



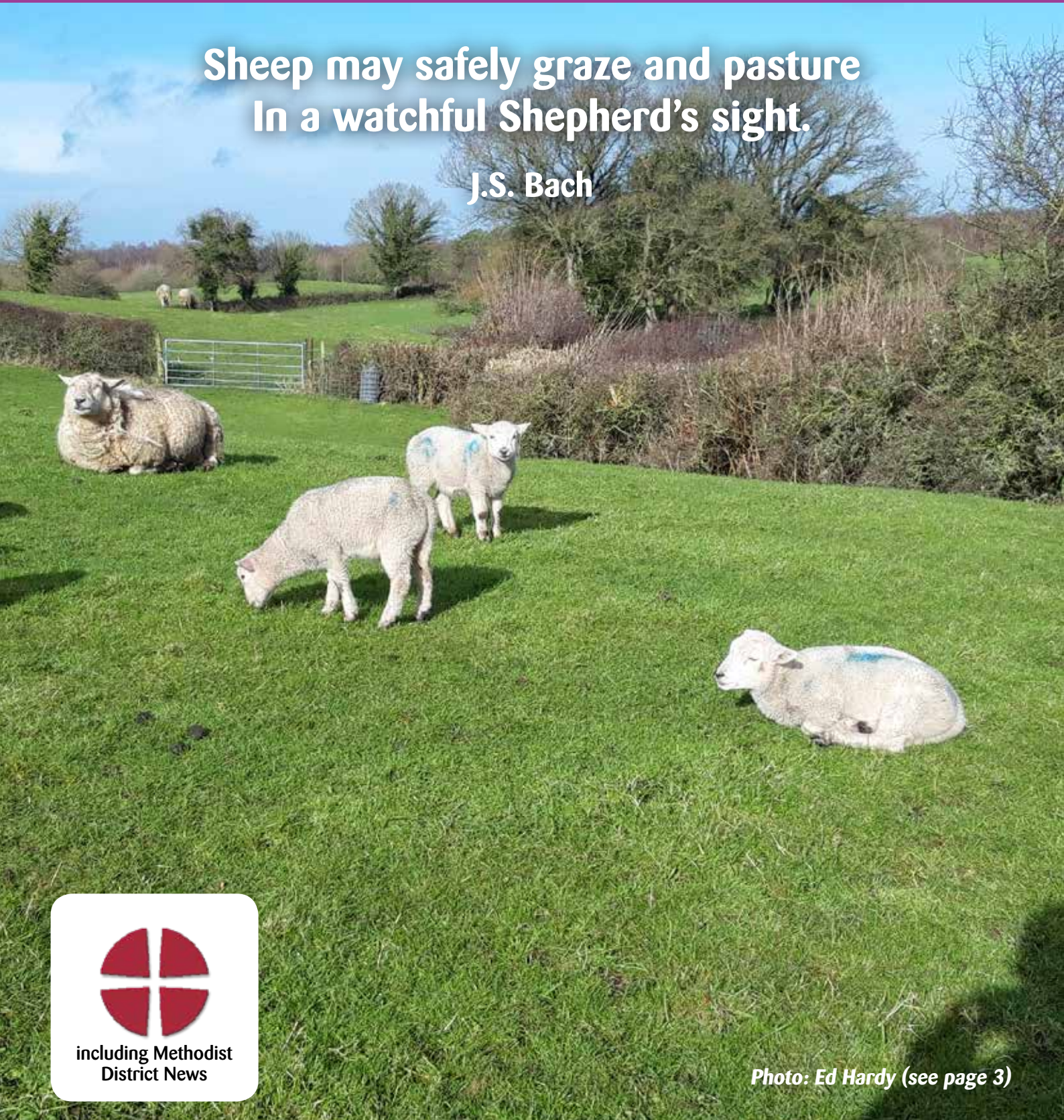
APRIL 2020

NEWSLINK

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

Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful Shepherd's sight.

J.S. Bach



including Methodist
District News

Photo: Ed Hardy (see page 3)

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. Newslink also covers Methodist 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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Bishop Kenneth writes

'Coronavirus' or 'Covid-19' as it is more properly called, came out of the blue to us all. Now we are all talking about it and experts have appeared in their hundreds!

