we leave the Chairperson of the Project Team shows us something of a new Community Centre which the congregation has built on land between the Church building and the Church Schools. It is a four-storey building costing US\$15,000,000. It will serve the entire community. The congregation does not make any distinction between Christian or Muslim or persons of any other religion or none in the way they provide community service and support. The ground floor provides the premises for a major health clinic offering medical and surgical services that do not require overnight stays. The other floors are for all kinds of church and community services. It is a wonderful example of unconditional love in action - and this in a country in which three Christian churches have experienced terrorist attacks in the last three weeks. Hopefully two or three photographs will illustrate this short piece and I will reflect for the September issue on what we in the West, in Ireland and in Limerick and Killaloe can learn from this experience.

# Relationships within the church – part 2

by Sr Ann-Marie Stuart, assistant priest in Kilcolman Union

In the first part, I reflected on a painting by Janet Brooks Gerloff of the Road to Emmaus. In this part I reflect on a second painting, of Christ washing Peter's feet by Sieger Koder. Peter is most indignant – this is not protocol, the Master should not lower himself to wash his disciples' feet. And in my painting Christ has his back to us, we only see his face reflected in the bowl of water he is using. You have to search for his face, and when you find it, it takes you by surprise, and pleasure because it's so insubstantial.

My images of church have Christ centre stage, but in a quirky and unusual manner, not at all what we expect, not very clear or distinct. All three might suggest that in time the way in which all the churches work & interrelate today will change and be very different. But you wouldn't be quite right, because I also believe strongly in something called synthesis, the coming together of things that really matter, like the best of the past and the most creative hints for the future. Here in Kilcolman we have this idea set in stone, our ancient church of St. Carthage at Kiltallagh and our modern church in Killorglin.

In some situations, I feel as a priest that I am working within a strait jacket called the Church of God, a term I prefer to individual labels like Church of Ireland, Anglican, Roman, Methodist, or Free Church or any of the other institutional labels we use to describe ourselves. Although I definitely prefer the straight jacket of the church of Ireland rather than any other! It fits me better.

But the jackets can be too tight, and perhaps it's this tightness which causes so many distractions, anger, wounds and disagreements. Then too, as John Bell of the Iona Community suggests, we allow secondary arguments about secondary issues to intrude and fudge the issues at the heart of our faith lives.

Right from the start, there were issues for the early church. They didn't always agree, they were often divided, they often failed to take Paul's teaching to heart, and their hearts definitely did not always burn within them. And very often they just didn't understand Christ at all, in other words they were just like us. We all have areas of belief that we are unwilling to let go, and by temperament not many of us are very flexible. The face of Christ is so often insubstantial, so our visions differ, we see things differently and fail to understand what the concept of Trinity teaches us, that difference alone can create real unity. So our Christian Celtic forbears placed Trinity at the heart of everything we think about and do.

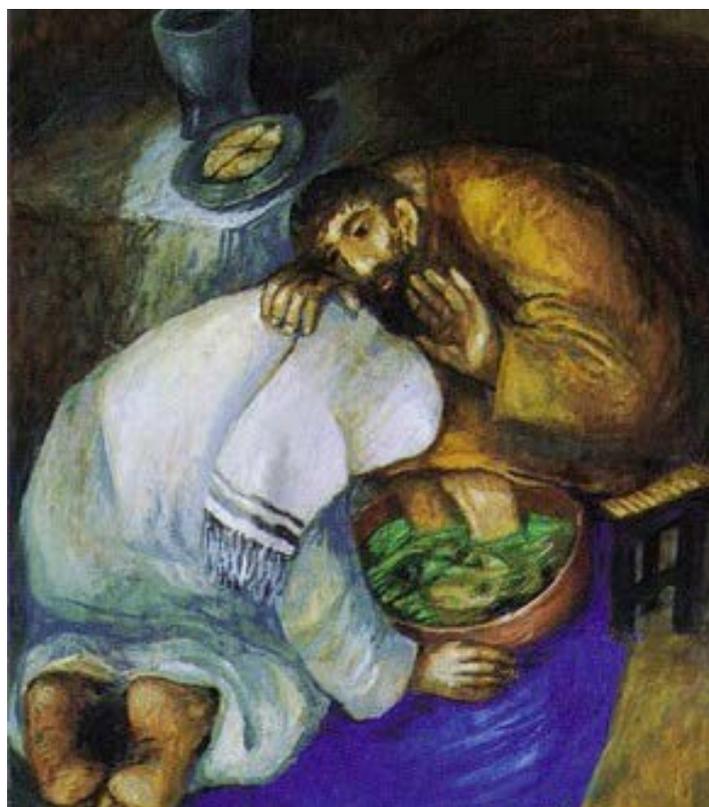
Just in case I have not confused you enough I have one more image, from a Book entitled the Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco, I read it years ago as I guess many of you did also. Throughout a very long and complex story of disagreement and competition between the Benedictines and the Franciscans, which is also at one level an account of murder and detection, he explores the importance of humour. In the end it is only the murderer who cannot laugh at himself, or at others, or more importantly at, and with his faith – only the Godly understand humour.

Umberto Eco was an international professor of semiotics, the study I'm led to believe of meaningful communication, and philosophy.

We are formed he said by little scraps of wisdom, mostly when our teachers are unaware of teaching us and when we least expect to learn anything. And laughter is the medicine of grace that keeps life ticking over when all else fails so our Celtic ancestors taught...

So as we walk our own personal journey towards Emmaus, as we see ourselves in common with others of faith and none, as we listen and learn, and hope and pray, let's leave room for laughter.

It's so strange. To be church we need our hearts to be touched, we need to walk and talk with the Risen Jesus as best we can, and we need to take our faith seriously yet at the same time differences, problems, divisions all take place when we lose our ability to laugh or to be surprised and pleased by difference.



*The washing of feet by Sieger Koder*

But if we try then we might just see the face of Jesus reflected in the water in which he wishes to wash our feet, and I don't know what you think but feet are often the funniest part of our anatomy; and as he washes them perhaps all the other controversial aspects of religion will take a back seat.

It seems to me that what matters is to have seen at some point just a hint of a glimpse, in a glass darkly, of the one person there is who can make our hearts burn within us as we walk, the walk of life, just like the mystics before us. Then the presence of the Ruah, the Spirit of God, will drive us, if we remain flexible enough to continue to explore how to be genuinely a good-humoured church for the next century – and all the generations yet to come.

# Three Choirs in St Mary's Cathedral

## by Peter Barley, St Mary's Cathedral Director of Music

Many of you will be well aware by now that this year is the 850th anniversary of the foundation of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. We are actually half-way through this celebratory year, and a good number of you have probably already been to some of the varied events that have already taken place in the cathedral. The year-long programme has been specially devised, and is curated by, our Dean, the Very Revd Niall Sloane. There is plenty more of interest still to come, including of course the concert by the famous choir of King's College, Cambridge on Monday 16th July at 7.30pm.

Earlier in the summer, on Saturday 19th May, we were very pleased to put on a concert by our own choir, together with the choirs of the Church of Ireland cathedrals of Kilkenny (St Canice's) and Waterford (Christ Church). Despite being the same day as an F.A. cup final, and a Munster match in Dublin (as well as a certain big wedding taking place across the Irish Sea!) a respectable number came along in the late afternoon to hear this festive concert. We were delighted to see members of many parishes from across the United Diocese in the audience. We opened proceedings with Handel's famous anthem Zadok the Priest, sung by all three choirs. This is Dean Niall Sloane's favourite piece, which he had in fact never heard performed live, so St Mary's Choir was delighted to be able to put that right so early in his time as Dean of Limerick!

The three choirs sang together in other well-known pieces of church music by Goss and Wood, and then sang a set of pieces each on their own, performing music by Mozart, Darke, Stanford, and Mendelssohn. The Three Choirs then came back together in the second half of the concert to perform Mozart's jubilant Coronation Mass.

We are very grateful to our two fellow choirs, together with our colleagues Eric Sweeney, Malcolm Proud and David Forde (their organists and directors) for making the journey to Limerick and joining us as part of this most special year. Particular thanks are due to Kilkenny Choir, who very kindly allowed us to 'skip our turn' and host the concert at St Mary's in honour of the 850th commemorations. It was really Kilkenny's 'turn', as we operate on a three-year rotation, the inaugural concert of this three-way relationship having been in Kilkenny in 2015.

