



MARCH 2019

NEWSLINK

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

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The Aughrim Rectory Garden in full bloom, Summer 2018

#Pennies4Plastics a Lenten Initiative from the Church of Ireland

Throughout Lent 2019, the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body (RCB) will be inviting individuals, families, parishes, schools, and Sunday schools and clubs to prayerfully reduce their use of plastic.

#Pennies4Plastics is an exciting initiative that celebrates God's Creation, challenges us to make small changes this Lent that help protect this Creation, and raises vital funds for Waste Aid which supports recycling in the Gambia, where many communities have no formal waste management system. It encourages all those taking part to:

1. Get informed about single-use plastic;
2. Get busy making changes (with lots of different ideas);
3. Learn about how plastic waste is being transformed in the Gambia; and
4. Pray for the important environmental issues around waste and plastics.

A resource, full to the brim with everything you need to reduce plastic waste and help others to do the same, is now available (at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/pennies4plastics). This can be downloaded in full or in four different sections covering

information, action, giving, and school assemblies and All Age Worship. You can also download labels and attach them to recyclable jars for your Lenten collection.

Lydia Monds, Education Advisor with Bishops' Appeal, says:



'As we compiled this resource we learned some startling facts. Eight million tonnes of plastic are ending up in the oceans each year – that's the weight of roughly a billion elephants. Also, Ireland is by far the EU's worst offender when it comes to buying single-use plastics. And in countries where there are no waste management systems, people's health is suffering from the mass burning of plastics whilst their livestock become ill and can die from ingesting plastic. This is not an issue for an enthusiastic few; for Christians who worship the God of all Creation, this is an issue for all of us. Take prayerful action with us this Lent.'

Donations can be made online (at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/donations>), through a bank lodgement, or by euro or sterling cheque (details for these payment methods are online at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org). Funds donated as part of #Pennies4Plastics will be match-funded by Bishops' Appeal and the RCB.



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Bishop Kenneth writes

- Do we need a Diocesan Council for Mission?

A good family friend who was a missionary all her life and had retired to Dublin used to spend Christmas with us, and speaking to her was always fascinating. She told how she had always wanted to be a teacher, but her father, who in the 1930's didn't believe women should work, had forbidden it. Eventually he relented, provided she became a missionary teacher.

So after training she set sail for India on her own in 1939. She remembered the date well because the Second World War broke out while she was on the ship. She told of travelling to a remote part of India to join other Irish missionaries, the difficulties of learning a new language and of understanding a new and very different culture. And she had to get on with the job of teaching with up to 80 girls in each class.

She loved the work and spent the whole of her working life there, eventually becoming headmistress of a school of over 1000 pupils. She spoke of the awful poverty, the desire for education and the need to teach her pupils basic skills about cooking and health as well as the three Rs – the sort of education girls in rural India needed if they were ever to get out of poverty.

She couldn't travel home during the War, but after it, every two to three years she came back to Ireland for three months, most of it holiday, but she was also expected to travel to Irish parishes talking about her work and raising money for the school.

There was one question she was always embarrassed to hear on these parish visits – "how many people did you convert?" "Not very many, I'm afraid," she would reply, "but I suppose I influenced a few, and the church did grow."



Today we recognise just how naïve that question is. Missionaries of old and mission work today, is not about changing others to "our" way of thinking – mission arises out of our own faith, and our responsibility to share what we have with others who, as children of the same Heavenly Father, have needs and wants. The basic needs – food, shelter, homes, are today addressed by the many excellent aid agencies.

But that isn't the end of it. Other needs also exist – for education, for a sense of purpose in life, for guidance and direction, and that's how our missionary friend of old saw it. What she did in education in a rural village in India arose from her own faith and her desire to help the girls in her school. In so doing she met a need, and for that reason she put up with living in difficult circumstances. When parents and the girls in the school asked her why she did it, she would explain about Jesus and his concern for others, and that she was trying to follow him. That sometimes led them to explore the Christian faith for themselves, and so the church grew.

Recently, our Council for Mission hosted a meeting with Fr Peter McVerry, whose work for homelessness we all admire. He does this out of his Christian faith. Most of us can't do what he does, but at least we can support him as best we can, and we too do this out of our own Christian faith.

That's what Mission is – working out our faith in practical ways both in our neighbourhood, in Ireland and overseas. The regular programme of our Council for Mission keeps our responsibility to share in God's mission before us all the time. That's why we need a Diocesan Council for Mission, and why its work is so important.

+ Kenneth

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Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at joc_sanders@iol.ie. Those organising events of wide diocesan interest are urged to do so as early as possible.

Mon 4th March, 11am CME workshops: The Adventure of Prayer & Faith Development, The Rectory, Askeaton

Sat 16th March, 10am–6pm UDYC Multi Activity Day, Adare (NS 3rd–6th class)

Tue 19th March, 8pm 175th Anniversary talk 'The Church of the Future', St Michael's Church, Pery Square, Limerick (speaker the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev'd Dr Diarmuid Martin)

Wed 20th March, 8pm MU Area Meeting, Oxmantown Hall, Birr (speaker Lady Rosse)

Fri 22nd March, 8.30pm Table Quiz in aid of George Harding Trip to India with UCD Overseas Volunteers, Ferry Inn, Lorrha

Sat 23rd March, 2pm Come and Sing: Anthems, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick (register from 1.30pm)

Thu 28th March, 11am–3.20pm Joint Tuam/Limerick Lenten Quiet Day, St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam

Thu 28th March, 8pm Diocesan Council for Mission, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

Sun 21st April Easter Day – Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sat 30th March GFS Diocesan Prizeday & Service, Corbally Church, near Roscrea

Wed 1st May, 8pm DCfM Mission Evening: Youth Mission Experience, Church Hall, Moneygall, Co Tipperary

Thu 2nd May Finance Committee

Thu 9th May Joint Glebes & Property Committees, followed by Diocesan Council

Thu 16th – Sat 18th May General Synod, Millennium Forum, Derry/Londonderry

Farewell Dean Gary



Editor: The Newslink team extend congratulations to Very Rev Gary Paulsen, Dean of Killaloe, on his appointment as Rector of the Fermoy Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Cloyne. We will miss him and his contributions to Newslink.

His last service in the diocese will be in Killaloe Cathedral on 24th March at 11.30 am. He will be instituted in Fermoy Union at 4pm on 7th April.

Editorial

- Lent, new life & growth

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 5th of March this year. Many of us, I'm sure, will follow the old tradition of fasting, of giving something up for Lent, perhaps some little luxury we enjoy. With the money we save we may give generously to some good cause. The Calendar of the Book of Common Prayer (page 20) commends this tradition of discipline and self-denial on the weekdays of Lent. But notice, it says nothing about the Sundays of Lent – this is because Sundays should always be joyful, festive days in celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death at the Resurrection.

Self-denial is good for us if not taken to extremes. But perhaps even better is to take something up for Lent, some personal discipline, as we accompany Christ and his disciples on the long road to Jerusalem, to his passion, death and resurrection. Once again this year, Bishop Kenneth challenges us to take on the practice of daily prayer during Lent (see below) – there's a new Daily Worship app to help those with smart phones.

It is such a happy coincidence for those of us in the Northern hemisphere, that Lent is also a time of lengthening days, new life and burgeoning growth. This lifts our spirits, and should encourage us to look forward to Easter and the good things to come. It helps us to do as Jesus tells us when we fast, not to go around with a dismal face, but to put oil on our head and wash our face – our fast should be a secret between us and our Father, who will reward us.

God bless,
Joc Sanders, Editor

Bishop's Challenge for Lent



In recent years I've challenged us all to read a short form of Daily Prayer each day during Lent, and the editor of Newslink has kindly published both readings and collects for each day.

I'm delighted to say that technology has now caught up with us, and daily readings and prayers are available all year round, either by

downloading the new Daily Worship app, published by the Church of Ireland, or by looking at the Church of Ireland website, www.ireland.anglican.org and under "Prayer and Worship" you will find "Daily Prayer" for each day of the year.

Some will remember that our Diocesan Synod a couple of years ago encouraged this initiative by supporting a motion asking for a Daily Worship app, and this motion was sent to the Central Communications Board of the Church of Ireland. Well done to the Board for seeing this through!

+ Kennetl



Newslink

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for April 2019, published for Sunday 7th April.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 22nd March 2019 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2019

(UNCHANGED from 2018, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - March 2019

Each Sunday in March

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Derry & Raphoe and Bishop Ken Good.

3rd March, The Sunday before Lent, Proper 4, Green or Transfiguration, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Iglesia Anglicana de Chile and Most Revd Héctor (Tito) Zavala Muñoz, Bishop of Santiago & Primate.

Diocese: The diocesan Safeguarding Trust coordinator Margaret Brickenden, Safeguarding trainers and members of Safeguarding panels in our parishes and diocesan organisations.

10th March, The First Sunday of Lent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo, and Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda, Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu.

Diocese: Our diocesan organists, musicians and choirs, giving thanks for their talents which so enhance our worship.

17th March, The Second Sunday of Lent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of England, and Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Diocese: We give thanks for the life and witness of St Patrick and all the saints who brought the light of Christ to Ireland, and we pray that walking in that light we may come to everlasting life.

24th March, The Third Sunday of Lent, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and Most Revd Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

Diocese: We pray for the diocesan Director for Education and Training, Canon Patrick Comerford, and for all engaged in Christian education and training in the united dioceses.

31st March, The Fourth Sunday of Lent, or Mothering Sunday, Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song, Archbishop of the Province & Bishop of the Seychelles.

Diocese: We give thanks for the love of the mothers who nurtured us, and we pray that we may share that love with all we meet along the way.

7th April, The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Violet

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down & Dromore and Bishop Harold Miller.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland and Most Revd Richard Lionel Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

Diocese: We pray for diocesan and parish readers in the united dioceses, giving thanks for their ministry among us.

Rekindling

"A smouldering wick He will not snuff out..." – Isaiah 42

The oil is consumed, the lamp burns low.
Bright, dancing flame becomes a flick'ring glow.
Exhausted, tiny, failing source of light
almost overpowered by the night
but its last efforts catch Compassion's eye.
He refuels the lamp that has run dry
then cups His hand and breathes, life-giving breath
rekindling a light so close to death.
Flame glows and flickers then begins to dance,
revived, renewed, receives another chance.
Compassion gives His breath, love, energy –
He sees not just what is but what could be.

By Helen Brocklehurst

The Earth does not belong to us

This we know: the earth does not belong to us.
The earth is the Lord's and so are all its people
This we know: we did not weave the web of life.
The earth is the Lord's and so is all that breathes on it.
This we know: we are called to till and work the earth.
The earth is the Lord's and so are all who work the land.
This we know: that we are called to take care of creation.
The earth is the Lord's yet we have polluted and abused it.
This we know; that whatever befalls the earth
Befalls the sons and daughters of the earth
This we know: that the earth is the Lord's
And so we will serve Him in it
Amen

Lord God our Father
Let our walk this day be
Full of beauty and brightness
Lord, hear us

That we may know
Your presence and your peace
Lord, hear us

That we may experience
Your grace and your glory
Lord, hear us

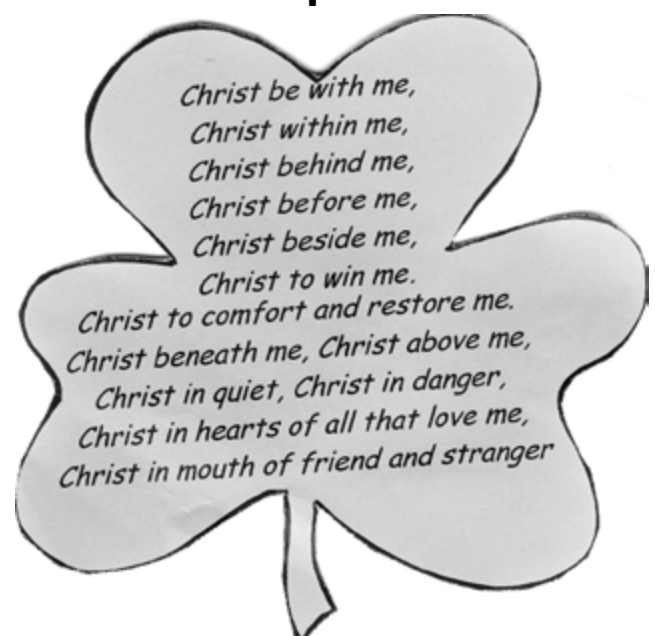
That we may be at one
With you and your creation
Lord, hear us

That we may be aware of you
In and through and above all things.
Lord, hear us

God bless the path on which I go
God bless the earth beneath my sole
God bless the fellowship that make us whole
Amen

Source: Bishop Eric Pike, Diocese of Port Elizabeth: adapted from various sources

St Patrick's Breastplate



A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

– Who the Travellers are



On Thursday, 31st January 2019, some thirty years on from the original meeting in the Morrison Hall, some 30 members of the Settled and Traveller communities in Birr settled down in the Methodist Church to hear Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri. Professor Cavalleri is a distinguished Geneticist in Population Studies, working in the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, who, two years ago, published the results of the research conducted by himself and his research team into the blood lines of the Traveller community in Ireland.