We are already looking forward to next year, when it will be back in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny – and once again featuring music sung by our combined forces together with individual items. Do look out for this event next year – maybe you would like a good excuse to have a day out at St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny!



*The Three Choirs singing together*

## Mission & Development visit to Kenya, July 2018

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 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 (eg Oltiasika water tanks, farm and tractor, women's empowerment, Oloosuyian Girls Secondary School).

Robert and David write:

*We are looking forward to our visit to Kenya and we would much appreciate any support you can give us (see bank transfer details below).*

*On our return we will be available to speak to interested groups about our experiences in Kenya.*

*Thank you.*

*Robert Hoffman (086 885 5446), David Tough (087 642 8560)*

### BANK DETAILS

Payee Name	Church Mission Society
Country	Ireland
BIC	BOFIE2D
IBAN	IE68BOFI90075477031868
Reference	David Tough
Currency	EUR



*Robert Hoffman & David Tough – off to Kenya with CMSI*

**UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT**



**JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo  
10-13 year olds

**SENIOR SUMMER CAMP**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
Carhue Centre, Carhue, Bandon, Co. Cork  
Secondary School Upwards



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**FURTHER INFORMATION: Edward at 087/2907553 or edhardy70@gmail.com**



Kitting out in Firefighter uniform

Our sports day took place in St Mary's Park and while the sun didn't shine like it had been earlier in the month we had a great day. We thank all the parents for their help on the day and especially to those who prepared the barbecue lunch and to Seamus and Jackie who organised burgers and drinks.

Pupils, parents and teachers took part in a sponsored cycle to raise funds for the school on Saturday 9th June. We cycled from Ardagh to Rathkeale along the Great Southern Greenway. We all managed to make it in one piece and again thanks to everyone for their support. A special thanks to those who provided refreshments back at the school. To date about €750 has been raised.



Sponsored Cycle

Our school tour to Let's Go Summer Camp in Delta, Limerick will take place on Friday 22nd June and we're all looking forward to an active day followed by a visit to Supermac's before we head home. Any of you who have driven through Rathkeale recently will have noticed the new speed ramps. One has been put in on Church Street outside the school and it has made a great difference to the speed of traffic making it much safer for us all. A new pedestrian crossing is also almost complete and we finally have a safe place to cross the street. Thanks to our local councillors for their help in seeing this project through, especially our past pupil, Cllr Adam Teskey. Work has just begun to repair the footpath between the church and the new crossing.

School will close following an end of year service in Holy Trinity Church at noon on Tuesday 26th June. We say a fond farewell to our 6th class pupils, Cathal and Declan and wish them well as they transfer to secondary schools in the autumn. School will reopen on Monday 3rd September.

We wish you all a very enjoyable and safe summer holiday, wherever it may take you, home or away!









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## Villiers School

Lots of events have been taking place in Villiers this past month. Not even mentioning the dreaded exams.

Firstly, we would like to offer huge congratulations to Muireann Scanlon who was elected to play for the U18 Irish Hockey team in Belgium. A wonderful achievement for Muireann and we are very proud of her.

Congratulations also to the ITY team who produced a magnificent end of year magazine.

Not forgetting Ella Dillon from 2N who became an Irish champion. Ella won the All Ireland Schools Finals in Tullamore for the high jump. Well done Ella.

As well as exams at this time of year there is also the mater of 6th graduation. The sports award winners were Craig Morrow and Muireann Scanlon and the student award winners were Aoife McNulty and Conor Beck. Congratulations to one and all in the graduating class of 2018.

The TY community were on a pilgrimage walk from Sarria to Santiago which is the last leg of the Camino. They did this to raise funds for disabled children in Uganda. Congratulations on making the distance of 125 kilometres in 5 days!



The Community Group focused this year on Wellbeing. At the beginning of the year the question was asked as to how we can go about raising awareness on issues such as promoting positive mental health, bullying, social justice and reaching out to the local community and indeed the world. Once again we went to the Cycle Against Suicide Congress where we got to perform live on the stage in the 3 Arena to showcase our project entitled 'free your voice'. We have once again received an award from the Congress, our fourth year in a row to do so. Well done guys.

The Group became involved in Young SVP and attended the SVP Youth Congress. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to see where this will lead. Plans are already afoot to work with SVP to help those less fortunate than ourselves in our local area.

Perhaps the highlight of the year though is the Camino. The Group headed off to Sarria and walked 125 km to Santiago to raise funds for disabled children in Uganda through Zest4kidz. This has been an incredible experience and a wonderful year spent with these amazing young people.

One of the things that will stay with me from this year was when one of the group said that they were walking the Camino for someone who cannot walk but with their help perhaps someday they will.

When Jesus appeared to the Disciples he was recognised by His hands and His feet. Perhaps we should challenge ourselves to discover whether or not we are recognised as Christians by the work of our hands and where our feet lead us.

It has been a blessing to have worked with such an inspiring group of young people, can't wait for next year!

Until next time,  
Blessings and peace  
Chaplain Jackie McNair

### News from the Villiers Sanctuary

Exams are almost over as I write this, congratulations to one and all for everything that you have achieved so far. The Sanctuary has been filled with lots of prayer and many a candle has lit over the past few weeks. It always strikes me that at times of high stress the sacred space that is the Sanctuary really comes into life and plays such an important role in the journey of all the people who avail of the quiet prayerful place. It is always a humbling experience to be able to offer someone a spiritual space to simply 'be' at times like this.



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**SAINT MARY'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
LIMERICK

**Lunchtime Concerts July/August 2018,**  
**1.15pm**

#### **Wednesday 4th July**

Emma English (soprano) and David Szabo (piano)

Music by Mozart, Poulenc and Schumann

#### **Wednesday 11th July**

Sabine Ducrot (piano) - Music by Chopin

#### **Wednesday 18th July**

Michael Young (piano), with guest flautist

#### **Thursday 26th July**

CUE Choral Ambassadors, U.S.A. (dir. Randolph Edwards)

#### **Friday 3rd August**

Razene Wind Orchestra (Hungary)

#### **Wednesday 8th August**

Andreea Banciu (viola), Adrian Mantu (cello)  
& Aileen Cahill (piano)

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary's Cathedral please log onto [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie)

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# 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

### STRADBALLY CASTLECONNELL

On Friday 18 May at 7.30, a glorious sunny evening in All Saints Church, Castleconnell, was made quite memorable by the musical performances of The ACM Village Singers and The Killaloe Male Voice Choir and Friends. Odran Furlong treated us to a medley on his uilleann pipes and Jack Comber sang unaccompanied and quite beautifully. A generous retiring collection raised €600, to be divided equally between the Church Restoration Fund and a Community Music Project for Refugee Children in Direct Provision in County Clare. This is the third concert organized by Tembre de Carteret and Betty Carmody to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

This magical evening was further enhanced as Tembre flashed her ring and announced her engagement to a wealth of cheers and delight. We all wish her, every happiness.

Lughan O Shea (Hartigan) was baptised at All Saints Castleconnell on Sunday 10 June. Our best wishes to the parents Eoin (Rocky) and Erin and we hope you can always keep his smile on his face

### THE KILLALOE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Killaloe Chamber Music Festival took place at the cathedral from 24 to 27 May. Each year the programme and quality of performances seem to improve thanks to artistic director Joachim Roewer. The festival this year was opened by Tomi Reichental who was taken to Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp and he survived although thirty five of his family did not. He was liberated from there in 1945 and came to live in Ireland in 1959. It was appropriate that he opened events with the premier of the children's opera Brundibár opening proceedings at the festival. This opera was first performed in the concentration camps. Colin Dunne known internationally for his choreography of Riverdance, performed to Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8. Too many top performance to name them all that were performed over the four days. Just a quick mention of the excellent art work on display arranged by curator Patricia Haselbeck. The two featured artist this year were Clare Hartigan and Jennifer Allen. Our congratulations to all involved for another successful year of the festival. We look forward to the programme next year starting on 30 May 2019.



*Nenagh Union Choir*

### NENAGH CHOIR AND EVENSONG

It was wonderful to have 42 people attend evensong at St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe, on Sunday 10 June. The choir of St Mary's in Nenagh sung evensong under the very able leadership of Rosemary Smyth. The Reverend Rod Smyth was the cantor. People did remark how beautiful the introit sung from the Narthex sounded. The anthem was beautifully done, it was a piece by Bernadette Farrell based on psalm 139, 'O God you search me out and know me! They certainly are an award winning choir. We hope they will be back again later this year.

### TUAMGRANEY

On 2 June we had a wonderful community programme in St Cronan's Church as part of the Tuamgraney Community Weekend. Included in the church was a short guided tour; a literary gathering with John S Kelly reading from work by Edna O'Brien. We had a few short films, one featuring the Tuamgraney Handball Alley, and another featuring Edna O'Brien called 'My own place', and a children's film, as well as Tuamgraney School Arts Competition. Many other events took place around the village and on the water and good weather always helps. All in all a wonderful community weekend. Our congratulations to the organisers.

A Community, Tourism and Cultural Development Study was launched on Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 7.30pm in St. Cronan's Church Tuamgraney thanks to generous funding by Clare County Council. We hope this comprehensive document will help us develop our conversations about Tuamgraney and our church. To quote from the document a line 'On average, once every generation, communities are presented with an opportunity to fundamentally change their development trajectory.' We trust that this community will be able to do so.



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## 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](mailto:mapleire@gmail.com)

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes](http://www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes)

### PRAYERS

We continue to remember Betty Eades, Pamela Edge, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse in our prayers, and we add Audrey Colton to our prayer list. We are delighted that Pat Alexander, Rose Harding and Violet Harding are up and about again after hospital visits.

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to Barbara Jackson and her family, on the death of her brother-in-law, Tom Alexander.

### PARISH FÊTE

Many thanks to all who helped with the Parish Fête on the 10th of June. After a long stretch of fine weather, we were blessed to have a break in the changeable conditions that followed. We hope to have a meeting in the autumn to make long-range plans for the 2019 Fête. A reminder that the Quiz Sheets are still available at the back of the churches, to buy or to sell. The draw for the winners will be on Sunday, 9th September, after the 11:30 am service in Birr.

### CONFIRMATION

At this writing, we are looking forward to Bishop Kenneth coming to us for the service of Confirmation on Sunday, 24th June. We have 9 candidates, from Birr, Banagher, and Seir Kieran parishes: Glenn Fletcher, Sinead and Brendan Johnson, Ross and Darragh Kennedy, Patrick Mulholland, Joshua Pyle, Leah Shaw, and Glenn Whitten. Please keep them in your prayers, as they endeavour to live out the baptismal promises they renewed in their Confirmation.

### BEST WISHES

Our very best wishes to the Revd Paul Fitzpatrick, who many of us know from his leading worship services in Birr Group of Parishes. On Saturday, 30th June, he will be licensed as a priest in our Diocese, and installed as Assistant Curate in the Limerick City Parish, in a service to be held in St Mary's Cathedral. Please keep Paul, his wife Betty, and daughter Maebh in your prayers as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP

We recently heard that Fr David Carroll, Parish Priest in Birr for the last number of years, will be leaving us in mid-July to go to a parish in East Clare. His replacement will be Fr Tom Hogan, currently Parish Priest in Ennis. We welcome Fr Tom and look forward to working with him in the years to come. Fr Pat Mulcahy, Parish Priest in Lorrha, is also leaving, and his parish is apparently being combined with Terryglass. We don't yet know who will be Parish Priest in the combined group of parishes. We wish Fr David and Fr Pat every blessing in their new parishes.

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE

The Parish Pilgrimage, which was tentatively scheduled for the 14th of July, has had to be postponed. More details will be available later.

### ARCHDEACONRY BARBEQUE

On the June Bank Holiday Monday, Archdeacon and Mrs Carney invited the active and retired clergy of the Killaloe & Clonfert Archdeaconry and their families to a barbecue in Birr Rectory. This

was also an opportunity for the clergy families to welcome the Revd Paul Fitzpatrick, his wife Betty and daughter Maebh prior to his welcoming service in St Mary's Cathedral on the 30th of June.



*Clergy families, relaxing after the barbecue at Birr Rectory on the June Bank Holiday.*

### PET BLESSING SERVICE

On Friday, 15th June, the pupils from Oxmantown School came to school with their pets for a blessing service in the school yard. A multitude of dogs and cats, guinea pigs, a pony, and a number of unidentified creatures in cages and carriers came with their owners for the service conducted by Archdeacon Carney. As far as is known, no one was eaten, or even bitten, and everyone hailed it as a great success!



*The children of Oxmantown School gather round with their pets, ready for the Pet Blessing Service.*



## 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

**CONDOLENCES** We offer our deepest condolences to Eva Harvey on the death of her brother John Culbert. John left Ireland in the 1940s. Arrangements are being made to bring his remains home to Gurtaluskey, Portumna in due course.

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE** May 20th. St. Cronan's, with a packed church, were delighted to have Bishop Kenneth with us bringing into full membership of the Church of Ireland, seven fine young people. His schedule was packed and having stayed for photos it is not certain if he fled or was pushed out in the hope of a timely arrival to his next service. We hope he arrived in time! Many thanks to all the parents who helped out through the preparation classes and decorating the church for this happy event.



*Bishop Kenneth in St.Cronan's Church Roscrea with newly confirmed young people Roscrea and Shinrone Groups 2018.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** finished up their year with a picnic in the church grounds. They report having had a great year, participating in Bible stories, arts and crafts and creating their special table for major church festivals. They enjoyed a trip to the local panto at Christmas and regularly take part in the monthly Family Services. New term begins on September 9th. All are welcome including visitors who join the congregation from time to time.



*Some of the Sunday school children hard at work planting up some summer bedding in the churchyard*

**HEALER PRAYER SERVICES** will continue through the summer months Third Wednesday St. Cronan's Church 2.30 p.m.

**ST. CRONAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL** had a great fun-sports day in the school field, in sweltering heat. Refreshments were very welcome afterwards. The surprise fun day was organised in a flash by sixth class the following week. It included guinea-pig races, nail painting, lucky dip to name but a few attractions. Money raised was in aid of new goal posts for the school field. The end of year service was held on June 19th in St. Cronan's Church.

**G.F.S. ROSCREA BRANCH** This year GFS returned to Corbally Hall as GFS numbers over doubled, the classroom at St Cronan's National school was no longer adequate and a larger venue had to be found. There was a branch in Corbally about 80 years ago, the hall there is spacious and has all the facilities necessary, including storage space. Another busy year has ended, many thanks to all the leaders and parents for their support.



*GFS Enrolment Service St.Cronan's Roscrea. The girls helped with the readings and prayers. During the service they demonstrated their dancing skills utilising the whole length of the nave. The enrolment included a rise in level for many of the girls, ranging from the juniors to junior leader levels. Afterwards the All-Ireland awards were presented.*

The Fifth Sunday Service for July, details will be announced locally. Wishing all who read these notes time for rest and refreshment and quiet time with our Lord over the holiday months.

## 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: rsmlyth6582@btinternet.com

### GFS ENROLMENT SERVICE

On Sunday 3rd June St Mary's, Nenagh was filled with the excited sound of children as we had our GFS enrolment service. The company sang a song entitled, 'We can Make A Difference,' reflecting the theme of the year, 'Making a Difference,' including actions and lots of percussion instruments!

In his address the Rector spoke to the girls about several Irish women who had made a difference in the lives of others and told the story of the starfish washed up on the tide and stranded on the beach – how could a little boy all on his own possibly throw all the starfish back which had been washed up on the shore? Well at least he could do his bit, even if it was a little gesture. By throwing just one back he had made a difference to it. The Rector told the girls that we can all make a difference, even though the part we play may be small, if we add everyone's contribution together we can all make a big difference.

After the Enrolment, Rose Langley, the incoming Diocesan President from July, and leader of the Nenagh Branch of GFS, presented badges and awards which the girls had won during the year.

The girls then taught the whole congregation a new song entitled, 'Be Strong and Courageous,' after which the girls of GFS led the congregation in the intercessions. At the end of the service everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and a sticky bun!

#### ST MARYS CHOIR IN KILLALOE CATHEDRAL

On Sunday 10th June the Nenagh Union Parish Choir spread its wings just a little bit further when they sang Choral Evensong in Killaloe Cathedral. There was a large congregation, who enjoyed the opportunity to let the words and music of the ancient office of the Church, minister to them. The evening canticles were sung to a plainchant setting and the anthem was a setting of Psalm 139 by Bernadette Farrell, 'O God You Search Me and You Know Me.' After the service a cup of tea and refreshments were served in the Chapel of St Paul. This was a very encouraging event and we thank Dean Gary Paulsen for his invitation and hope that this will become a regular feature of worship in the Cathedral. See photo on p24.