Gianpiero began his lecture by giving us an introduction to the work that his kind of Geneticist does. It was interesting because Genetics in its many parts is destined to play a greater and greater role in revealing who we humans are as biological entities, how many human illnesses come about, and increasingly how best they can be cured. Using power point to illustrate his talk, Gianpiero moved on to describe his work on the DNA of the Traveller community, leading up to the conclusions that can be drawn from his research. Those conclusions are quite simple. The Traveller community are as Irish as most of us are, and more than some of us like myself. They share identifiable Irish DNA, but with variations that can be calculated to have occurred between 14 and 8 generations ago. Using the standard historian's measurement of a generation as around 30 years then it is entirely reasonable to deduce that the DNA of Travellers began to separate from the DNA of the Settled community between 420 and 240 years ago, with the differences being reinforced by intermarriage within and between those whose separation was beginning to have ethnic and cultural significance.

Four hundred and twenty years ago takes us back to the beginning of one of the most troubled centuries in the history of the whole island of Ireland. The 17th Century began with the movement of much of the population in large parts of Ulster, as James the First

sought to do better than earlier plantations in securing the country under English rule. The decades of the 1630s, 40s, 50s and 60s saw further population movements, with significant numbers of people becoming dispossessed, and that dispossession being confirmed by the Williamite Settlement in the 1690s, and by the Penal Laws of the 18th Century. For those Traveller families where the DNA difference is less pronounced, the Great Famine and the population disturbances of the mid-nineteenth century become the separation point. So precise has Gianpiero's work been that it is possible for him to identify different family groups associated with different family names as discreet enclaves within the general Traveller community.

It was fascinating information. Traveller and Settled alike were challenged to think about its implications. Within conversations about its own identity and self-understanding, the Settled community in Ireland has used Cromwell as a Totem of Villainy, the perpetrator of terrible deeds. We have worn the mantle of victimhood with a magnificent degree of rhetorical elegance. At the same time the Travellers, those whose ancestors suffered the most, have been deliberately and consistently left on the margins of Irish Society. Now that we know who the Travellers are, justice requires that a major revision of Settled attitudes towards them should immediately take place. Those of us in the Church of Ireland, who have not seen it as a part of our civic responsibility to advocate for the Traveller community, have a special duty, for many of us are the lineal descendants of those who originally dispossessed them of the land.

As we begin to prepare for Lent, the Travelling community are a visible reminder of the out-workings of God's identification with us in and through Jesus of Nazareth, who is happy to represent himself as having nowhere to lay his head, and who achieves our whole salvation through the experience of total and absolute rejection. I do hope that this information based on the careful work of a scrupulous scientist will assist you in having a profoundly renewing experience of the Wilderness journey which gave Jesus the courage to be WHO HE IS.

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day, 5th March 2019

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to ancient times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, in England. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession.



Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Why is it called “Ash Wednesday”?

by Archdeacon Wayne Carney



Anglicans are generally familiar with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty days of Lent, and most parishes would have a service on the day. However, in many parishes in the Church of Ireland, the meaning of the service is not always made clear, and parishioners may see it as just another Holy Communion (if, indeed, Holy Communion is celebrated). When this happens, parishioners miss out on taking a full part in one of the most meaningful liturgies we have.

In order to explain this, we have to start with Palm Sunday. We can so easily picture the scene: Jesus, riding into Jerusalem astride a donkey; the people waving palm branches and shouting “Hosanna!” And when we have a Palm Sunday procession in church, we are reminded that we too are in that crowd, we too are praising our King.

But then, a few days later, that same crowd is gathered in front of the governor’s palace. Two men are brought out. One of them is Jesus of Nazareth. The other we know as Barabbas, whose name, in Hebrew, means ‘Son of the Father’. Barabbas is basically a terrorist and murderer, trying to drive the occupying Romans out of Israel. And we know the story: Pontius Pilate the Governor gives the crowd the opportunity to choose which prisoner will be freed, and which one will be crucified. Now, here’s the interesting point: ancient manuscripts give Barabbas’ full name as ‘Jesus Barabbas’. The name ‘Jesus’ is a variation of ‘Joshua’, and would have been a fairly common name in 1st Century Judaism. But think of what’s going on here: the crowd (and remember, we’re in that crowd) has to choose between Jesus, Son of the Father, the Son of God; and Jesus, Son of the Father, who is the Father of Lies, Satan. They have to choose between following God and following the Devil, between good and evil. And we know that they chose the one we know as Barabbas. When Pilate asked what they wanted done with the other Jesus, the one we know as our Saviour, their answer was, “Crucify him!” In the Palm Sunday service, the full drama of this becomes readily apparent if we read the Passion story in parts, with the congregation taking the part of the crowd. It really is us shouting “Crucify him!” And we do ‘crucify him’, every time we deny him, disobey him, or ignore him.

And so the palm branches or crosses we may receive on Palm Sunday are really reminders of our symbolic presence in that crowd on both

days – Palm Sunday and Good Friday – and our willingness to go along with the crowd in first following and praising Jesus, and then calling for him to be executed.

In some parishes, it is the custom to ask parishioners to keep their Palm Sunday palm branches or crosses, and to put them up in some visible place, as a reminder of what they represent. And then, in the week before Ash Wednesday, they are asked to bring them to church, so they can be collected and burnt, to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Do you remember what happens at a baptism? There is the obvious bit, the pouring of water over the head of the candidate. But there is also the ‘signing with the sign of the cross’, when the child or adult has a cross marked on her or his forehead (sometimes with blessed oil), marking them as belonging to Christ forever. As I tell children, our job as Christians is to make sure that everyone we meet knows that we have a cross on our foreheads, but we can’t tell them! We have to show them that we belong to Christ, by the way we live, and the way we love.

On Ash Wednesday, some parishes invite the congregation to come forward to kneel or stand at the Communion rail to receive ashes on their forehead – in the shape of the cross. It is a way for us to remember that we have ‘dirtied’ that baptismal cross on our foreheads, by sometimes being unloving to God or to our neighbours. It feels gritty, it is uncomfortable, but then so is sin. We don’t like being dirty, so we’d better confess our sins to God and get absolution!

Should we keep the cross on our foreheads, or wipe it off? There are arguments either way, but in the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Jesus tells people to wash their faces so people don’t know that they’re fasting. If you keep the cross on in order to ‘show off’ that you’ve been to church, perhaps you should wipe it off.

The biggest problem that some people in the Church of Ireland have with using ashes on Ash Wednesday is that it is what Roman Catholics do. But the use of ashes as a sign of penitence goes back thousands of years; it is found throughout the Old Testament. And using ashes on Ash Wednesday goes back to the earliest days of the Church, before there were ‘Protestants’ and ‘Catholics’. We do lots of other things that Roman Catholics do: our Holy Communion service is almost the same as theirs, many of our prayers are the same, our churches are very similar inside and out.

On Ash Wednesday this year, think of why we use that name for the day. And think of how we can be reminded of how we have fallen short of the glory of God, by the things we have done, and the things we ought to have done.

May this Ash Wednesday be a reminder of our sin, and of the promise of God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and so prepare us for a meaningful Lent and a glorious Easter.



Armchair Christmas Quiz

Rev Denis Sandes reveals the answers

Many thanks to all those who took part in our Annual Armchair Christmas Quiz, and to the Diocesan magazines which included the quiz in their Christmas editions. The proceeds as usual go to two charities, Christian Aid, and Bishops' Appeal. These are very worthwhile charities, in which all of the money raised goes to where it is needed. This year's money will be going to Yemen still suffering from long term faction fighting, and famine, and Indonesia, following the earthquake and tsunami. Entries were up this year, at almost 200. Thanks to the generosity of so many people we made well over €1000.

These are the winners: 1st Jennifer Lazenby, Athy; Joint 2nd Chris Forsyth, Athlone, and Valerie Harding from Naas. Patrick Brophy, Athlone, Michael Gowlett, from Highclere in England, and Richard Hoadley from Inistioige also won prizes for "Having a good shot!"

My apologies for an error in clue 11: Priam not Hector, was king of Troy. Clue 5 also caused a lot of problems - a huge number gave degree, not naggin as the answer, and we allowed it. I'm not quite sure why!

Here are the answers:

1. Concrete area behind the house: YARD
2. Hard to figure out this depth: FATHOM
3. Could be a fish, or a roost: PERCH

4. Could it also be used to measure?: METRE
5. Sounds like it's "giving out": NAGGIN
6. Could be filled with oil or beer: BARREL
7. A wee deoch an dorais!: DRAM
8. Could spend it without buying anything: PENNY
9. Links to measure distance: CHAIN
10. Cattle used to graze the long: ACRE
11. Sounds like the ancient king of Troy: HECTARE
12. Biblical builders measure for length: CUBIT
13. Edinburgh has a royal one: MILE
14. Under pressure I stich the pub: ISOBAR
15. Could be cash or a weight: POUND
16. You might order one in the pub: PINT
17. Take an E from a spanish ship: GALLON
18. Anglicised Irish Island: INCH
19. 10 rings: DECIBEL
20. Old fashioned wind speed scale: BEAUFORT
21. Fishes Drink measure?: GILL
22. At the bottom of your leg: FOOT
23. Sounds like a shrub and 12th letter: BUSHEL
24. 4 to a gallon: QUART
25. 16 to a pound: OUNCE
26. Small rock: STONE

Standing Committee News

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met on Tuesday, 22nd January 2019, in Church of Ireland House, Dublin.

Mr Ken Gibson opened the meeting in a prayer reflecting on 2 Corinthians 4.6 and God's calling for light to shine out of darkness, and interceding for wisdom, patience and a spirit of reconciliation for the United Kingdom and European Union in facing the complex issues of Brexit. Those affected by the recent car bombing in Londonderry were remembered in prayer.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

The Honorary Secretaries reported that sales of the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer have been extremely brisk. Copies are priced at £20 or €22, with a 10% discount for orders of 10 or more, and are available from the Church of Ireland's online bookshop (store.ireland.anglican.org) or from Ms Heather Jestin – heather.jestin@rcbdub.org or 00 353 (0)1 4125 665.

SYNODICAL REPRESENTATION

A report was received from the General Synod Representation Working Group, which has met twice since the meeting of members of Standing Committee (held solely to look at this issue) in Taney on 12th November 2018. Its work was commended, and a considerable discussion of the report took place; the working group is to meet again in February and the issue will be given further consideration at the March meeting of the Standing Committee.

APPOINTMENTS

Mrs Kaye Nesbitt was elected as a co-opted member of the Standing Committee, following a vacancy arising from the resignation of Mrs Pauline High. Mrs Nesbitt is parish administrator for the united parishes of Dunalong and Leckpatrick, in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, and was previously a member of the Standing Committee between 2015 and 2018. She is a diocesan reader, and member of the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Council, and has just taken up the role of Finance and Central Services Unit Co-

ordinator with the Mothers' Union Ireland.

Mrs Dianne Morris and Ms Sylvia Helen were appointed as co-opted members of the Marriage Council. The Very Revd Niall Sloane was re-appointed as a Church of Ireland member of the Irish Inter Church Committee.

GENERAL SYNOD 2019

Standing Committee members were informed that the following deadlines are in place ahead of General Synod, which will take place from 16th-18th May in the Millennium Forum in Derry/Londonderry:

- last day for the receipt of Bills (for circulation): Thursday, 4th April;
- last day for the receipt of Motions (for circulation): Tuesday, 16th April;
- last day for the advance receipt of Requests for Information: Thursday, 9th May;
- last day for the receipt of Petitions: Thursday, 9th May; and
- last day for late Bills: Thursday, 9th May.

Forms are available at the synod website: synod.ireland.anglican.org. In all cases, documents should be sent to the Honorary Secretaries at Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6, or by email to honsecs@ireland.anglican.org

The Legislation Committee is available to assist members of General Synod with the drafting of Bills for General Synod. Members wishing to avail of this assistance are asked to contact the Synod Officer, Dr Catherine Smith, at catherine.smith@rcbdub.org

The Standing Committee requested the Honorary Secretaries to invite a representative of the Irish Council of Churches and representatives of the following Churches to attend this year's General Synod: the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; the Methodist Church in Ireland; the Roman Catholic Church; the Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland; the Church of England; the Society of Friends; the Cherubim and Seraphim Church; and the Greek Orthodox Church in Ireland.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

BORRISOKANE & CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The weekly Mini-Market proves to be a great hit with everybody. The branch greatly values all the contributions and support which they receive for it and they look forward to having proceeds for GFS. Missions and GFS. World Project.

Bible Study has been completed and work is continuing with the competition crafts. The badges for this year are Knowledge and Exploration, not Mission as mentioned in a previous issue as the Mission badge is being revised.

Everyone is looking forward to our Diocesan Service and Prizegiving which will take place on 30th March in Corbally Church, near Roscrea. It will be wonderful to come together as a diocese and to meet our friends from other branches. It will be lovely to see the GFS competition work on display from the whole diocese too.