#### END OF YEAR SERVICE

On Thursday 21st June the children from St Mary's National School came to the Parish Church for their end of year service. The children read, led intercessions and performed several musical items. The Rector gave the address and challenged the pupils who were leaving the school to go on to second level education to overcome their feelings of nervousness and feeling unsure about the future, and to try to see that it can also be an exciting time.

## 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](mailto:terrym438@gmail.com)

#### SYMPATHIES

On behalf of the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to the Donaldson family on the death of Susan on the 16th of May. She was a loyal and faithful member of the Church and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. The funeral service was held at Borrisokane on the 19th of May, with the burial at Congar.

Thank you to Mrs Audrey Clarke Gordon, a family member, who helped with the funeral service.

#### BIO-DIVERSITY WEEK

In May each year a Bio-diversity week is held in Cloughjordan, to celebrate the richness and abundance of our fauna and flora, but also to remind us to care for God's creation, in exercising wise stewardship.

The theme this year at the Ecumenical Service, was sustainable living.

We were encouraged to live in a way that ensures God's gifts will continue to be available for future generations and to look at new and creative ways in living more sustainably in harmony with Mother Earth.

Thank you to all who supported the event and to the organiser of the Biodiversity Week, Mr Gearoid Ofoighil for including the local churches.

#### GFS

On Wednesday, 23rd May, we held our Open Night. We thank Mrs. Maureen Shelley who gave the girls some advice on drama in preparation for the night, also Mr. John Armitage for his musical expertise beforehand and on the night. We welcomed our Diocesan President, Mrs. Norma-Jean Carney to present the badges. Girls were awarded badges for Drama, GFS Knowledge and Citizenship. Prizes were awarded for a branch Craft competition. The girls sang two hymns: "Give me oil in my lamp" using our new percussion instruments for its chorus and "Colours of day". The Junior group entertained us with the "GFS Puppet Show". The Middle Group explained how important each of us is in God's eyes through "We Are The Greatest" and the Senior Group gave us an important message about medicine in "Georgie's Medicine". All girls were excellent. The older girls have GFS camp to look forward to in June.

#### BORRISNAFARNEY CHURCH FETE

Please remember to support the Summer Fete in the Parish Hall in Moneygall on the 14th of July at 5:00pm.

#### CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation Service will take place this year in Borrisokane on the 24th of June. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Kenneth who will confirm the following children-Ava Austin, Tom Austin, Lucy Fitzgerald, David Perrse, Dylan Wallace and Kate Williamson.



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[Philip@jjryanundertakers.com](mailto:Philip@jjryanundertakers.com) -  
[www.jjryanundertakers.com](http://www.jjryanundertakers.com)

## Shinrone Group of Parishes

*Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin*

Rector: Vacant

Parish Website: [shinrone.blogspot.ie](http://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](mailto:ruth_gill40@outlook.ie)

Church Services continue their usual routine:

Kinnitty at 10 a.m.

Aghancon at 11.30 a.m.

Dunkerrin at 9 a.m.

Shinrone at 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion in Dunkerrin & Shinrone on the first Sunday of the month and in Kinnitty & Aghancon on the second Sunday of the month.

Sunday 29th July is a fifth Sunday. It will be the turn of Shinrone to host the Group service at 11.00 a.m. More details will be announced nearer the time.

Many thanks to the two Alans, David, Aaron and occasional assistance from David Frizelle for maintaining a service in each church every Sunday. It is very much appreciated.

### THE REVD. PAUL FITZPATRICK

By the time these notes appear, Paul will have had his service of welcome in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. He and Betty and Maebh are wished every blessing in this next phase of his priestly ministry and these wishes come with genuine thanks from the Group of Parishes.

### CONFIRMATION

Adam Stanley and Danny Benn were joined by members of their families and school friends in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, when they were confirmed by Bishop Kenneth on the 20th May. Many thanks to Canon Jane for preparing them, it has been quite an experience for them.



*Adam with his parents, Mervyn and Orla and grandmother, Ruth Stanley.*

### PASTORAL

Congratulations and every good wish to Shauna and Aaron Elliston-Jones on the birth of their baby boy, Edward, on the 5th May, a welcome brother to Harry.

Sincere sympathy is offered to Bert Alexander and family on the recent death of his brother Tom in Cavan.

### PARISH FETES

Many thanks to those who came along to support the Fun Dog Show & Fete in Shinrone on the 9th June and to those who put so much work into preparing Cloughmoyle School and the grounds around it.

It was a great day and it's always good to see people enjoying a cup of tea and catching up on the news!

There will be another couple of opportunities to meet up again, in Aghancon on the 1st July at 2 p.m., when there will be stalls with homemade confectionary, plants, bric a brac etc., as well as teas.

Dunkerrin fete is on the 15th July and will be run in conjunction with a dog show. This will be held in the Community Hall and all are welcome. Dunkerrin will also have cakes, plants, lucky dip, bric a brac, etc., and teas. The parish is well known for the lovely cakes which are quickly snapped up!



*Dog with friend at Shinrone Fete & Dog Show*

It's the time of year when schools and colleges are closed for the summer. Wishing everyone rest, relaxation and rejuvenation!

## 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](mailto:bobhanna@eircom.net)

Parish website: [www.churchofirelandclare.com](http://www.churchofirelandclare.com)

### THE RECTOR WRITES:

This is the last set of notes from my incumbency in this Group ending 31st August 2018 after 24 privileged years.

Patricia and I arrived with toddlers Amy and Peter who were soon seen climbing the Gates of the Rectory and Sophie was to follow not long after via Galway Hospital on a snow-bound night before Motorways! We were in a hurry! The rest is history: Sophie hopefully will be a full-time Secondary Teacher by next year!

My previous incumbency in Donegal of 12 years was then a cultural change after native Ulster, and Clare - different again - has given my middle and closing years great richness and satisfaction, and left me feeling I do not want to be anywhere else - Mediterranean aside! - than the West. I am hoping to stay in the West, though in an effort to effect proper change it will mean leaving the Diocese and my beloved Ennis and Mid-Clare. Nothing will replace the happy sense of place that one has felt working out of the community of Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh.

Gratitude for grace received makes me want to remember and thank all who have shared our worshipping life together over two and a half decades, in Drumcliffe, Kilnasoolagh and Spanish Point, and previously with Shannon and Kilkee, now closed. Ministry here has many dimensions including ecumenical living and development in this era of change and fluidity of thinking and practice --for all the fragility of our own numbers. And living on this particular landscape of the Atlantic edge and the Burren, the unfolding prospect of Celtic

Christian history coming alive for us locals as well as world tourists, perhaps with pilgrimage the new experience to recharge faith in old and young, is an exciting note on which to leave this particular theatre.

How good the vision of a new vocation for our churches - to give hospitality on Clare's special landscape - along with the greater Shannon region - to church folk and others from elsewhere in this island, not least my own kinsfolk from Ulster who could benefit from the message from our Celtic roots of the early Irish church. Coming to Clare and finding through my ministry the opportunity to join the Clare Pilgrim Way brought a new insight into spiritual genius which made the Irish Church and which helped revive medieval Europe.

My journey around the island, anti-clockwise, has given my ecumenical ministry a whole new way of seeing the world and my own identity as a Christian and a Celtic Irishman.

Editor: Rev Bob is very much part of the Newlink family, having served as editor for many years. We wish him every blessing in his retirement.



*On the Holy Mountain*

We are very grateful to the Parents Association of the Glebe National School Aughrim for the wonderful coffee morning held on June 16th. There were crepes, cakes, ice-creams, toys, books, plants and nail-painting. Well done to the students who manned their stalls with such enthusiasm and many thanks to all who supported the event. Much fun was had by all and over €1,000 was raised for the school. The school year closed with a special end of year service in Holy Trinity Church on June 22nd.

# Clonfert Diocese

## Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: [reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com](mailto:reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com)

Parish website: [www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org](http://www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org)

We offer our deepest sympathies to the family of Brid Taylor of Ardahan Church on the death of her mother Josephine Collins.