NENAGH BRANCH

Branch Enrolment Service took place on Sunday, 17th February, as part of Family Worship. The service was based on this year's Bible Study theme 'Whenever you see a rainbow, remember God is love.' Girls and leaders processed to the hymn 'One More Step, along the World I go'. Girls were joined by the boys for the next hymn 'Be Bold, Be Strong' which they performed with actions. The first reading was the story of Noah from the book of Genesis read by April, Olivia, Grace, Zoe and Erika. Girls used their music instruments for the hymn 'Mr Noah built an Ark'. Heather Hayes read from the Gospel according to St. Luke. During the Address Rev. Rod Smyth spoke about the rainbow and how it is a sign that God is Love. He also told us about the lessons to be learnt from Noah.



At the Nenagh Branch Enrolment Service

During the enrolment April and Sarah Jane progressed to the next level while Zoe, Olivia and Tilly were welcomed as new members. Prayers were led by Audrey Clarke Gordon with the GFS World Prayer for February. Note: GFS World Council produces a new prayer each month so that girls from all over the world can unite in prayer. Other prayers were read by Keeva, Hollie, Zoe, Tilly, Sarah Jane and Alice.

Huge thanks to: - Rev Rod for preparing the service; Rosemary Smyth for preparing the girls with the wonderful singing, music and readings; April Hayes who was on work experience at the school and assisted the girls with their readings; the leaders and

parents for their contributions to the refreshments after the service. Special thanks to the girls for decorating the church with doves and rainbows and for taking an active part in the service. The girls bring such joy to the church and they are a pleasure to have in Nenagh GFS. Well done to everyone involved in a wonderful service.



GFS diocesan President Rose Langley with two of the Nenagh Branch girls

UP COMING EVENTS

- 16th March, Craft Judging, Corbally Church Hall, Roscrea open from 12 noon to 1pm with judging taking place soon afterwards. For more details please contact Karen St. Ledger 0872302791
- 24th March, Borrisokane/Cloughjordan Enrolment Service at 11.30



Founded 1168
**SAINT MARY'S
CATHEDRAL**
LIMERICK

Lunchtime Concerts March 2019, 1.15pm

Wednesday 6th March

Helen Hancock (soprano), Peter Sebestyen (cello), accompanied by Irina Dernova (piano)

Music by Faure, Britten and Strauss

Wednesday 13th March

Jennifer O'Sullivan (flute), Michael Young (piano)

Music by Mel Bonies

Wednesday 20th March

Roisin Walsh (soprano) and Sarah-Ellen Murphy (alto) with Peter Barley (piano)

Wednesday 27th March

David Cantillon (clarinet), David Szabo (piano) and friends

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

OUR THEME FOR 2019 –
"LISTEN, OBSERVE, ACT – IN STEP WITH GOD"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- April 6th – All Ireland Council, Christ Church Cathedral 10.30am
- April 13th – Diocesan Trustees and Council Meeting, Aghancon Hall, 10.30am – All welcome!

AREA MEETING

On Thursday 14th February the Methodist Church Hall, Roscrea was packed for an Area Meeting with members from Shinrone Branch, Cloughjordan Branch, Birr Branch, Banagher Branch and Roscrea Branch.



Enjoying the evening in Roscrea

The focus of the meeting was a MULO workshop – Mothers' Union listening, observing and acting. Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President took us through the workshop which, hopefully, will enable us to look

at Mothers' Union with fresh eyes and to focus on what we do best. Rev Jane Galbraith, our Diocesan Chaplain led us in prayers prior to our workshop.

Following the serious side to the meeting several members told of funny experiences that they had had. Heather Evans told the wonderful story of a time when her family would send a turkey and a chicken for Christmas, by post, to family members who lived in England! How times have changed!!

This was followed by a delicious supper laid on by all the members, and a welcome cup of tea. A huge thank you to all who helped and also to Florence Reid, Branch Leader Roscrea, who had organised the meeting.



Florence Reid, Roscrea Branch Leader, with Madelaine Hodgins and Bertha Hastings

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

On 11th February we held a most interesting meeting in Richmond Terrace when two gentlemen from the Limerick Citizens Advice Centre came to talk to us to bring us up to speed with all our rights and entitlements. It was a most informative evening with lots of questions for our speakers and they had brought along with them lots of leaflets and information sheets. We were also delighted to be joined by several residents from Richmond Terrace.

This was followed by a lovely supper and more questions for our speakers! Our thanks to Margaret Schutz, Branch Leader, who had organised the meeting and to those who had supplied and served the supper.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy to Dolly Shier, Limerick City Branch member, and all her family, on the death of her beloved husband, Frank. Dolly had looked after Frank with such care and love for several years and we will hold them all in our thoughts and prayers at this time.



Adam and James celebrate their 18th Birthday's at the National Youth Forum, with the other Limerick & Killaloe delegates




Come and Sing: Anthems

Directed by Peter Barley

St Mary's Cathedral
Bridge Street
Limerick
V94 EO68



Saturday 23rd March 2019
Registration from 1.30pm
Rehearsal starts promptly at 2pm

Joining with the choir of St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick, RSCM Ireland invites you to 'come and sing' favourite anthems from the great sacred music tradition. Including music by Mozart, Byrd, Elgar, Eric Whitacre and John Rutter.

The event is open to all singers, individuals and choirs alike. A performance will follow the rehearsal and refreshments. Cost: €10/€8 (concession). Full details and how to book are available at: www.rscmireland.com

Email: cathedral@limerick.anglican.org
 Web: www.saintmaryscathedral.ie
 @stmaryslimerick
 stmaryscathedrallimerick




United Diocesan Youth Council

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM – "FREE TO SHAPE YOUR OWN FUTURE"

From Friday evening 18th to Saturday evening 19th January 2019, the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) co-ordinated a second National Youth Forum at the City North Hotel in Julianstown, Co. Meath. The delegates from Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe were Adam Gardiner (Askeaton), Robyn Cleary (Nenagh) and James Larkin (Ennis), Maruna Manthe (Nenagh), Aidan Larkin (Ennis) & Anna Mae Powell (Nenagh) & Grace Langley (Nenagh). All are students at Villiers School and are regular attenders at UDYC events. They were accompanied to the event by Edward Hardy and Nicola Downes. The largest representation at the forum was from Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe and our delegates represented our Diocese extremely well as remarked by a number of other Diocesan representatives. It was a great experience to see so many young people and youth leaders from throughout the country from almost every Diocese come together.

The event was opened by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson. Addressing the Forum, Archbishop Michael encouraged the young people with the slogan "Free to shape your own Future". This became the slogan of Disestablishment 150 years ago when the Church of Ireland gained an independent voice for change and development. The Archbishop said, "It can continue to be taken by every generation of young people in the Church of Ireland as a strong encouragement to engage with capacities, abilities, enthusiasm – your willingness to be included, your hope of not being patronised by tokenism, the gifts that you already have. Believe in God and believe in yourselves"

Also at the commencement of the Forum National Youth Officer with CIYD, Simon Henry, said it provided an exciting opportunity to bring young people together following on from inaugural Forum last year.

It was brilliant to have Nic and Sally Sheppard (Church Army) back again this year – they facilitated an engaging and interesting programme. Under the stewardship of Nic & Sally, the young people engaged through fun games and serious discussion. They explored "Our World", "How we recognise God at work in the World" and "How we serve and be part of what God is already doing".



Are you the missing piece of the jigsaw

Each Diocese had been invited to bring along a time capsule containing items they would see as demonstrating "What it might say about 2019". The time Capsule from Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe contained a written report from each representative from our Diocese giving a personal introduction, faith journey to date and plans hopes and fears for the future. Each person also placed a symbol in the time capsule that was important to them as

individuals. These included: UDYC booking forms, Summer Madness flyer, Photos of UDYC friends who they had met at events, Villiers tie and prefect's badge, Crosses, Villiers Head Boy's speech at Christmas dinner, medals and coins etc. The time capsule will now return to Diocese to be archived / buried for 25 years.

Towards the end of the Forum the latest CIYD resource, "Praying for Young People and Youth Ministry" was launched to help parishes engage with praying for young people and to support the day of Prayer for Youth Ministry which this year is Sunday 3rd March 2019.

The Forum closed with a time of Worship planned and led by the young people and youth leaders present which included readings, prayers, poems and songs reflecting on "we all have a part to play and there is always room for others to play a part".

The feedback from our Diocesan representatives was very positive on the return journey home.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS DRAW

Very many thanks to very many people that assisted by selling and buying tickets for UDYC fundraising draw. The draw was once again a successful fundraising venture for Youth Council. The winners were as follows: 1st Prize €150 – Robert, Anne & Steve Millar (Quinn, Co. Clare), 2nd Prize €100 – Padraic Taylor (Terenure, Dublin 6) and 3rd Prize €50 – (Awaiting confirmation of Name at time of going to print). Our winning ticket sellers were Edward Hardy (Banagher), Sandra Manthe (Nenagh) and Grace Langley (Nenagh). Robert, Anne & Steve Millar have very kindly returned their prize money as a donation to UDYC. The draw took place at Richmond Terrace and Violet Despard, a resident there, drew the winning tickets. Once again, many thanks to everyone.



Winners of the UDYC Annual Fundraising Draw drawn by Violet Despard, a resident at Richmond Terrace

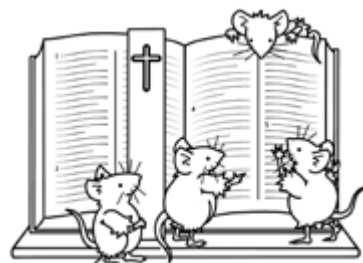
FUTURE EVENTS

MAD Day

UDYC are hoping to hold a traditional Multi Activity Day for all those in 3rd to 6th class in National School on Saturday 16th March from 10 am to 6 pm. Watch out for further details shortly.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or myself. Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,
Grace, Mobile: 087 6776279



Children's Ministry Network



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LENT & EASTER NEWSLETTER

This is now on the website www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/childrens-ministry-lent-easter-newsletter with plenty of new ideas for the season. The issue also contains an interesting article on The Church, Children and Mental Health by Tom Tate, a psychotherapist.

LENT IN A BAG

www.buildingfaith.org have developed a wonderful 'Lent in a Bag' Initiative that is useful for both Church and Home. They discovered that distributing small bags – cloth, paper, or ziplock bags – with symbols of the season – assists individuals and families in practicing Lent at home.

In addition to the items in the bag, they include instructions and reflections (on purple paper of course) to go with each item. Choose one night of the week and invite those around your table to pick one of the symbols as a starting point for conversation for the whole group, including children.

Put an instruction sheet, sand, a rock, a little wooden peg/figure and a candle into your bag. Each week read about what the symbol relates to. Find out more about Lent in a Bag in the Lent & Easter Newsletter.

KNITTED LAST SUPPER

What about setting up a group interested in knitting in your parish to knit the scene of the Last Supper? People of all ages with an interest in knitting can come together once a week for chats and knits and then people can carry on with the project in their own time. This brings together people from different sections of the church and is a very tangible, playable visual for children of all ages. For more information see the Lent & Easter Newsletter

ST PATRICK'S DAY

The Church of Ireland Council for Mission are putting together an All Age Service Outline on the Radiant Faith of Saint Patrick. Keep an eye out for it as our sneaky peek showed some lovely creative ideas for interactive games and action based storytelling. Details will be posted in the News Section of the Children's Ministry website www.cm.ireland.anglican.org, so watch out!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LEGO CHALLENGE

Last year we ran this as a Facebook Challenge, and we were amazed at the enthusiastic response. This year, we have a link to all the instructions so that you can run your own Holy Week and Easter Lego Challenge, encouraging families who are involved in Church to photograph the daily constructions as they learn about the sequence of events of Holy Week together. See the Lent & Easter Newsletter.

Continuing Ministerial Education

The Ministry training days continue in March with two workshops on 'The Adventure of Prayer' and 'Faith Development!'