Congratulations to Annie Walshe of Aughrim Parish, who celebrated her 97th birthday last month. Special mentions also go to Mark Newton of St John's Church on the occasion of his 13th birthday and to Alison Morrissey of Woodlawn Church as she celebrated her 1st birthday. Congratulations also to all at Ballinderry Nursing Home, who celebrated 20 years of care for the elderly in Kilconnell with a special ecumenical service on June 17th.



*Annie Walshe celebrating her 97th Birthday with her family & Rev John*

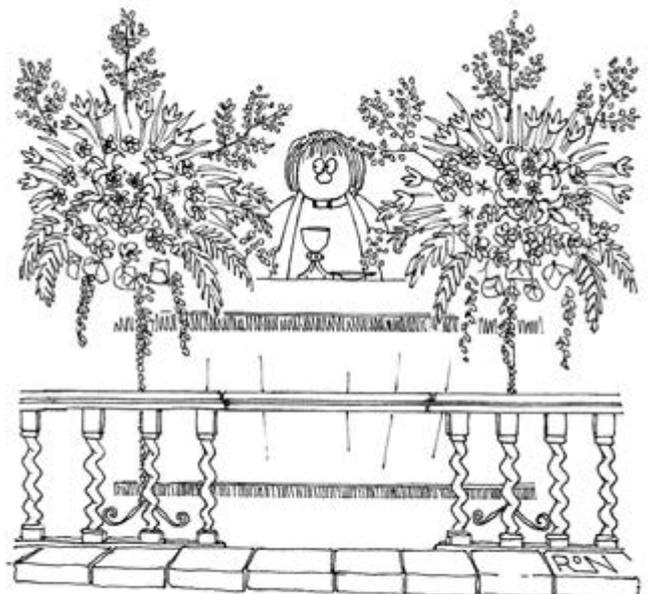
A big well done to all who took part in the parish pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick on June 2nd. Despite the bad weather, sixteen pilgrims of all ages made it safely to the top of the mountain and back. It was an impressive achievement and a memorable occasion for all involved.



*Manicure session at the Coffee Morning*

Ardahan Church was delighted to host Midsummer Music on June 23rd - the seventh in its wonderful series of community concerts. The artists who treated us to their talents that night included Deirbhile Ni Brolchain, Helen Hancock, Labane Church Choir, Eileen Fleming, Frank Hall and Pete Brazier. Proceeds were shared between CROI and the ongoing repair project to the church windows.

We are most grateful to the Reverend Janet White-Spunner who led Holy Communion in St John's Church Ballinasloe and in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim on June 10th and to the Reverend Patrick Towers who provided pastoral cover whilst the rector was away that week.



*The flower ladies pulled out all the stops*

## 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@btopenworld.com](mailto:dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP.

- 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 11am Joint Service  
5th Sunday Holy Communion

Everyone very Welcome

As I write these notes we have just had a few great days in Germany with our daughter, including a very memorable day in Berlin. This brought back memories of the wall coming down in 1989 and we drove as a family to Berlin just days after the event. A very strange feeling driving into the East through part of the broken wall and the empty Russian military camps. What a change in that beautiful city today.

I am back on duty in time for a training afternoon on Safe Guarding Trust and our Diocesan Synod. Thank you to our Parish Synods officers for joining me at Synod.

Our Parish offers condolences to the family and friends of the late Louis Mc Master buried in Banagher Tuesday 5th June. Thank you to Canon Trevor Sullivan for the Tribute and Sermon. It was really good to have local knowledge with me on the day.

Thank you to the Very Reverend Patrick Towers for covering my holiday period and especially with urgent pastoral requests.

Just a few notes this month as I have managed to catch an internet connection leaving the continent and pointing the car towards Ireland.

To close please remember our open air service of Holy Communion at Moystown Church Sunday 1st July @ 12.00noon in place of the normal service in Banagher. Why not bring a picnic and a mug, we will provide hot water for Tea/Coffee.

Cream Teas in the Rectory Saturday 28th July from 11.00am for Banagher Church Funds. Please come along and bring a chum, enjoy part of the day with us in Banagher.

Cecilia plans a morning for all our helpers in the Rectory with a sample cream tea on offer. More from Charles in Church.

Thank you and I really must stop

Sincerely Charles

# Limerick Diocese

## Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: Very Rev Niall J Sloane

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061 310 293

Email: [dean@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:dean@limerick.anglican.org)

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

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Email: [ednawakely@hotmail.com](mailto:ednawakely@hotmail.com)

Curate Assistant: Rev Paul Fitzpatrick

St Mary's Cathedral, Bridge St, Limerick V94 E068

Tel: 061 338 697, Mob: 089 498 0495

Email: [paulfitz1000@hotmail.com](mailto:paulfitz1000@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org)

Newslink Distributor: Gillian Cheatley

### ST MARY'S 850TH

The programme of events is well underway – please visit [www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org) for more information. The next major event will be the visit of the Choir from Kings College Cambridge on Monday 16th July. Tickets may be obtained from [www.uch.ie](http://www.uch.ie)

### LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

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

### CONGRATULATIONS

To our Treasurer, Terry Cusack and his wife Shelia who recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary

### 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.

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## 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.

## ELIZABETH "RITA" HARRIS

Elizabeth "Rita" Harris died peacefully in Rosary Hill Nursing Home, Castleconnell on 25th May. She was born on 6th July 1935 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, to James & Ellen Bond - her father gave her the pet name of "Rita," after the actress Rita Hayworth. In 1966 Rita took up the role of verger of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, succeeding her uncle, Fred Bond. She was the first lady verger to do so in the UK and Ireland. This was a role she fulfilled with great dignity for 45 years, serving under four Deans until her retirement in 2011. She met Edward Harris, a member of the choir and a bell ringer in St Mary's Cathedral, and they were married in the Cathedral in 1969. She was a proud mother of Elizabeth and grandmother to her grandchildren Ellen and Lilian, whom she doted on. Rita lived a disciplined life, was a good friend to many, and was dedicated to her family, her faith, and the Church of Ireland, especially St Mary's Cathedral.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

29th May 2018 (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) - Elizabeth (Rita) Harris

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

- Dee McMahon and her family on the death of her brother, Liam
- Elizabeth, Ian, Lilian and Ellen on the death of Elizabeth's mother, Rita

## 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](mailto:revlizadare@gmail.com)

## VILLAGE FETE

By the time this issue comes out, St. Nicholas Church, Adare, will have been the site for the Adare Village Fete on Sunday, 24 June. This is the second year in a row that the Fete has been held here. Despite inclement weather last year, everyone involved agreed that the grounds of St. Nicholas provide a great venue for the annual event. We give thanks to all who helped with the tremendous amount of work that goes into the event. It is a true effort of the community, between the setup, working on the day, and the cleanup afterwards. We thank St. Nicholas National School for making one of their classrooms available for the teas and coffees. The beneficiaries are still to be announced, but many groups and all three of the churches in Adare benefit from the proceeds.

## CONDOLENCES

We offer condolences to the family of David McKinley, of Kilpeacon Church, who died in Milford Hospice. His funeral was held in Kilpeacon on Wednesday, 20 June, with burial afterwards in Kilglass

Parish in County Sligo, where David was from. David was a Garda and was also known for his carpentry work.

## VISITING PRIEST

Our parishes had a visiting priest for three Sundays in the month of May. The Rev. Sandi Mizirl filled in for Rev. Liz while she and her husband were on holidays. Rev. Sandi comes from a rural parish in Virginia in the United States. She was well received by the members of our parishes, and she herself had a great time being here.

## GARDEN TOUR

On the afternoon of Sunday, 17 June, Lady Silla Harrington opened her gardens at her home in Ballygarry for a Garden Tour. It is not the first time that people have been invited to tour her gardens, but the tour has not been held for several years. The proceeds are in benefit of the Kilpeacon Church Fabric Fund and the Granagh Development Fund.



*Lady Silla Harrington in her beautiful garden.*

## NEW PAINT!

St. Nicholas Church, Adare, has a new coat of paint on its walls! Instead of the peeling paint, water damage, and dust, the walls are now clean and bright with new white paint. The workers, from J. Hodkinson & Sons, also cleaned old paint drippings from the many memorials in the church and cleaned the plaques that had been unreachable to a member polishing all the brass several years ago.

## METHODIST FIELD MEETING

A number of our parishioners, as well as the students of St. Nicholas N.S., joined in the Methodist Field Meeting, held each year on the first Tuesday in June to remember John Wesley's having preached in Adare. This year the weather was perfect for holding it in the golf course, near where Wesley preached.