The Revd Ann-Marie Stuart, F.J., of the Kilcolman Union of Parishes is leading two sessions on Monday 4 March in the Rectory in

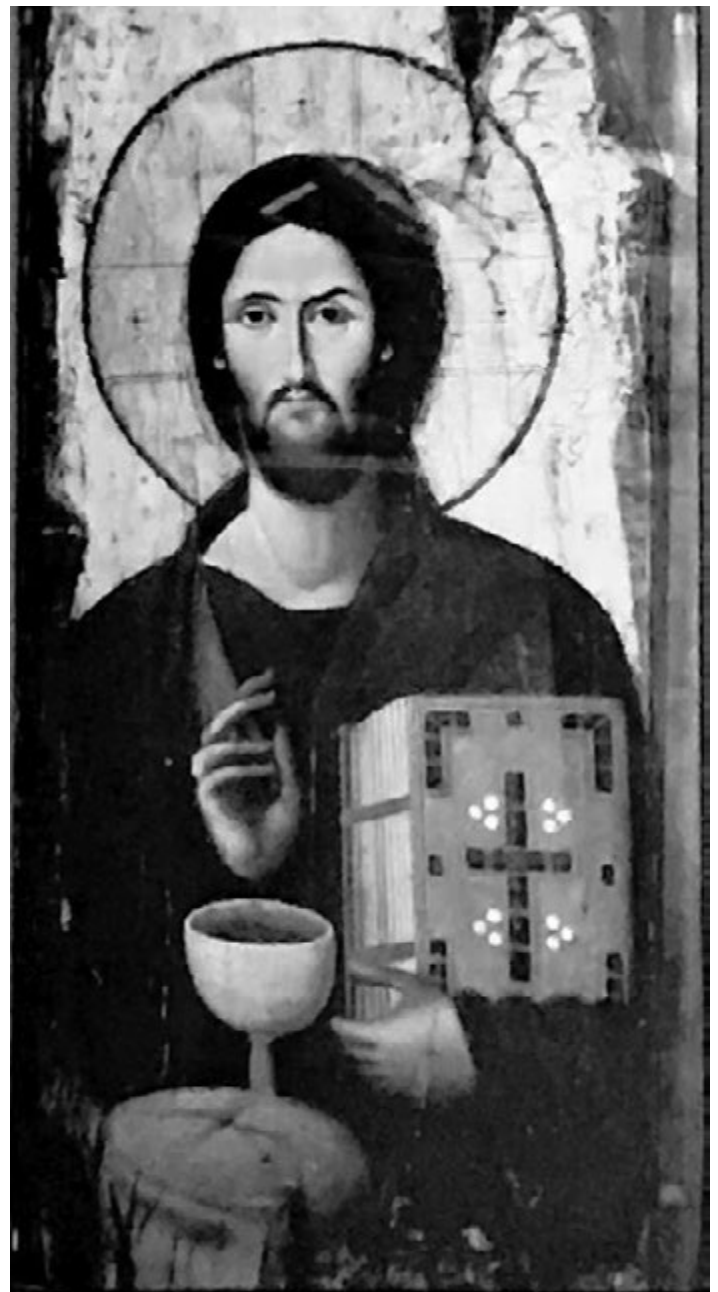
Askeaton, Co Limerick, from 11 am to 3.30 pm. Please note, however, that this programme is offered the daytime only, and there is no evening programme that day.

These training days are designed for clergy and readers in the diocese, but all who are interested are welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided, but participants are asked to bring their own sandwiches.

During the February workshops, Canon Patrick Comerford led discussions on 'Praying with Icons' and 'Praying with the Jesus Prayer'. Resources for these two workshops are available on the CME Limerick & Killaloe site.

Meanwhile, Patrick continues to publish resources for preaching and liturgy on Monday mornings designed for the following Sunday. These include reflections on the readings, collects and post-communion prayers, suggested hymns and illustrations suitable for service sheets or power point presentations.

The resources are available on the CME Limerick & Killaloe site: <https://cmelimerick.blogspot.com/>



An icon of Christ – one of the illustrations at the February workshops (Photo: Patrick Comerford)

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Sewing classes are up and running as an after school activity and chess club takes place after school on Thursdays. This year we have twenty-six pupils participating, some with a few years' experience while others are beginners.

Four teams entered the local Credit Union Schools' Quiz at in February. Well done to all four teams who represented the school very well.

Our annual Prize Day took place on February 8th and we were delighted to welcome Paul Ritchie to the school to present prizes to all pupils. Afterwards 6th class pupils hosted a coffee afternoon in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and a total of €350 was raised for this worth charity. Thanks to everyone who made it a wonderful afternoon, the senior pupils who baked all the goodies and 6th class pupils who served tea and coffee to all the adults.

The school was closed on February 21st and 22nd for mid-term break. We welcomed three 'dragons' to our Dragons Den as part of our Junior Entrepreneur project in early February. Eight groups pitched their ideas to the dragons and after a lengthy discussion the dragons chose 'Chore Boards' a practical idea for all households. The whole class will now work on this idea to bring it to production and then for sale.

Our Green Schools' Committee under the guidance of Ms Brown are putting the finishing touches to the application for our seventh Green Flag. We are revisiting the theme of energy while also looking at Global Citizenship. This theme ensures that we are conserving energy by switching off lights and appliances when they are not required and also discover how work on Green-Schools has positively influenced our global community. Some committee members check the classrooms at break times to make sure no lights have been left on!

As part of our Active & Healthy Schools' initiative we have been 'Jogging for January' and 'Running for Fun in February'. Three mornings a week we all go for a run around the school grounds for the first ten minutes of the day. This is a great way to start the day and ensures we are all wide awake and ready for the day's work!

St. Mary's No 2 National School, Nenagh

Spring took its own sweet time coming this year, but here it is. What a difference it makes to rise in the morning with sunlight!

The month of March will get off to an exciting start with World Book Day. Every child will get a book token on 7th March and the whole school will participate in a series of fun events around literature and reading. There will be some great storytelling and creative work on the day. To inspire interest in reading is a lifelong gift for a child, and our students will hopefully enjoy the event.

School swimming will commence on Friday 15th March for all classes for a four week period. This always proves to be an enjoyable activity and a life skill for their future.

In early March, Dr Maureen Griffin will give a presentation to both parents and pupils on Internet Awareness and Mobile Phone Usage. It is hoped that all will find this presentation informative and beneficial as all children and parents face many challenges in this area today.

We were delighted to have some of the senior pupils participating in the Credit Union Quiz in recent weeks and we were very proud of their efforts. Congratulations, also, go to Sam Gloster, Alice Hayes and Helen Cao who won prizes in a recent Credit Union Art competition.

Our St. Patrick's celebrations will be fantastic this year. Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge againn chun béim a chur ar an Gaeilge neamhfhoirmiúil. Déanfaidh gach duine iarracht mhaith ár dteanga a úsáid. Beidh scéalta, ceol, agus rince againn agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach duine sult agus spraoi astu.

Our School Fair will take place on the 12th April. Students are welcome to bring clean, working toys, books in good condition and delicious cakes and treats. This always proves to be an enjoyable afternoon for parents and students alike. Let's all have some fun at the Fair!

Rathkeale No 2 National School

We are currently taking applications for September 2019, application forms are available from the school. Our Open Hour for new pupils will take place on Tuesday 6th March from 3-4pm. All are welcome to meet the staff and see over the school.

Our Green School Action Day will take place on Thursday 14th March. We've been working hard studying global citizenship throughout the past two years and seeing how we are all part of a global world and what we can do to help look after the world we live in. Keeping this in mind we have decided to trial a single use plastic ban in the school. We will launch our ban on the Action Day. Pupils will each be given a reusable drinks bottle which they will design and decorate. They will also design posters to promote our ban on single use plastic.

We will once again take part in the Team Limerick Clean Up this year during the final week of the term. We've decided to clean up a section of the Greenway beginning at the Palatine Museum in Rathkeale.

The school will be closed on Friday 15th March for teachers to continue developing the new language curriculum.

Church Education Society – Bursary Scheme

The bursaries are intended to promote the acquisition of third-level educational qualifications among teachers working in national schools under sole or joint Church of Ireland patronage in the Republic of Ireland. The Society hopes that by supporting teachers pursuing such courses, the educational expertise of these teachers, as well as their leadership and managerial skills, will be fostered and the standards of education in these schools enhanced.

The bursaries are not intended to support the acquisition of initial teacher education courses such as the B Ed, B Ed (Hons) and H Dip Ed (Primary). A wide range of college and university courses may be eligible provided they demonstrate a clear and significant leadership, management and/or mentoring component. For courses continuing for more than one year, subsequent years of study will only be considered for funding provided the same leadership, management and/or mentoring component is in evidence.

The closing date for applications for a bursary for those wishing to register for such a course in September/October this year is 31st May 2019. Information and an application form are available by email request to ces@ireland.anglican.org

Villiers School

RUGBY

Our U15 squad have kept busy winning two games in the Cleary Cup as they edge closer to a semi-final position in the coming weeks. They have also won a fixture in the U15 Development League inflicting a heavy defeat on Mungret College. The boys are working hard and looking forward to the next half term with lots to play for. Our Junior Squad had a number of cancelled fixtures due to poor weather conditions and lost narrowly in the only fixture they played at home to Midelton. They finished in third position in the League securing a cup semi-final position which they will play against the same opposition after the midterm break.

Our Senior Boys are keeping busy having played two more fixtures before the mock examinations started. They will play Bantry in a cup quarter final after the break with a friendly fixture against Waterpark scheduled in the run up to the cup game. It looks like their injury woes are coming to an end and hopefully they will be able to field a strong team in the cup.

Our First Boys have showed great enthusiasm all year and continue to train hard. They continue to play in Munster Rugby Blitz tournaments experiencing lows and highs along the way. They are improving as a team week on week and have great potential in the years to come.

Hopefully we will be reporting the wining of silverware in the next edition.

HOCKEY

Best of luck to the Senior Boys' hockey team, and their coach Brian Gray, who play Ashton Comprehensive in the final of the Munster Senior A Cup. The two previous meetings this season have been very close so it promises to be a very exciting game.

Hard luck to the Senior B Boys who lost the Senior B final to Midleton College.

The Senior A Girls take on Regina Mundi in the Senior Plate. They will be hoping to overturn a 2-1 defeat in the League.

Hard luck to the Minor Girls who lost 1-0 in the cup to Mt. Mercy.

Congratulations to Sam Lilburn and Bryan Smith who have been selected onto the Irish U-18 and Irish U-16 panels respectively for forthcoming friendly International matches against their English counterparts between February 20 and 22.



News from the Villiers Sanctuary

As I write this article, the dreaded mock exams are ending and there is the prospect of mid-term break ahead of us. That excellent opportunity for everyone in school life to have some well-earned down time to catch our breath and perhaps simply 'be'. The TYs are out on work experience, which gives them the opportunity to discover the world of work that exists outside of the classroom. The CU is busy preparing for Lent and the senior CU students are busy finalising plans for their end of year retreat. The Community Group is still busy beavering away at fundraising and making final preparations for their mission trip to Uganda, which takes place during Easter. Therefore, life here in the Sanctuary is as busy as ever.

One of the issues raised in the Sanctuary conversations recently is that of 'image', and in particular the image that exists in the world of various forms of media. The pressure that young people are under to behave or look a particular way is quite powerful and can have devastating effects. We just need to look at celebrities, who are famous simply for the way that they look, or pictures of people in magazines, who more than likely may be thin, look trendy and have perfect, straight teeth and clear skin. The message that is given here in the Sanctuary and indeed in our Villiers Community is that no one is identical, and most people do not look like the people we see in magazines. It would not be good if we all looked the same! Everyone is unique.

As Christians, we believe that every single person is special, and every single person matters to God. Psalm 139 says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb, I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well." This means that whatever we look like, whatever we may think of ourselves at the moment and whatever people say about us, the Bible says that all people are wonderfully made, created in God's image and loved by Him. I try to encourage everyone to spend time in the presence of God and to think about themselves – how do you feel about yourself at the moment? How do you feel about your body, your mind, your feelings and your relationships? Always remember that you are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'.

Dear God, Thank you for those words: 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. Please help us to believe them about ourselves today. Help us to see that whatever we have been thinking, and whatever other people may say about us, you value each and every one of us, and we are all precious in your sight. Amen.

Blessings and peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair



Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

The church has gone about its usual business since our last Newslink publication and nothing major happened except the normal rhythm of parish life. The Clonlara committee who do such a good job of keeping the church going had a meal together at the Pipers Inn Killaloe on 18th January. The chairperson of the working group, Stephen Holmes did the arrangements and what a lovely evening it turned out to be. It is good to have times of some fellowship together, without getting into any of the church business. The meal was excellent. We were also glad that Freddie Bourke could join us for the evening. Freddie has compiled a book for the church in Clonlara on its history and has also given talks about the church and its people on a number of occasions. So the group of friends and helpers continues to grow and if you would like to be involved please do speak to any of the working group or to Stephen Holmes.

The season of Lent lies ahead of us starting with Ash Wednesday on 6th March. It seems we just about got over Christmas and Epiphany and we heading off to the desert and then to the cross. Yet birth and death are so connected because when you are born death is inevitable. So we hope that this lent we can die to those things which are not good for our well being, spiritually, mentally or physically. Lent is about letting go and trying again to hit the mark that we might have missed the first time around. This is not all doom and gloom but an opportunity given us when we can choose to turn to Christ in whom we can find new life and hope for the future; so much so that even death is not a thing to be feared.

There is also a new time coming for the Killaloe Stradbally parishes as it has been announced that the Rector and Dean of Killaloe will be leaving the Union of Parishes as he says goodbye and moves to Fermoy in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. Dean Gary Paulsen's last service in Stradbally will on 17th March at 9.45am and in Killaloe on 24th March at 11.30am. He will be instituted in Fermoy Union on 7th April at 4pm. We trust that many of you of the diocese will make the effort to attend the institution in Fermoy.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

Email: mapleire@gmail.com

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

PRAYERS

In our prayers we remember Theo Dillon, Betty Eades, Harry Edge, Barbara Haslam, Tom Hayes, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse. We are thankful that Barbara is on the mend, at this writing convalescing in Elm Grove Nursing Home.

COFFEE AFTERNOON

Jessica Pyle would like to thank all those who came out for the Coffee Afternoon on Sunday, 3rd February, those who helped out, and those who donated second-hand clothing to help raise funds for her mission trip to Uganda in April.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be a special Ash Wednesday service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist on the 6th of March at 8:00pm in Birr Church. All are welcome.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next group meeting of Mothers' Union hosted by Birr Branch will be on Wednesday, 20th March at 8pm in Oxmantown School. The speaker will be Lady Rosse. All are welcome.