*St Nicholas' students enjoying a picnic following the Methodist Field Meeting.*

## 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



*Celebrating Trinity Sunday in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale Canon Patrick Comerford with the churchwardens, Niall West and Daphne Casey*

Summer is often a quiet time in parishes throughout the Church of Ireland. But summer this year is filled with the news and joys of baptisms, engagements and weddings and choir visits, the fun of the parish barbeque and plans for the Harvest.

Recent visitors to the parish included clergy and readers who took part in a training day on liturgy and worship in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton. The Revd Michael Cavanagh of Kenmare introduced participants to creative ideas about family services and the Service of the Word, and Canon Patrick Comerford and Stephen Fletcher of Kilrush introduced a 'Teaching Eucharist.'



*Clergy and readers taking part in the recent training day on liturgy and worship in Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton*

Nicky White (Nantinan) and Rob Foley (Cork) are getting married in Saint Mary's Church Askeaton on 7 July.

The engagement has been announced between Sarah Anne Drew, daughter of Ralph and Ann Drew, Ballyvogue, Askeaton, and Brian Dennehy of Listowel.

July has five Sundays in the month, so there is a joint group celebration of the Eucharist at the Rectory on Sunday 28 July, followed by the parish summer barbeque. All welcome!

### JULY SERVICES:

- Sunday 1 July (Trinity V): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 8 July (Trinity VI): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Castletown Church; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 15 July (Trinity VII): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Mary's

Church, Askeaton; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.

- Sunday 22 July (Trinity VIII and Saint Mary Magdalene): 9.30 a.m., Morning Prayer, Castletown Church; 11.30, the Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 29 July (Trinity IX): Fifth Sunday joint celebration: 11 a.m., Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), The Rectory, Askeaton, followed by Parish Barbeque. All Welcome.

### AUGUST SERVICES:

- Sunday 5 August (Trinity X): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 12 August (Trinity XI): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Castletown Church; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 19 August (Trinity XII): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 26 August (Trinity XIII): 9.30 a.m., Morning Prayer, Castletown Church; 11.30, the Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.

## Ardfert Diocese

### Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

*Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney*

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Jim Stephens,

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

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

Email: stjohs.ashestreet@gmail.com

or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Web: [www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org](http://www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org)

Rev Phyllis Jones,

The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry V92 W0Y5

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Email: phyllisjones@eircom.net

### CMS

The Rev Roger Thompson preached at the morning service in Tralee on the 24th June in preparation for the CMS mission trip to Kenya in July which will include two of our parishioners, David Tough and Robert Thompson. David was recently interviewed on the horizons program on radio Kerry.

We extend our sympathy to the following families whose loved ones passed away recently.

To the brother, Douglas and sister, Ann, of Richard Williams from Ballymacelligott, more recently of Cuil Didin Nursing Home. Richard died in KUH on the 27th May. He spent his working life on the family farm with Douglas. A keen horseman, he would be seen regularly hacking out in the locality. He was noted for the attention that he gave to the animals in his care.

To the family of the late Elizabeth Mansfield of Meadowlands and Ocean View, Camp who passed away on the 5th June in her 89th Year. Betty was a gentle and kind lady who was well liked by the patients and Staff of the nursing home where she resided. She was buried in the church grounds after her funeral service in Ballyseedy Church.

## SUNDAY CLUB SERVICE:

Tralee and Ballymac Sunday Clubs amalgamated on the 10th June to celebrate the end of the Sunday Club term. The theme of the service was 'The Word' and the junior choir under the leadership of Shirley and Amanda sang during the service. Mugs with a caption from the book of Jonah were presented to the children. 'In trouble, in deep trouble, I prayed to God and he answered me' Jonah 2,2. Bibles were presented to those who were confirmed.



*Sunday Club mug, bible and book marks*



*Tralee and Ballymac Sunday Clubs came together on the 10th June to celebrate the end of the Sunday club term. Bibles were presented to those who were confirmed. Mugs with a caption from the book of Jonah were presented to everyone*

## END OF TERM SERVICE:

The end of the school year service was held in St Johns on Wednesday the 27th June. Nine children from sixth class will be moving to secondary school shortly.

## BOYS BRIGADE

Congratulations to all the boys and girls of the 1st Tralee Company of the Boys' Brigade on their display and awards night: to Iona, Emmet and Graham on attendance awards, to Sarah Lynn, Kayla and Lee on friendship badges, to Roarke on overall friendship award, to Billy on Captain's award, to Isaac on receiving the William Fitzell Perpetual Cup for Anchor Section member of the year, to Rohan on receiving the Pam Cooke Perpetual Cup for Junior Section member of the year.

## CONCERT

On Wednesday we were entertained by the 'Eintracht' Bergen, Men's Choir from Germany. They treated us to a wide variety of music, from Schubert's 'Deutsche Messe' to 'The Rose', Guantanamera, Italian and Austrian Traditional songs, 'Oh Happy Days', and an amazing rendition of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'. We were impressed by their joy in singing and are very grateful to them for a lovely evening.



*'Eintracht' Bergen, Men's Choir from Germany*

## 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](mailto:killarney@ardfert.anglican.org)

## WILLIE CARSON RIP:

One of St Mary's favourite sons was laid to rest at Killegey Cemetery following his funeral service on May 29th which had a huge attendance. Willie Carson is survived by his sister Elizabeth and his extended family. Had he lived to see it Willie would have been very proud to see Muckross House and Gardens up in lights during June for the visit of Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall as he spent most of his working life in the potting sheds and gardens of Muckross where his knowledge of plant life was much sought after. Indeed his guidance on the landscaping of St Mary's has ensured his legacy is one of the best known green areas in Killarney town and it is up to us all to ensure this legacy is not neglected now that Willie has passed.

## CONCERTS:

Now that June's hectic itinerary has come to a close we are entering into a more manageable regime but, as always, we would welcome any and all offers of help as many of us are extremely busy with work during the main tourist season, while others are missing due to holidays, etc. If anybody has a couple of hours to spare please contact Andrew Eadie.

## VISITING PREACHERS:

On Sunday June 10th the congregation at St Mary's were delighted to welcome Sr. Ann-Marie Stuart from our neighbouring parish of Kilcoleman Union. What an extraordinary human being! If I'm correct, we've not had a female preacher since Reverend Sue Watterson moved away early in this decade and Sr. Ann-Marie gave us a beautiful insight into her life-long journey with God and we are indebted to her for sharing a part of that road with us.

Beginning in the June issue of Newslink Sr. Ann-Marie has a series about relationships within the church and in the first part she focussed on a painting of the two disciples who met the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus but did not recognise Him. I have no idea why, but when speaking to her after the service I completely forgot to mention to her that no less than two of the stained glass windows in St Mary's are dedicated to this story from Luke 24:13 – 35. Let's hope she comes back to us soon so that we can show them to her.

The following week's service was taken by Dean Gary Paulsen and had a very similar theme – walking with God, or to be more precise, being able to see God in ourselves in our daily journeying. His parable of the mustard seed interpretation and how he communicated it to us had each and every one of the congregation smiling. I've never heard the Dean preach before and he is certainly one of the best speakers I've come across in my lifetime. At risk of being pulled up for repeating myself; what an extraordinary human being!

The point I'm trying to make here is that we are extremely lucky in this Diocese in having some remarkable clergy and, I would argue, some remarkable non-clergy as well. In Dean Gary's sermon we heard that Jesus deliberately sought out the mustard seeds of the world, the seemingly insignificant people and this was a deliberate choice. We are so fortunate in the Church of Ireland that there is a real connection which exists between the clergy and "the flock". This is something we must never take for granted and both clergy and laity must redouble our efforts to ensure this bond is nurtured and fed so that the seed becomes a flowering plant over time.

Dean Gary told us that his presence amongst us was a Diocesan initiative which would see priests travel outside their own parish boundaries occasionally to minister in other parishes. From a punter's point of view – having experienced St Mary's on the last two Sundays – this is to be welcomed and encouraged as I know that our congregation has benefitted greatly from our recent clergy visits and I know I'm not alone in hoping that innovative thinking like this will help not only to sustain, but to grow, congregations across the Diocese. After all, this is what the risen Christ told the 11 in Mark 16:15

*"And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish the good news"*

Never once did He tell His apostles or anyone to stay confined within their own boundaries behind their own walls and preach to those who come to them. A sincere thanks to both Dean Gary and Sr. Ann-Marie for crossing their boundaries because we have certainly benefitted greatly from their presence amongst us.

## Kilcolman Union of Parishes

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

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Isabel F Keegan, FJ, MA  
Mob: 085 853 2431, Email: revikireland@gmail.com  
Assistant Priest: Rev Ann-Marie L Stuart, FJ, MA  
Mob: 085 852 9414, Email: revstuart29@gmail.com  
Seaview House, Gurrane West, Killorglin, Co Kerry.  
Tel: 066 979 0359  
Web: [www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org](http://www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org)

### SERVICES

St Carthage, Castlemaine – Sunday 9.45am  
St. Michael's, Killorglin – Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.  
We provide a Sunday School for our parish Children in St Michael's Hall on The 2nd & 4th Sunday's @ 11am.

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW SCIENCE BUILDING at the Intermediate School, Killorglin. When Isabel and I were invited to attend the Blessing of this new building Professor Niall Moynaof Dublin City University gave one of the most uplifting talks we have heard in years. His gave the young students an inspirational vision of a very different future. Professor Stephen Hawkins may well have argued that we are still in our infancy as a planet but with the gradual development of AI in just about every area of life, these students will face an entirely different world from the one we take for granted now. He inspired them to give of their very best, to have confidence in their God given gifts and to do all in their power to enhance their lives through physical as well as intellectual development. No pins were dropped otherwise we would have heard them. Our Roman Catholic Colleague, Canon Michael Fleming, invited Isabel and myself to take part in the Blessing, after which we all explored the new science block and were introduced to some of the experiments the students had prepared, only outclassed by the stunning views from the school of the mountain range not far away from Killorglin.

### KILTALLAGH SCHOOL.

We try to visit our lovely school at Kiltallagh once a week. These vital schools produce youngsters with such personal confidence and joy. We shared some ideas with them about the Bible studies they are working on with their School Principal. As the pupils are writing a book about their school we shared some ideas on Power Point about the different writers of the Bible, and the meaning of the different names used for God, by different authors in the Old Testament. We looked at some rare manuscripts of the Bible, such as The Book of Kells, and also a book of Psalms produced centuries ago in Sherborne, Dorset where we came from recently. As usual this led to some really interesting insights about their own task of writing a book about their school today using computer and photographs from their phones rather than a quill or illuminations. Each week we take a different story to reveal God's love for all creation. Lastly, they did splendidly at their local football game winning by one point in a hard won game.

### A VISIT FROM A UK GROUP OF STAINED GLASS ENTHUSIASTS.

Thanks to this visit, we learned about the significance of the two stained glass windows in St. Michael's Church, rescued from our Church in Beaufort no longer in use. One of them is particularly interesting being the only piece in Ireland by the famous 20th Century Stained Glass Scottish artist Douglas Strachen.

### BAPTISM.

Together with her parents Niall and Karagh O'Neill and the O'Neill family, we look forward to the Baptism of little Maisie in St. Michael's Church Killorglin on the 5th August.

## 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](mailto:michael.cavanagh@eircom.net)

It would appear that as I write, Summer is over – the weather news is full of doom and gloom, the hot weather of the last couple of weeks is predicted to be replaced by thunderstorms and torrential rain. But do we cry? Goodness, no! as Pete the Cat says\*. Weather can't stop South Kerry (possibly the part of the world with the highest density of musical talent in the Island of Ireland) from enjoying itself. We are well into the season of concerts, new and returning faces and friends, and the opportunity to welcome visitors from across the world to share our worship and the blessings of living in this most beautiful part of the Kingdom in the Kingdom.

Last month, concerts from the Kenmare Community Orchestra and Bogumila Sokirko's Piano students raised nearly €600 for the Cork Simon Community; visiting American touring choirs enjoyed singing alongside our own Rosen Choir, and the Kenmare Community Choir presented a very special evening in aid of church funds. We were blessed to be part of the Baptism of Lily Christian's latest Great-Grandchild Alfie John Christian, son of Shane and Hannah.

St Michael's Waterville held its first service after the building refurbishment, drawing gasps as people came through the doors to see the wonderful exposed oak ceiling and the stunning contemporary lighting – in a way, it was a pity it was such a gloriously sunny day, because that meant people didn't get an opportunity to bask in the warmth of the new heating system.

June's 'Christians Together in Kenmare' Bible Study was inspired by the film 'Testament of Youth' – the autobiography of Vera Brittain. The two part study asked challenging questions – Should a Christian be a Feminist? Should a Christian be A Pacifist? If anyone would like to use the discussion notes, please ask Michael: [michael.cavanagh@eircom.net](mailto:michael.cavanagh@eircom.net)

That was last month, though – now we look forward to another couple of months of 'being church' in different ways, with more music, a range of worship styles and services (including a new event for Sea Sunday on 8th July), our Teddy Bears' picnic, Toast Teas and Busy Bees (the Summer version of Praise n' Play), the Charlie Chaplin festival service, the ecumenical service of celebration and official 'opening' of the Heritage Centre in St Michaels and much more. Come and join us for a grand day out!

\*If you don't get the literary allusion, just ask any small child.

# 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

Irish weather being as unpredictable as it is does not always allow us to hold our Annual Field Meeting on the Adare Manor Golf Course, but this year was a glorious year in many respects; the sun shone and even under the trees it was warm, the speaker (Rev. Paul Ritchie from the Baptist church in Limerick) kept everyone enthralled with his story about forgiveness, the music and singing was wonderful, the food and fellowship we shared together after the service was only improved by the sunshine, and all together it was a great day of praise & worship. What a great way to worship God and to remember and celebrate how John Wesley preached similarly to so many in Britain and Ireland, changing the face of Christianity for so many.



Rev. Paul Ritchie speaks to the open-air congregation



Messy Church – Church family learning together about Joseph's brothers.

In June we celebrated with our Sunday School. This year we decided that we would have a service where the whole family could be particularly involved in worshipping and learning together. We used some of the Messy Church material to learn about Joseph, and how God used the hardships of his life to bring Israel and his family through the famine and build them into a nation in Egypt.

We began with singing and prayer and then moved into the hall where we worked on several different crafts, then we returned to the church to hear the story of Joseph and how the different crafts brought light to the different aspects of his story. While it was a lot of work in planning and having the day, it was good to see the family of God worshipping together in such a creative way. Services for July and August will be held in Adare @ 10:15am and in Ballingrane @ 11:45am.

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,

Clonmacken, Limerick.

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Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

Every year the new President of the Methodist Church in Ireland decides on a theme. Last year Rev Dr Laurence Graham gave us Meet Jesus, Share Jesus – the Rhythm of Grace, this year incoming President Rev Billy Davison chose Living with Gospel Focus.

At Conference Rev Keith Garner from the Wesley Mission in Sydney led the Bible studies during morning worship. He spoke to us about how call and compassion are one and the same, both equally important when living with Gospel focus.

Rev Dr Ian M. Fraser, an original member of the Iona Community, who died earlier this year, wrote this,

*Those "greater things" required of us who follow in your way – how get the courage to say "Yes," and love like yours display. You healed the sick, the hungry fed, confronted powers – that-be, raised and were raised up from the dead, set those in bondage free. Yet you were given a narrow place some years in time's expanse – can our restricted time and space Your Kingdom's growth advance? Transnationals and superpowers, arms dealers fuelling strife point to new mandates which are ours to urge your way of life. We're in our world, not ages past, and global is our task: then live in us – that, to the last, we do great things you ask.*



**When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the Minister's hay fever in mind.**

On another note, sometimes people offer to do lovely things for us! See CB1 as you've never seen it before - This is amazing! A 360° view of the Cystic Fibrosis art exhibition by Red Paw Media... click the link: [redpaw.ie/360/tlc4cf/](http://redpaw.ie/360/tlc4cf/)



*Sara - curator of the first Irish exhibition by artists with cystic fibrosis*

## Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

*[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]*

**Minister: Rev Karen Spence**  
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co Kerry  
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Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/kerry](http://www.irishmethodist.org/kerry)

**Pastoral Assistant: Susan Gallagher**  
Tel: 086 1525374  
Email: [writer@sukeymackie.com](mailto:writer@sukeymackie.com)

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET  
Sunday Service 6.30pm  
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm

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

The Gateway KENMARE  
Sunday Service 11am Incl Sunday School (preceded by tea/coffee)  
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am  
Bible study Wednesday 10am  
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am  
Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.  
This summer a world map is situated at the back of the church in Killarney and visitors are encouraged to put a sticky dot on the map to indicate where in the world they have come from. Already there are many dots on the map! A prayer wall has also been created, where people can write out a prayer request and know that people will pray for it.