HOME EUCHARIST SERVICES IN LENT

We plan on celebrating Holy Communion in the homes of parishioners on Wednesday evenings in Lent. This will take place on the 13th and 27th of March, and the 3rd and the 10th of April. There will be no service on the 20th of March, because of the Mothers' Union meeting. All are welcome.

ALPHA COURSE

There will be an Ecumenical Alpha Course in Birr on Thursday nights starting on the 7th of March. Alpha is a weekly course exploring basic Christianity. The course will be held in the Resource Centre (behind Costcutters) from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Please speak to the Archdeacon if you may be interested or want more information.

FUNDRAISING TABLE QUIZ

In June, George Harding will travel to Tamil Nadu, Southern India as part of the UCD Overseas Volunteering Programme. To raise funds towards this project, a Table Quiz will be held in the Ferry Inn, Lorrha on Friday March 22nd at 8:30pm. George would be grateful for your support on the night.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth is coming to Birr Church for a service of Confirmation on Sunday, 16th June at 11:30 am. If there any young people of at least 12 years old who want to confirm their Baptismal vows on that day, they should contact the Archdeacon as soon as possible, so they can be included in Confirmation classes.

DEVELOPING MINISTRY WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SAYING TO THE CHURCH ?

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Discipleship Training School in Uganda

by Oscar Egbulam

Editor: Oscar's many friends in Limerick City Parish and UDYC will be delighted to hear his news from Uganda at the end of his discipleship training. I look forward to his future article about his mission experiences.

Doing a 6 month Discipleship Training School (DTS) with 'Youth with a Mission' (YWAM - an international Christian mission organisation) is truly a life changing experience. It is a journey that allows you to grow in faith, develop your character and transform lives through mission work. The thing that made this DTS more challenging for me was that the whole DTS was in Uganda, meaning that I was experiencing a completely different culture and living outside of my comfort zone for the whole duration.



Reaching out to the hearts of the young

There are many kinds of DTSs that take place around the world. But this particular one was called a Peace & Reconciliation DTS, because that was the main thing we students learnt from it, and also the main message we brought out to communities when we went out for mission work. It was organised by the YWAM base in

Arua, Uganda which is already known for being a bridge of healing to nearby nations. Our school had a good international blend with students coming from Africa, Europe and North America.

A DTS is made up of two phases, lecture phase then outreach phase. The lecture phase involved 12 weeks of being taught about growing closer to God and how we use our own personal faith to transform lives in the mission field. This was done by having each week based on a specific topic taught by a specific speaker. Throughout lecture phase we had a variety of international speakers teaching us in the classroom on a variety of topics. Some topics included the character & father heart of God, rejection & acceptance through the cross, missions, evangelism and worldview. And also with the inclusion of small group discussions, one-on-one meetings between student & staff and individual quiet times on a weekly basis, God was always present among us.

After lecture phase was over, it was time for our outreach mission trip. Among this DTS there were three outreach teams divided among the students going to three different countries - Congo, Uganda & South Sudan. I was in the Uganda team as I believe God called me to do DTS in Uganda in order to reach out to people in Uganda. For 10 weeks of outreach we toured around Uganda going to a variety of places. Whether it was slums in the city or remote villages in the countryside, each location brought its challenges. But relying on God to get you through these challenges allows you to grow closer to him. And whether we were preaching in churches, giving to the poor, evangelising among people or helping to clean up a rough neighbourhood, we touched somebody's life wherever we went, and we brought Christ into these communities. Allowing him to grow is the solution to transformation in these lives and communities.

DTS has really been an opportunity for Christ to grow in me and transform me personally. It definitely is good preparation for people going into the mission field or looking for a deeper relationship with God. This DTS comes to an end this month as we return back to Arua to conclude with a graduation, and then go our separate ways. However my time in Uganda is not finished yet as DTS is only one section of my 'Year For God'. After becoming a DTS graduate (or a YWAMer), the next part of my year involves me doing a mission work placement for the next four months. Here I will work alongside missionaries in YWAM Uganda being involved in practical mission work. I look forward to writing another article about this in a future Newslink issue.



The YWAM base in Arua, Uganda



A village hut near the mountains

Reflections from The Rectory Garden

by Rev John Godfrey, Rector of Aughrim & Creagh Unions

Editor: the 1st of a series of reflections by Rev John on his Rectory Garden as 2019 unfolds.

Over the past couple of years, Aughrim Parish has been blessed with the support of the local village scheme, Aughrim Development, to help restore an old walled garden behind the rectory. With the help of the local FAS workers and the funding of the parish, The Rectory Garden Project is trying to create a space where the parish and local community can share the renewed fruits of this remarkable resource that has been in the care of the parish for nearly 200 years.

In a very short period of time we have seen an impassable jungle of weeds transformed into a well-ordered vegetable garden, with a fledgling orchard, a freshly planted lawn and a border of spring flowers. A dilapidated poly-tunnel has been completely restored and supplied with electricity, irrigation and ventilation; a smaller greenhouse has been fitted out as a nursery for germinating plants; and paths, power and water-supplies have been laid down.

The local gardeners working on the scheme have demonstrated a real passion for the project and a willingness to pass on the wealth of their horticultural knowledge. Exciting educational links have been set up with The Glebe National School and with Little Smarties, the village pre-school. Thanks to the groundwork of the gardening team, local children have been given the experience of planting and harvesting each of the different crops here throughout the seasons. Last year that included potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbages, leeks, peas, tomatoes, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants. Their teachers have been chronicling each child's work in the garden and have been reinforcing those learning experiences through all sorts of project work back in the classroom. The children's delight in the garden is palpable and contagious;

indeed, it is through them that we are seeing the true fruits of the project.

It is significant for us that the whole project is being played out in the shadow of Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim, since there is a clear spiritual dimension to all that we do there. The garden continues to afford us the chance to experience for ourselves God's gracious work in creation, throughout the agricultural year. Meanwhile, the Church's liturgical year offers us the chance to share those experiences with the wider congregation, particularly in the seasons of Rogation and Harvest, where symbols of the seeds, soil and fruits of the garden have become important focal-points for our worship.

Of course, the garden really comes into its own as we share and savour its fruits. Mindful of the grace and goodwill on which the project depends, we are making a concerted effort to share the fruits of the garden as widely and generously as possible. As such, we have been bringing produce into our churches for sale on Sundays, where the money raised is added to the weekly collection; the school children have run vegetable and plant stalls in The Glebe NS as a way of raising money for the school; garden produce has been sold at sales of work around the parish; the wider community has had the chance to buy our produce in the village shop or at local markets; gifts of food and flowers have been offered to local charities, parishioners and the gardening team; and bedding plants from the garden have been planted out in the public flower beds throughout Aughrim village.

2019 marks an important year in the life of the parish here, as Holy Trinity Church prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary. As part of those celebrations, we look forward to sharing with you a series of spiritual reflections from the Rectory Garden as the year unfolds.



A jungle of weeds, Summer 2015



Restoration work begins in 2016



Planting the first potatoes with Little Smarties, Spring 2018



Potato harvest, Autumn 2018



Tomato picking, Autumn 2018

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

Heartiest Congratulations to Edward and Marta Roe on the birth of their baby Adam, a brother for Anthony.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Jessie Parr on the death of her sister Olive Wiseman of Dunmore, Baltinglass Group of Parishes. Also to Florence Reid on the death of her sister-in-law Mary Corrigan of the Kilkenny Group of Parishes. Also to Olwen Roe on the death of her brother-in-law.

The funeral of Eddie Clare took place in Christ Church, Corbally on Thursday February 7th. To us Eddie was a well-known Roscrea man, from Wexford, who lived in Ballaghmore. A calamitous accident saw his withdrawal from community life and from the bakery business. Over the past five years Eddie, paralysed from the neck down, inspired a sense of can-do, and even must-do, in those he met, simply because there was so much he could never do again. And yes, he had his down times - the inspiration was then to dig deep, because Eddie had great faith, that with all our faculties, many of us just managed to limp after. There were many grand times too, when the light in his eyes were ready for fun, music and song, leg pulling and mischief, when by all accounts he encouraged everyone to 'keep up and keep going'. Encouraging him constantly was his wife Mai who shouldered so much. We keep in our prayers Mai, Sarah, Andrew and Gordon, Eddie's brothers, also remembering the late Evelyn. Eddie was laid to rest in Corbally in the presence of a massive crowd.

CONFIRMATION 2019

Please keep in your prayers Ben Talbot and Dillon Benn as they prepare to take up the challenge of full membership of the Church of Ireland. Any other person seeking Confirmation is asked to contact the Rector immediately.

PARISH LUNCH 2019

This popular event was again organised by Heather and Lesley Evans, who once more left no stone unturned to produce an enjoyable occasion. The venue was Racket Hall. The quiz this year had both a local and international flavour reflecting the participants origins. It is also becoming an event where wider families can meet from neighbouring parishes for a get-together. A very pleasant way to round off Sunday morning.

COME & SING

St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, Saturday 23rd March 2019. Registration from 1.30pm. Rehearsal starts promptly at 2pm. (See advert on page 10).

For all who like to sing church music, the Royal College of Church Music and St Mary's Cathedral Choir invite you to 'Come and Sing' your favourite anthems from the great sacred music tradition. The event is open to individuals and choirs and will include music by Byrd, Mozart, Elgar, Whitacre and Rutter. A performance will follow the rehearsal and refreshments.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479


Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

On Sunday 3rd February St Mary's, Nenagh, was ablaze with candles for the feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas. In his homily, the Rector explained that the use of so many candles on Candlemas Day takes its symbolism from the Gospel for the day. In Luke we read that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon in the temple. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him, 'a Light to the World.' Candles have always symbolised that light of Christ in the Church, and Candlemas was traditionally the day when the Church blessed all the candles which would be used in church for the rest of the year. It's a pivotal day, halfway between the two great feasts of Christmas and Easter, when we turn our attention from cradle to cross. The Candlemas hymn sums it up well, 'The candles invite us to praise and to pray, when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.'

On Saturday 16th February, in Templederry Parish Church, Harry Powell was baptised and welcomed in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We wish Harry well as he now begins preparation for his Confirmation later in May of this year.

On Sunday 17th February in St Mary's, Nenagh, the usual monthly family service also served as the enrolment service for our girls in the GFS. This year the girls have been studying the story of Noah's Ark. Readers from the GFS provided a reading of the story. The girls, singing and playing percussion, including a drum kit, sang a couple of songs on the theme of the story, including, 'Be Bold, Be Strong' and 'Mr Noah Built an Ark'. The Rector, in his address, talked about the rainbow and explained how it happens. He also included some things we need to know about life which we learn from the story

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of Noah's Ark including the following; 'Don't miss the boat,' Don't forget we're all in the same boat' and 'remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.' He did go on to point out, however, that having brought up within sight of the shipyard in Belfast, that the Titanic was built by Irishmen and sunk by an Englishman!

Both St Mary's No 2 National School and the Nenagh Union of Parishes choirs have been working very hard during the month of February for the Limerick Choral Festival which is coming up at the beginning of March. We wish both choirs every success as they prepare for their appearances in the festival for the second consecutive year! 'Break a leg,' as they say in show business!

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

CONDOLENCES

As a Group of Parishes, we extend our condolences to Grace Healy on the death of her sister Joan on the 7th December. She was laid to rest on the 21st of December in England and a Memorial Service was held in the Isle of Man on the 8th of January.

We also give thanks for the life of Norah Dunlop who died on the 13th of January. The funeral service was held in Belfast, but it was Norah's wish to be buried in Borrisnafarney, where she grew up as a child. Our condolences to Richard Wallace and the extended family. Barbara Bagley, the sister of Pam Ball of Moneygall, died on the 11th of January in England and the funeral was held in Chester, a fortnight later. We wish Pam and her family God's richest blessings at this time.

FUEL AND FODDER AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who both contributed and supported the Fuel and Fodder Auction, held in Moneygall on the 19th of January. The auction raised €3,600 which will be used for parish funds.

CONFIRMATION

A group of six candidates will begin confirmation classes in March, with the Confirmation Service on the 19th of May. We will be using the Believe confirmation resource, produced by the Church of Ireland Youth Department and look forward to the classes.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

As a Group of Parishes, we have very good relationships with our Methodist neighbours. On the fifth Sundays of the month we share together in services of worship and on the 31st of March, there will be a combined service at St Kieran's Cloughjordan starting at 11:30am.

As well as combined services of worship we hold joint Bible Studies and share in assemblies at Cloughjordan No. 1 National School. It was with sadness that we learnt that Rev. Shannon DeLaurel will be leaving the Methodist Circuit in July and wish and her family every blessing in their plans for the future.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Kieran's Cloughjordan hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday the 1st of March at 8:15pm. The theme this year was

an invitation – 'Come. And to enable the response – Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love. The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house – there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community?'

Thank you to everyone who supported this call to prayer.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Vacant

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Kinnitty & Aghancon on the second Sunday of the month.

Ash Wednesday: 6th March. Service in Aghancon Church at 8 p.m.

United Group Service in Kinnitty at 11 a.m. 31st March – Mothering Sunday

MOTHERS' UNION

The members enjoyed a meeting in Roscrea Methodist Hall with the Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh, on the 14th February. The next Group meeting is in Birr on Wednesday 20th March with Lady Rosse.