Friday morning Bible Study is called The Whole of Life for Christ and is proving to be very worthwhile.

A Holiday Bible club is happening in Killarney on 16th, 17th and 18th July from 10am – 12 noon. A further Holiday Bible club is planned for early August but dates are still to be finalised.

The Gateway in Kenmare will be completing the study Ten during July and will take a break during August but will still be open for Drop-In for coffee and chat!

The Lighthouse in Millstreet will continue to meet for Bible Study during the summer.

This summer we will be saying farewell to Susan Gallagher who has been the Lay Pastoral Assistant in Killarney. Susan has been accepted for training for the Ordained Ministry of the Methodist Church in Ireland. We are sorry to see her go but know she will have a very fruitful ministry in another part of the Island!

## North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

**Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal**  
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808  
Email: [shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org](mailto: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

At the end of May, we celebrated the baptism of Tom Hastings, son of Stephen and Jean Hastings of Roscrea in Roscrea Methodist. As many of you know, Tom was born 3 months early. He is thriving and doing so well, thanks be to God and all the medical care he received! Family from near and far gathered for this special service to thank God and to recognise that God has claimed him and sealed him with love with the sign of water and the Spirit. It was truly a special occasion.

I want to thank two lovely women on our circuit who have spearheaded Christian Aid coffee mornings in Roscrea and Cloughjordan over the past 20 years nearly: Gillian Kingston and Sylvia Armitage. Your work in gathering the worker bees to bake, sell, and serve coffee, tea, buns and cakes every May for the world's poor is tremendous! Thank you both for being such servants of Christ and leading us to help others who live in need both near and far.

As the summer begins our regular activities come to an end to allow people more free time to spend with each other and to enjoy the bright nights. Therefore, our monthly activities will resume in the Autumn. We have one special circuit service planned for 8th July: an open-air blessing of the pets service at Derry House in Shinrone. Afterwards, there will be a circuit BBQ.

I pray you and yours have a safe and happy summer!

God bless,  
~ Rev. Shannon



# Emergency Appeal from the Diocese of Jerusalem

The Anglican al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City is implementing an emergency response to the crisis caused by the overwhelming number of casualties sustained during protests across the Gaza Strip.

In a statement Archbishop Suheil Dawani, Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and Archbishop of Jerusalem, said: "Our Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza (AAH) had been literally working around the clock to serve the wounded from the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip ever since the United States formally opened its Embassy in Jerusalem on May 14."

"The wounded coming to our hospital have no money, but no one is ever turned away," Archbishop Suheil said. "Most of the men, women, and children who are treated at AAH have been injured from live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas intoxication. I appeal to all our Friends around the World to give generously to this humanitarian crisis, as we, the Church, the hands of Jesus in this place, respond to this tragedy in love and compassion to the wounded."

"The situation is critical at all Gaza hospitals including AAH", writes Mrs. Suhaila Tarazi, the hospital's director. "The death toll in Gaza continues to rise".

According to WHO figures, 2768 people have been injured, 1357 of which suffered gunshot wounds, so the immediate need is great.

Mrs. Tarazi states that the hospital needs "to obtain emergency medicine, medical supplies, and fuel for generators. Ahli needs to support doctors and nurses who are working non-stop to meet the crushing flow of the injured and traumatized." Mrs. Tarazi reiterated that the hospital, as a humanitarian organisation of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, "adopts a rights-based approach and provides healthcare to the needy without discrimination of faith, gender, social class or political affiliation".

The Diocesan Programs Development Director, Mr. Hanna Theodorie, reports that the hospital has also been working with children whose "family members, friends and neighbours are dead or injured. These children are suffering, and Ahli Hospital is providing them compassionate counselling and psycho-social therapy". In addition al-Ahli Arab hospital has been assigned to treat the most catastrophic orthopaedic injuries sustained and its surgeons are treating serious wounds and complex injuries.

Al-Ahli Arab Hospital was already facing challenging circumstances, in

part due to an annual funding cut of \$65million by the United States of America to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA are now only able to provide a quarter of their standard reimbursement to the hospital for patients treated. In addition, power cuts across the Strip has required the use of a 400kw generator for 16 hours a day, at the cost of \$90 per hour to the hospital.

The hospital is now looking for assistance to provide urgent medical care, configure an extra emergency wing and add additional hospital beds.



*Emergency surgery at al Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please keep the people of Gaza, those affected by the violence, and the staff of al-Ahli Arab Hospital in your prayers at this time, and pray for peace, with justice, in the Holy Land.

You can donate directly in Euro to the Diocese of Jerusalem via the banking details here, supporting al-Ahli Arab hospital.

Account Name: Al-Majma Al-Kanasi – Evangelical Episcopal Church of Jerusalem

Bank Name: Bank of Palestine

Account number: 227346 (EURO Acct)

IBAN: PS15 PALS 0458 0227 3460 333000 000

Swift Code: PALSPS15XXX

Bank Address: Ain Misbah Street, Ramallah; P.O. Box 471 Ramallah,

Contact No.: PNA Tel: +970 (0) 22946700, Fax: +970 (0) 22964703

## Limerick author's new book on the Achill Mission



*Canon Patrick Comerford and Patricia Byrne at the launch of Patricia Byrne's new book, 'The Preacher and the Prelate,' in O'Mahony's Bookshop, Limerick*

tells the story of Canon Edward Nangle and the controversies stirred by his mission on Achill Island, Co Mayo, in the mid-19th century.

Speaking at the launch of her new book in O'Mahony's Bookshop, O'Connell Street, Limerick, the author Patricia Byrne said: 'Researching and writing this book took five years of my life. It was an obsession really for those five years. The story is raw, tempestuous, tragic and

trauma-filled. It is the story of one man's attempt to transform an island.'

Limerick poet and playwright Mary Coll launched the book, and Canon Patrick Comerford, who also spoke at the launch has published many papers on the Achill Mission.

The Preacher and the Prelate tells the story of an audacious fight for souls on famine-ravaged Achill Island in the 19th century. The flood of hostility between Edward Nangle and John MacHale, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, exposed the fault lines in religion, society and politics in Victorian Ireland.

Patricia Byrne is a Mayo-born writer who lives in Limerick, Ireland. She writes narrative nonfiction and personal essays and is a graduate of the NUI Galway writer programme. Her first novel, The Veiled Woman of Achill: Island Outrage and a Playboy Drama, was published in 2012. Her work has featured in New Hibernia Review, The Irish Times, on RTE's 'Sunday Miscellany', and many other publications.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

God rescued the Hebrew people from  
Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain.  
There He offered them a contract....

Keep My rules, and you will  
be My people and I will be  
your God and protect you.



We promise to do  
what You tell us  
and worship only You.

Moses climbed the mountain.  
God gave him two stone slabs  
with the contract on them.

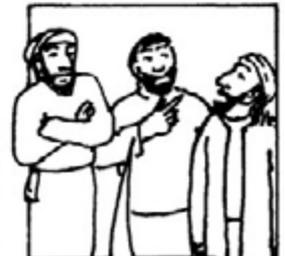


Then God and  
Moses talked ... for  
40 days and nights

Meanwhile...



Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We  
can't worship something we can't see.



Make us  
something we  
can worship

So Aaron made a gold bull  
and the people went wild.



God told Moses....

Your people are already  
worshipping a statue.



Moses was so angry he  
smashed the contract  
slabs



It's not my fault,  
they made me do it.

God, please, please  
forgive Your people.



So God forgave His people and gave  
Moses two more contract slabs.



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- Caring "family" environment with dedicated staff.
- Consistently excellent academic achievement.
- Promotes the holistic development of your child.
- Broad range of sports available:- Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and Athletics.
- Modern facilities.
- Comprehensive Transition Year Programme with wide ranging opportunities.
- Varied and multi-cultural society.
- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



## Bursaries & Discounts

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

### Scholarships

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

### Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



# VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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

*North Circular Road, Limerick*

**Telephone: (061) 451447 / 451400 Fax: (061) 455333**

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