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The closing Eucharist will be in Aghancon Hall on the 25th March at 2.30 p.m. followed by Bring & Buy Sale.

FASHION SHOW AT GLOSTER HOUSE - THURSDAY 11TH APRIL - GATES OPEN AT 6:45PM

We look forward to another wonderful evening at the stunningly beautiful Gloster House, which has been extensively and sensitively restored to its former glory by Tom and Mary Alexander, and kindly offered to us again to raise funds for the Shinrone Parish.

Following the great success of last year and amazingly quick sale of all 300 seats, plans are underway for another evening of culture and fashion; opening with a Gloster House Visit, followed by a Wine Reception and a Fashion Show of occasion wear worthy of the surroundings, and this year we have the added attraction of live music.

This is a ticketed event and tickets will not be for sale at the door, so please contact: Cyril Stanley 087 2889616, or Hilda Mooney for tickets or further information. Tickets are €25, held at the same price as last year.

SPECIAL EVENT

Members of the Ormond Hunt recently organised a special lawn meet to honour Mabel Wallace of Shinrone. This was held at Southpark, Ballingarry when many friends and members came to congratulate Mabel who has been a member since 1926! Among those who attended was Myra Mooney, whose father Jack, had helped the young Mabel to start riding. Congratulations to Mabel on a well-deserved recognition of membership.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Kenneth will come to Aghancon on the afternoon of the 16th June to confirm young people from the Group of Parishes.

SOUTH OFFALY PLOUGHING

The event this year was held on the Dempsey farm at The Leap on Sunday 17th February. There was a good turnout and the weather stayed fine and the ground remained dry. Well done to the organisers and all those involved.



Jackie McBryde, Valerie Ferguson, Vera Murray and Yvonne Shaw who are always on hand with soup and sandwiches, tea and cakes at the Offaly Plough.jpg



Richie Mitchell, Sean Bracken and George Gill enjoying a chat at the offaly Ploughing Championships.jpg

STAINED GLASS WINDOW

A stained glass window in Dunkerrin Church depicting "The Good Shepherd" is in a precarious condition as it has started to slip down from the top. Plans are well advanced to have it removed and repaired. Any contributions towards the cost will be gratefully received.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: Very Rev Maurice Sirr

Tel: 061 277 372, Mob: 087 254 1121

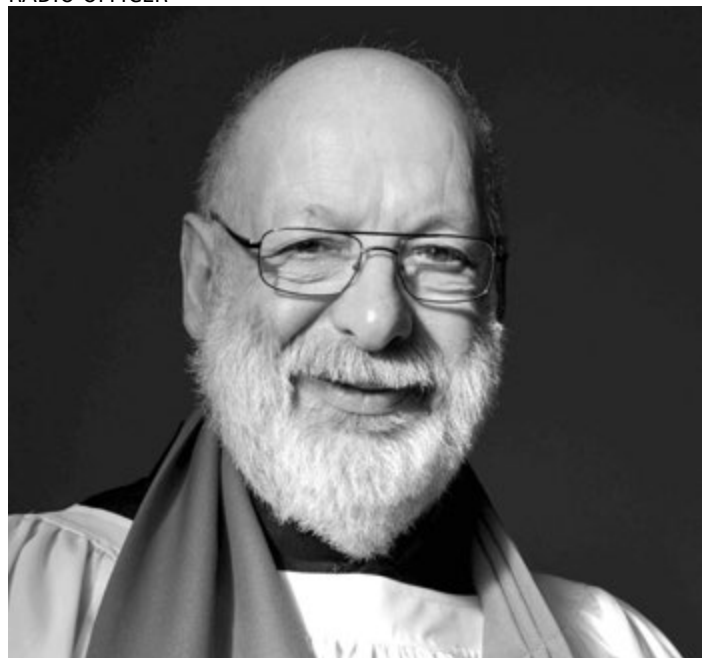
Email: msirr@iol.ie

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

BISHOP VISITS

On Sunday 10th of February Bishop Kenneth Kearon visited St. Columba's Church Ennis for a service of Holy Communion. He was assisted by The Very Rev. Maurice Sirr, priest in charge, and Rev. Patricia McKee Hanna. It was a beautiful service and well attended by parishioners. After service over tea and coffee there was an informal question and answer session on the future of our parish grouping. He stated that the Ministry and Resources report was very positive with many good things to say about the parishes. He stated that the rectory was structurally sound but needed refurbishment and an in depth redecoration. He said the rectory was a very valuable asset to the parish but needed to be made attractive in a competitive world even for a cleric. The number of potential ministers is small so it needs to stand out. Aside from the rectory the other factors are number of parishioners and finance. All these factors are linked. It is unlikely that a full time minister can be appointed at present but other options are possible. Ennis is a county town with a population of 25,000 plus. There is great potential to grow church attendance. It needs some creative ideas to reach out to people. He said numbers are so important to the future of a parish. Parishioners thanked Bishop Kenneth for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to them directly.

RADIO OFFICER



Stephen Fletcher

Stephen Fletcher has recently been appointed Diocesan Radio Officer by Bishop Kenneth Kearon and he is active with Clare FM and other local radio stations in the western region. We can regularly hear him on Sunday nights on the Clare FM religious programme 'Beyond Belief' from 9pm to 10pm. He has been welcomed by the team there who are anxious to breathe new life into their

programming and feel this is an opportunity not to pass on. Stephen is a self confessed radio geek, (he said it), and is also a Licensed Diocesan Reader based in West Clare for part of the year and London for the other part. He married a Clare woman, Frances, who was a Purser flying with British Airways. For 40 years he worked as a Civil Engineer in places like South West Iran, West Yorkshire, Hampshire and various parts of London. Approaching retirement he felt the call to become a Lay Reader and began a 3 year training course after which he was licensed at St. Alban's Abbey in 2014. He is now part of the Ministry Team in Berkhamsted, North West of London. In May 2017 he was Licensed as a Reader in the Church of Ireland in St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick and is now active in Drumcliffe Group and Kilnasoolagh. In September 2015 he was appointed Chaplain to the Hertfordshire Police, based in Rickmansworth. Stephen is a busy man and sometimes we think he has mastered bi-location.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Many thanks to Clinton Dickerson of ABCDigital for updating our church website. It is now looking good. The service schedule for each of our 3 churches is input weekly and every effort is made to keep it up to date. Have a look at www.churchofirelandclare.com

COLIN THICKBROOM

Recovering from an eye operation, at Kilnasoolagh Church Colin Thickbroom is in good form and is able to drive again. This was a big problem for Colin for the past year when he felt a little trapped at home in Shannon. Night time driving was not possible and bright sun light disrupted his vision. Sight has been restored in his left eye after a cataract operation and the other eye will be operated on in about 6 weeks time. We wish Colin God's blessing and a good recovery from his next procedure.

VISITING ABROAD.

At St. Columba's Church, Noma and her son Michael who are regular attendees, have just returned from a visit to South Africa where they visited with Noma's mother. This was a joyful occasion as grandmother and grandson met for the first time. New faces in the pew are Kerry Osborne and her husband from the USA who have come to live in Ennis and have just moved into their new home. We wish them well in their new abode. Iskander Gabriel is in action again after being ill, we welcome him back and pray for a full recovery for him.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

SYMPATHIES

We offer our deepest sympathies to the family of Bill Scott, former parishioner of St John's Church Ballinasloe, who died in England on February 9th. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. The congregation of Glan Church joined with the family of the late Catherine Walsh in marking her month's mind on February 3rd. The anniversaries of Richard, Michael and May Cruise were marked in St John's Church Ballinasloe on February 10th. In Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim, the anniversaries of Cecil Cooke and his brother Robert Cooke (senior) were also marked that day. The Rector gave

a short address at the annual Children's Remembrance Service in Portiuncula Hospital on February 4th, a most poignant service for families who have suffered bereavement through miscarriage, still-birth or neo-natal death.

BAPTISM

The baptism of Rocaya Georgia Mary Gartane was held in St John's Church, Ballinasloe, on February 16th. Congratulations to her parents Jennifer and Abdell. Rocaya's late grandfather, George Bruce, had served for many years on the Select Vestry of the Creagh parish union.



The baptism of Rocaya Gartane in St John's Church, Ballinasloe

PARISH UPDATE

The Rector and his wife wish to thank all in the parish for the outpouring of good wishes towards Shirley-Anne on the performance of her play 'Frances-Browne: In My Mind's Eye' in the American Irish Historical Society on New York's 5th Avenue on January 23rd – a special moment indeed in the Godfrey household.



Playwright Shirley-Anne Godfrey (nee Bonner) with the cast and director of her play 'Frances-Browne: In My Mind's Eye'

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Claire Besnyoe for her work in coordinating the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 21st in Mount Carmel Chapel, Loughrea. After many years of leading this important initiative locally, Claire is now handing over the reins to Dr Salters Sterling. We trust that in his care, the beacon of Christian unity, which Claire has so passionately kindled here, will continue to burn most brightly. The Rector was most grateful to the Chaplain of St Cuan's College, Castleblakney, Kevin McGeeney, for his kind invitation to take part in a special service of Christian Unity in the school on February 7th. The service was led by the first year pupils of the school, with contributions from Fr Vincent McDevitt (Caltra Parish) and our own diocesan reader Valerie Kinsella.



Christian Unity Service in St Cuan's College, Castleblakney

On February 19th St John's Mothers' Union welcomed Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh, who gave an address on the theme 'Listen, Observe, Act.' The evening's session also included a talk on Simple Pilates. St John's Church Ballinasloe had the honour of hosting this year's service for the World Day of Prayer, which took place on Thursday 28th February.

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@btpopenworld.com

Mission around the parish is taking on a new look. We enjoyed our evening with the Mc Verry Trust and the Diocesan Council for Mission. Charles has been asked to represent the Diocese at the General Synod Council for Mission and attended a meeting in Dublin. Locally we are investigating ECO gardens in all of our Church Burial Grounds and working on appropriate signage. We simply erect signs explaining why we are not cutting the grass on a small area and wait for the expected dormant natural flowers to appear. I am sure we can turn this into a symbol of mission.

Clonfert Cathedral will waken from its winter slumbers with our Group service on the 5th Sunday in March. This is also Clock changing day and Mothering Sunday. We have noticed the Cathedral is popular with families especially through the summer months, our guest speaker will be Mervyn Tomb from Durrow Faith Mission. Mervyn has a strong childrens' ministry and will relate to our families, please make this a date in our diaries.

The Cathedral has a number of requests for official visits and we will be applying for a grant for some signage. Again there is an opportunity to relate the signage, explaining different features of the building with "Mission". We have 2 tours already planned with a Japanese operator.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY - We begin the season of Lent with our BCP Service for Ash Wednesday @ 8.00pm in Banagher.

- Each Thursday - Holy Communion @ 11.00am in Clonfert Cathedral with a short meditation.
- Each Friday - Alpha in the Rectory and will include our "Confirmation Group".
- Confirmation - 19th May Nenagh @ 4.00pm.

In closing we hosted the Community School in Portumna for a question and answer session in Christ Church with their Chaplain. A very good time and photo opportunity.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

Saint Mary's Cathedral, Saint Michael's, Saint John's Abington

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Newslink Distributor: Gillian Cheatley

FROM THE DEAN - ST MICHAEL'S 175TH

St Michael's Church, Pery Square is celebrating it's 175th anniversary this year. As part of the programme I'm delighted to announce that the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev'd Dr Diarmuid Martin has kindly agreed to give a talk in the church on Tuesday 19th March at 8pm. The title of the talk is 'The Church of the Future'. Admission is free and all are very welcome to attend.

DIARY FOR THE MONTH - MARCH 2019

- 1 World Day of Prayer - Service at 7pm in St Michael's Church
- 2 Whist, St Michael's Hall
- 5 Shrove Tuesday
- 6 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) - Services at 7.30am and 7pm in the Cathedral.
- 10 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington
- 10 Evensong, The Cathedral

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967

FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

- 13 Lenten Course, The Cathedral
- 17 St Patrick's Day – Service times to be confirmed
- 18 St Patrick's Day Parade, Limerick
- 20 Lenten Course, The Cathedral
- 23 Come & Sing, The Cathedral
- 24 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael's Hall/St John's, Abington
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation
- 27 Lenten Course, The Cathedral
- 28 Select Vestry, The Cathedral
- 31 Mothering Sunday
- 31 Irish Standard Time begins

ST MICHAEL'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

The Archbishop of Dublin, the most Rev'd Dr Diarmuid Martin will give an Anniversary Talk on 'The Church of the Future' on Tuesday 19th March at 8pm. Admission free. All welcome.

THANKS

On Sunday 3rd February the Dean presented gifts to Mrs Dolly Shier and Mrs Patsy Pomeroy in recognition of their many years' service to St Michael's Church in organising the Flower Guild. Thank you Dolly and Patsy!



Rev Edna and the Dean with Mrs Dolly Shier and Mrs Patsy Pomeroy

LENTEN COURSE

During Lent the Dean will be running a Lenten Course in the Cathedral every Wednesday at 8pm (beginning the 13th March). The course will focus on 'The Church of Ireland – the whys and wherefores'. Each evening will last no more than 1 hour and includes refreshments. There is no charge for attending and all are welcome.

CRAFT HUB

The next craft hub will meet on Wednesday the 20th March, 10am-noon in St Michael's Hall. If you are interested in coming along and would like more information please contact Karen – kwilson1012@gmail.com or 061338697.

THE EVERGREENS

Anyone requiring a lift should contact Oliver Deegan at 086 204 3296 or 061 635 367. The next meeting dates are 19 March and the 9 April.

MOTHERS' UNION

Please contact Branch Chair, Margaret Schutz for further details. New members always welcome.

AN ABHAINN

Our last edition was kindly sponsored by Villier's School. The Spring edition will be available shortly.



The Dean, the Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick, Ms Jill Storey (Headmistress of Villier's) and the Bishop. Missing Ms Jeanne Dippenaar, Editor).

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.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

10th February (in St Michael's) – Samuel Francis (Frank) Shier

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

To Dolly, Philip, Michael, John and their families on the death of Frank.



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Arabella House, 18D Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14 (01) 216 6300 info@here2help.ie



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and Crisis Pregnancy Programme
Funded by TUSLA Child and Family Agency



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

It's been a quiet month in the Adare Group of Parishes. We took a bit of a breather after Christmas, with the long season after Epiphany, and Easter being so late this year (21 April). We are beginning to get geared up for Lent, which starts early in March.

EVENSONG

For our Second Friday event in February, we had an Evensong focused on the theme of Love on 8th February, with Bible readings and songs on the theme. The weather, unfortunately, was awful that evening, as another winter storm came through.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

An ecumenical service for the Women's World Day of Prayer was held at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, the Church of Ireland, in Kilmallock on Thursday, 28 February, at 7.30pm. The service alternates each year between the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church in Kilmallock. We are delighted to be the host this year and to invite all traditions.

LENT

The season of Lent starts on Wednesday, 6 March. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7.30pm in St. Nicholas Church, Adare.

Each year we hold a class during Lent - the past few years it has been some form of Bible study. This year we will use a seven-session course called "Knowing God." It is a basic introduction to one of the themes of the Bible, focused on the questions that we might have about how we know God. From the description of the course:

"People in biblical times had questions about their Creator that are mirrored in the Scriptures. They wondered: What is God's true nature? Can we trust God to be loving, fair, and just? How can we know the unknowable God?"

In contemporary times, we might wonder about the same questions. This course will help us to look at these and other questions.

We will be holding the sessions on Tuesdays during Lent. Two of the sessions might be held on a different night, so as not to conflict with the monthly meeting of our Group's Book Club. To participate in the class, and for more details, please contact Rev. Liz Beasley.



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CHANGES IN SERVICE TIMES

This has been reported in previous issues, but it bears repeating that we have continued a slight change in our service times, as follows:

- On the third Sunday of the month, Adare's service will be at 10.30am.
- On the fourth Sunday of the month, Croom's service will be at 10.30am.

This change is an experiment. It won't last forever, but it may lead to a restructuring of our regular service times.

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

ASKEATON SCAFFOLDING:

For the past few weeks, scaffolding has covered the west front of Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, in the first stage in securing the church façade. Simon White and Ralph Drew have been busy working on the project, the news at this stage is looking good as the scaffolding begins to come down.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Ebie (White) and Emanuel (Manu) Delbarryon the birth of their daughter Ella, and to the grandparents, Hilary and Simon White of Nantenan.

SYMPATHY:

Sympathy to Arthur Gilliard of Rathkeale and his sister Olive Enright of Askeaton, on the recent death of their first cousin Frank Shier late of Rathkeale and Limerick. Frank was the son of the late Bert and Moll Shier and brother of the late Betty. He is survived by his wife Dolly and his sons Phillip, Michael and John, and extended family.

THE MOTHERS' UNION:

The next meeting of Kilcornan Mothers' Union takes place in the Rectory, Askeaton, on Monday 4 March at 8 p.m.

MINISTRY TRAINING IN THE RECTORY:

The Revd Anne-Marie Stuart, FJ, of the Kilcolman Union of Parishes is leading two workshops on 'The Adventure of Prayer' and 'Faith Development' in the Rectory in Askeaton, Co Limerick, from 11 am to 3.30 pm. On 11 February, the workshops looked at the Jesus Prayer and Praying with Icons.

MARCH SERVICES:

- Sunday 3 March (Sunday before Lent): 9.30 a.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin (Tarbert), Morning Prayer.
- Ash Wednesday (6 March): 8 p.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion and Ashing.
- Sunday 10 March (The First Sunday in Lent): 9.30 a.m., Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Holy Communion; 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, Morning Prayer.
- Sunday 17 March (The Second Sunday in Lent, Saint Patrick's Day): 9.30 a.m., Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Holy Communion; 11.30, Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin, Holy Communion.
- Sunday 24 March (The Third Sunday in Lent): 9.30 a.m., Castletown Church, Kilcornan, Morning Prayer; 11.30, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, Holy Communion.

- Monday 25 March (The Annunciation): 11 a.m., Holy Communion, Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, with tea/coffee in the Rectory.
- Sunday 31 March (The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Mothering Sunday): 11 a.m., United Group Service for the Fifth Sunday: 11 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, Holy Communion.

LENT 2019:

Lent and Easter are relatively late this year. Four Lenten study evenings are taking place in the Rectory at 8 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent. These evenings are open to all parishioners and friends:

- Thursday 14 March: no programme.
- Thursday 21 March: The Apostles' Creed
- Thursday 28 March: The Nicene Creed
- Thursday 4 April: The Athanasian Creed
- Thursday 11 April: The 39 Articles

Tea/coffee are provided at each of these study evenings, which last for about an hour.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Priest-in-Charge: Canon Jim Stephens,
Teach an Solais, Ashe St., Tralee, Co. Kerry V92 TX59
Tel: 066 712 6200 (Office) Mob: 087 052 9107
Email: stjohs.ashestreet@gmail.com
or stiofain.s@gmail.com
Web: www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org

Rev Phyllis Jones,
The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry V92 W0Y5
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The Holy Communion is celebrated on Wednesdays in St. John's at 11 am followed by tea and fellowship in The Ashe Hotel and all most welcome. Many friendships are formed through this group. This service can also provide an opportunity for worship for those who have other demands or are working on Sunday. We are joined once a month by the staff and children in St John's School. So, if you are in Tralee on a Wednesday morning then we would love to welcome you.

The first Sunday Club and Family Service in February attracted a large congregation from the various churches in our parish. This was followed by an opportunity for the nine Confirmation candidates to begin their preparation with the Rev Jim in Teach an tSolais on the 13th February: classes will continue until May when Confirmation will be held on the 12th May.

Congratulations to Ivan Groves who supplies Lee Strand, on winning his recent award for the quality of his milk. This award was presented at the Lee Strand Social in the Ballygarry and Ivan was joined by his family on the night at the celebration.

The first Healer Prayer Service was held on Tuesday February 5th at 8 pm in Teach an tSolais, followed by tea and fellowship.

Links Ladies held an Oriflame Cosmetics evening on Monday February 25th at 8 pm in Teach an tSolais. The evening was open to everyone and many ladies brought a friend to enjoy the evening.

Something to ponder about the Feast of St Brigid. It can be a forgotten, but important feast day as we celebrate the achievements of a remarkable woman. Born in 454AD she is famous for her hospitality, generosity, concern for the poor, ability to stand up to authority and her unique ability to get what she wanted. Most famous for her St Brigid cross which she wove together using rushes. The many strands that make up a St Brigid's cross represent the different strands of our own lives. They pick up on our joys and blessings but also on our struggles, problems and difficulties. For Brigid the cross was not an end in itself but pointed to a firm and sure hope in a loving God. For Brigid this loving God helps us to make sense of everything that's going on in our lives. St. Brigid's day reminds us that the dark days of winter are nearly over and that hopefully spring is just around the corner.

Sunday 17th February was Random Acts of Kindness Day. Kindness is power, the power to help someone, the power to move someone, the power to inspire someone. When you start by helping one person with kindness, you never know how far that spark will go.

Services for Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday with the 11am Holy Communion in Tralee and at 7pm in Camp.

The children from St John's National School will travel to Kiltallagh to join with the children there for a joint service. This builds on the joint service that we shared in Tralee last year.



Spring in the Beach Garden

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

NATURE WALK:

October 21st last was memorable at St Mary's for being the day our long hot Summer finally ended in a deluge worthy of mention in the bible, let alone Newslink. The option for our annual Harvest Nature Walk became one of swimming rather than walking, so we abandoned all thoughts of roping together and left Killarney National Park to get on with its annual cycle without our presence. However, Spring has sprung rather early this year – did we really have a "winter" at all – so we're now planning for our sharing in the rebirth of the natural world sometime during March with a children's walk. Parents are asked to make a special effort to get their offspring toggled out so that they can learn about nature from a local perspective and this is the most important time of the year

to educate them. In a couple of months the trees will be in full foliage, with restricted light reaching the ground, so everything that needs to bloom and reproduce beneath the canopy has only this short window to do so. The ground flora and fauna, especially the invertebrates, take full advantage and if one knows what to look for nature could be described as running riot displaying a myriad of changing colours. Archdeacon Simon will keep everyone informed as to what date we chose as the walk will be weather dependant.

KILLARNEY MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL:

St Mary's hosts 6 films during the weekend of the Killarney Mountain Festival, which is run in association with the Kendal Mountain Festival from March 8th to 10th inclusive. Now in its second year, the Festival looks set to become a highlight of the packed annual event list in Killarney and it's great to see St Mary's at the heart of it. This year's programme for St Mary's includes

Friday 8th:	Brit Rock Film Tour 18:30 – 20:00
Saturday 9th:	Women's Adventure Film Tour 09:30
Saturday 9th:	Film: Best of Kendal Collection 12:00
Saturday 9th:	Film: Cerro Kishtwar 14:30
Saturday 9th:	Film: Dirtbag – The Legend of Fred Beckey 15:00
Sunday 10th:	Film: The Summit 14:00

SELECT VESTRY/CONCERTS:

On Monday February 11th we had a large attendance for the concert scheduling programme for 2019 which was followed by the Select Vestry meeting. The importance of our annual concert programme to both the town of Killarney and the finances of St Mary's were outlined by Archdeacon Simon in the February edition of Newslink and a fair synopsis would be that without it we'd struggle to keep the church open. The ongoing commitment by stewards and especially Andrew Eadie (chief cook and bottle-washer) is inspirational and is greatly appreciated.

The Select Vestry was given an update on finances by Robert Harman and whereas we're looking healthy enough, the meeting was also told of several significant upcoming project costs – not least the internal painting which, despite its necessity, will swallow money like a black hole in space. That said, we have no choice only to progress the project at a pace because it is incumbent on us to be seen to be worthy keepers of God's ancient space in one of the oldest ecclesiastical sites in the south of Ireland. The meeting also agreed to sharing a portion of this space with the Orthodox community of the town in the south transept with two icons and dedicated prayer area. The outside lighting project is underway and it is hoped that the permanent installation of ducts, plinths and lights will be completed by the time this edition of Newslink is in the pews. Consideration was given to replacing the existing timber pews with transportable single seating in the coming years and it has to be said that there are several who are yet to be convinced that this would be a progressive step – although it is accepted that Limerick Cathedral has certainly been enhanced having completed this. We will revisit this again. The dispersal of available funds to local charities was discussed at length and many suggestions were made. It was agreed that the congregation should be asked to nominate individual charities for consideration with a final decision to be taken by the Select Vestry during March.

LENT  2019

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

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Shortly after we arrived, it became obvious that the Kilcolman area is unusual, from its forward looking town of Killorglin, with its innovative businesses and people, proud of their environment to the deep commitment and spirituality of its parishioners. Dutifully as we had done in the UK before we arrived here we turned up at the local Pantomime in Killorglin, so why were we surprised with its professionalism and the outstanding entertainment it provided, better than any we had seen previously. Many evenings enjoyed by all this year it was the Wizard of Oz written of course by Declan Mangan, brilliant, we locals really appreciated the jokes about the pot holes which have been such a feature of the road to Miltown and Killarney. These social issues are all part of the rich pattern of life as Church of Ireland residents here.

ON THE CUSP OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT.

Now we find ourselves resting on the cusp of the darkness of winter and the light of the very first stirrings of spring, and noticed that St. Brigid's Day definitely marks a change. We celebrated it with the youngsters at Kiltallagh School who made themselves and us some wonderful St. Brigid crosses to keep us from all harm etc. Linked as the ancient Celtic Goddess Brig is with St. Brigid, we looked at the transition from Celtic Legend to Christian saint, noticing much that they hold in common with Brig associated with the bringing of fire to warm up the earth, and with healing and poetry, and the Saint who warms up our faith, prays for healing and whose life is poetical.



New life for an old church

WINDS OF CHANGE.

Meanwhile we have all been battered by the high winds of change together with a power cut that put paid to all the good plans which were made for all the churches to come together in St. Michael's for an Ecumenical service which will now have to wait until another less stormy time. Also unexpected is an invitation to join Kiltallagh School when they are treated to the Killarney Musical Societies' production of the Sound of Music. By pure chance it also happens to coincide with Annmarie's 78th birthday, what a celebration; always young at heart.

On behalf of the Select Vestry we were taken to view the re-ordering of a tiny church on the Dingle peninsular. Completely open plan, full of light and the warmth of under floor heating (yes it really works!) we viewed this spectacular space of a large sitting room and wood burner at the East end, a dining/study area in the centre and a large ultra-modern kitchen at the West end. As you enter facing you is a wide and open staircase to an upstairs pod containing two double bedrooms, a spacious bathroom and an en suite to the master bedroom. Lifted up on the pod by narrow pillars, with at least two toughened glass walls to each upstairs room with blinds and opaque glass. The house looks out on fields and the sea. An inspiration for the sensible and creative use of our several redundant churches.

INSPIRED BY THE BISHOP OF TUAM'S last message at the end of the Clergy Conference last year, and with the support of the Select Vestry we have indulged in obtaining some simple notice boards for our two churches in order to display to visitors who come to look at our churches, something of the ideals and faith of the Church of Ireland, why we worship together, and how they came to be built. We hope to begin to celebrate Lent by using them for the first time.

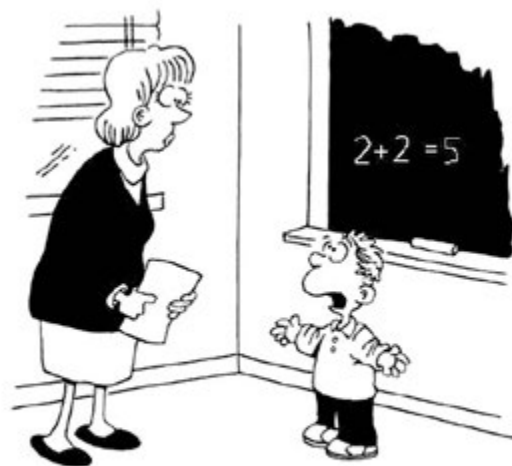
Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

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

Our Christians Together in Kenmare February Bible study discussed a couple of 'hot topics'. The first asked whether a Christian should aim to be 'Politically correct'. The two sides of the argument essentially came down to considering two opposing statements: whether 'Political correctness' is nothing more than a seemingly benign catch phrase for 'the liberal agenda', or instead, whether 'Political correctness' is nothing more than graciousness and good manners.

The discussion that ensued showed that it was not really possible to see the issues in such black and white terms – and that the underlying question is really about the Christian response to 'free speech' – based on the following opposing assertions:

1. All speech is free speech regardless of how virulent, hateful or misinformed it might be.
2. All ideas (no matter how wrong, impolite or hurtful) have a right to be expressed, but that comes with a right to ridicule, mock, criticise, satirise, protest, or insult their proponent.
3. Hateful or offensive speech such as attacking entire minority groups, spreading dangerous pseudo-science, outright lies about critical current issues and other forms of deceptive propaganda should be banned by law



"... but to be fair and balanced all points of view should be respected!"

As one would expect, final judgement was suspended pending further investigation...

And if that wasn't enough, the following week's discussion (held after the Newslink publishing deadline) was to be 'Why are our churches not full?' Answers on a (large) postcard.

On a lighter note, this year the Mothers' Union invited all comers to share in the annual lunch at the Riverside Café in Sneem. Best Scampi n' Chips in Kerry – if not in the Diocese (Province?). Perhaps we should organise a competition?

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Ruth Watt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396 236 Email: ruth.watt@irishmethodist.org

This month includes the start of Lent, and therefore the start of our preparation for Easter. We prepare ourselves to remember the death of Christ, and we prepare ourselves for the joyful celebration of His resurrection. What makes these important to us is the fact that they happened for us, because of God's love of us. Without that love Christ would never have come, He would never have died, and He would never have been raised from the dead. This is what makes Easter important for us as humans and as Christians.

2018 has been a difficult one for several families in our churches because of death. The death of loved ones, of friends, is always hard. Yet because of Easter, because of God's love for us, we have hope. Hope that they are in a place where there is no more pain or suffering, and in a place where one day we will be united with them and with God forever more.

But while we are here in earth we will miss them and we grieve their passing and so we remember with fondness our friends and pray for their families so that they may know peace in times of sorrow. Particularly we remember the families of Edwin Smyth and Lorna Shier who both passed away in the days leading up to Christmas. They will both be missed by family, friends, and by our church family. And we look forward to the day when we will meet with them again, all possible because of the death and resurrection of Jesus we now prepare ourselves to celebrate.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR MARCH:

Saturday 23rd @ 8:00pm Healing Service

Sunday 24th United Service @ 11:00am

All other services are at the usual times of 10:15 in Adare and 11:45 in Ballingrane

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,

Clonmacken, Limerick.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

I've included work by Eddie Askew before, a Christian poet and painter. In one of his meditations inspired by Psalm 95 he writes,

Painting is about light. The interplay of light and dark, the contrasts, the way each bit depends on every other bit. The way one colour modifies the colour next to it. It can be breathtaking to work on a painting, to build it up and then, with a few considered, or more often, fortunate, brush strokes of high colour, to see it spark into life. A tiny bit of creation really. It doesn't happen very often!

Lord, sometimes

I'm attacked by hope. It creeps up on me.

Unawares.

I'm in the middle of a problem,

finding it hard to see the way ahead.

Shadows, one after another,

nearly blotting out the light.

Clouds, charging across the field of my vision

like panzer divisions.

And almost, Lord,

almost I enjoy the misery.

The brief and petty martyrdom.

The picture won't come right.

I'm ready to give up,

throw the whole thing away.

Why bother?

And then, Lord the hope.

Hard to see, difficult to grasp.

Quiet, Undefined.

A feeling for the ground I'm standing on.

The strength of the hills.

Yours.

The deep places of the earth.

In your hands.

Strong hands, warm, enduring.

And I see, dimly

in your perspective

the light and shadow.

Not in conflict,

but each with a place

in the total picture of my life.

And when it's complete, exhibited,

Lord, no one will ever know

how I struggled with it.

They'll just look.

'Don't like that,' they'll say,

or 'That's nice.' And move on.

But you and I, Lord, we know.

And all I need is your smile

and a nod to say you understand.

And then perhaps I will!

I always admire the artists who exhibit in CB1, our gallery. People do of course stand in front of their work and say that they like it, or they don't. And the artists may well hear that, or imagine it! But they continue to honour the gifts they have been given and go on painting and, just like Eddie Askew, no one will know if those paintings flowed with ease or were worked out hour by hour with frustration. We do appreciate them and love that they show their work in our building. Come and see!

But there are times when the strokes of colour don't produce that feeling of light. Then you look at the painting with dismay until you realise that the problem is the lack of contrast. The shadows aren't deep enough. The light tones don't register because the darks aren't there. The brilliance of one depends on the depth of the other. And the feeling of light.

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev Karen Spence

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co Kerry

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org

Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

MILLSTREET THE LIGHTHOUSE

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

Wednesday night Bible study 7.30pm

Youth Club as arranged

THE GATEWAY KENMARE

Sunday Service 11am Including 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.

Since the start of 2019 the Bible Studies in Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet have been using material provided by The London Institute of Contemporary Christianity in the book of Proverbs. This has proved to be a challenging study. Wednesday night bible study in Killarney looked at the story of Jonah.

Bible studies during Lent will focus on the last week of Jesus' life from John's Gospel.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaurel

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808

Email: shannon.delaurel@irishmethodist.org

SUNDAY SERVICES:

10:00am – Borrisokane

11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sunday's

10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sunday's

11:45am – Roscrea

7:00pm – Shinrone

In February we celebrated the sacrament of baptism of Sam Cahalan in Borrisokane Church! This was a lovely celebration bringing together Methodist and Catholic families and friends to be a part of this special milestone in Sam's life. Proud parents are Lorraine and Barry Cahalan. Proud grandparents are Florence and Tom Davis and Anne and Patrick Cahalan.



Lorraine, Barry, Et Sam Cahalan and Rev Shannon DeLaurel

In addition, two young people (Troy Feery and Aoihe Carroll) prepared for Holy Communion and have now begun to receive it. We rejoice in their desire to receive this sacrament! May God help them grow closer to him as they continue to partake in it. May this means of grace become a cherished practice in the hearts of our young people.

As March nears, I can't help but notice the beautiful daffodils that are in bloom. The splendor of God's artistic handiwork always lifts my spirits. Maybe just maybe, spring is here to stay. As we enter into a new season, I am reminded that as a denomination whose structures are changing, we the Methodist Church in Ireland are entering into a new season soon. We plan to meet one last time as the Midlands and Southern District for Synod on 9th March in Roscrea Methodist.

Before the business of Synod takes place, we will have a district prayer gathering at 10am where we will pray for the future, for God's continued presence and active work and for our obedience to follow where God is leading. You don't have to be a member of Synod to participate in the prayer gathering. All are welcome!

In July, this district will merge with the Dublin District and become known as the Southern District. We will also have a prayer gathering in May to pray for this new district. As the people called Methodists, may we not fear change. Change is inevitable. Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, once said, "The only constant in life is change." May we trust that God is present and at work in this change and will bring about new possibilities and hope through it!

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS SCHEDULE:

All are welcome!

- Friday 1st March – St. Cronan's Catholic Church, Roscrea, at 7pm: World Day of Prayer Service
- St. Keiran's Church of Ireland, Cloughjordan at 8:15pm: World Day of Prayer Service
- Saturday 9th March – District Prayer Gathering in Roscrea Methodist 10am-12:30pm
- District Synod in Roscrea Methodist 2-5pm
- Tuesday 19th March – MWI meeting at 8pm in Borrisokane Church with Guest Speaker Ester Mackey

MEETINGS IN MARCH

Wednesday 13th March – Preachers' Meeting in Mountmellick at 8pm

BOYS' BRIGADE – We will meet next in Roscrea Church Hall on Friday 1st March for Nerf Night and Lego and on Friday 22nd March for Enrolment Service, from 7-8pm. If you're interested in joining or have queries, please contact our captain Alison Hayes at 086 6030225 for more information.

Speak with a prophetic voice By Duncan Dormor



The General Secretary of Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel), the Revd Duncan Dormor, argues that churches should be "communities of resistance and hope".

As 2019 unfolds we shall see whether the global ascendancy of "big men" – so-called "strong" leaders, emperors and would-be emperors, determined to secure their

own power and prestige through recourse to populist national and xenophobic sentiment – continues to flow or begins to ebb. But a return to the dominance of a rules-based liberal global order is by no means assured.

Geopolitics never sleeps. Power is a restless prowling tiger. And its brutal exercise makes injustice and oppression both inevitable and endemic. It is part of the broken nature of our world, part of the structure of human society; a disrupting thread that snakes its way across time and space cutting through our international order, haunting our nations and cultures and distorting and corrupting our personal lives.

It threatens. It generates fear. It prevents and constrains the flourishing of good and of freedom. Very often, it erupts into violence and persecution. It lays waste. It kills.

Churches and Christian leaders must be utterly realistic and face such hard truths about our world, unflinchingly. And simply waiting, passively, to see how things unfold is not, cannot be, an option for God's people.

Rather we are called to become communities of resistance and hope. Places of courage and solidarity, speaking out for a vision in which

humble service of the disenfranchised and marginal replaces concerns of hierarchy and status; where competitive ambition and arrogance are rooted out, overturned and rejected in favour of a community of genuine sisters and brothers bound to one another by relationships of equality and mutuality, equal before the cross rather than subject to the world's judgement.

That vision requires people to speak up and speak out, to challenge the powerful and the violent. In short: to embrace the call to be prophetic.

We must recall, treasure and seek inspiration from our recent past, from events in living memory. The Anglican Communion has seen many examples down the years of courageous witness and creative response to power and violence. A small handful of examples:

- In Seoul in 1987, protests radiating from the Anglican Cathedral saw the demise of the military regime and ushered in the transition to a civilian government.
- In the courage of Archbishop Desmond Tutu during the 1970s and 1980s in opposing the abomination of apartheid, but also those who would "necklace" state informers.
- In the energy and creativity of Bishop Dinis Sengulane of Lemombo, who played a key role in ending the Mozambican civil war in 1992 and promoted an arms amnesty which saw the surrender of 600,000 weapons.

As we seek to stand in solidarity with those of our Anglican brothers and sisters across the Communion today boldly and courageously witnessing to their faith in challenging circumstances, so inspired by those who have gone before, we too are called by Christ to speak out for the kingdom: to speak with a prophetic voice that denounces injustice and inhumanity in all its forms and to articulate an enriched vision for our future together, in this, God's world.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted
to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in
the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what
must I do to get
eternal life?



What does it say in the Bible?



Love God with all your
heart, soul, strength and mind, and
Love your neighbour as yourself.

You've got it right.



But who counts
as a 'neighbour'?



So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from
Jerusalem to Jericho



That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers
who left him for dead.



Oh no!

A priest was walking
the same way, and
after him a lawyer.



Oh, they are good
people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man
but they walked past



I bet it's an ordinary
person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria
came that way...



Oh no! We hate them and
they hate us Jews! That
hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt
man, and cleaned and
bandaged his cuts.



What? No!

He put him on his donkey,
took him to an inn, and
paid for him to stay.



So who was a real neighbour
to the hurt man?



The... the Sss...
the one who helped him.

So go and do
the same.



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