There is little doubt that this virus will continue to have a major effect on all our lives for the coming months at least. Work, sports, medical services, even shopping are being affected in major ways. And of course parish and church life will be affected. Sunday services have been cancelled, and the celebration and marking of life's major events – baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals – will have to be reviewed. It may even affect and influence the process of forming a government.

There are two effects of Covid-19 that I wish to highlight. In recent years we have come to believe more and more that humans can do anything, that there is nothing beyond human capability and ingenuity. In part this assumption has led to the questioning of the basis of faith itself, for all religious faith rests on an assumption of the givenness of life and the belief that the source of that gift is God. The fact of God means we respect or worship the source of all that is given and created, but because this runs counter to assumptions about human ability and potential, many prefer to ignore or deny this otherness in the world, which we call God.

Covid-19 shatters this self-confidence. A simple flu-like virus is completely beyond our control and is affecting all of life. No doubt a control will be found and a vaccine discovered but the lesson should be learned – humans are not the masters of the

universe. Just like the environmental crisis, the coronavirus demonstrates how vulnerable we all are.

Secondly, coronavirus shows that life is not just an economy; that human interaction and relationships are central to all that we are and far more important than anything an economy can give us. Covid-19 is isolating us all, we stay away from others, we self-isolate, we avoid work or sport or church, and that hurts badly because it is those interactions which show us what it is to be truly human.

Many are suffering because of this virus – some are very ill, or frightened, or bereaved because of this. They must be at the centre of all our Christian concern and prayer, and we should continue to do all that we can to support and help those hurt or made vulnerable by this virus.

With kind regards

+Kenneth

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The six lambs were born on 28th December over a number of hours. After a number of days the mother looked after feeding four of the lambs without any bottles. She appreciated that two of her large family continued getting bottles four times a day until recently. In the shed she adopted one more lamb bringing her family to seven. The mother and her seven lambs are doing well in great outdoors. Owner of the mother and lambs is Mervyn Hardy – St Paul's Parish Banagher.

From the Editors

Editor: We offer you this article by the Ven John Barton, commenting on coronavirus. But we are well aware that things are changing rapidly....

THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Thorough and frequent hand washing with soap and water is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the first step to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

I don't know who first said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", but you won't find that phrase in the Bible. Ritual washings are practised by many religions, but they usually signify spiritual cleansing, not physical sanitisation. Piety isn't a substitute for hygiene, nor vice versa.

The Coronavirus, now called Covid-19, has been a daily news item for months, with the result that fear is spreading more rapidly than the disease itself. Stock markets throughout the world have plummeted; sales of disinfectant have soared. Sports fixtures have been cancelled, whole towns have been quarantined and worldwide trade is threatened.

Statistics change hourly, so anything quoted here will be out of date by the time you read it, but we need to put this plague (if that is what it is) into perspective. Do you remember the Ebola epidemic which swept through regions of Africa from 2014 onwards? More than one in three sufferers died from that virus, but there's now a vaccine which can be used when Ebola threatens. Past influenza pandemics have been nowhere near as severe. 'Asian Flu' in 1957, led to 3,550 deaths in England and Wales, or something like 2.4% of actual cases. In 2009, the fatality figure for the swine flu epidemic was about 0.026%. The figures for today's Covid-14 virus suggest that around 80% of cases are mild, 14% develop severe symptoms, 4% become critically ill and the death rate is 2%.

This virus was first publicised by Doctor Li Wenliang, who was detained and censured by the Chinese police for "spreading false rumours". Although he himself subsequently died of the disease, there can be no doubt that his courage saved many lives. There are echoes here of words from St John's Gospel: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." As for the people of China where the virus originated, the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, tweeted a Sri Lankan poster, which shows the right Christian attitude. It says, "HATE THE VIRUS, NOT THE CHINESE. Let's pray for them instead".

Amen. And do wash your hands.

The big surprise lurking in your Granny's chicken soup

Granny always knew her chicken soup was good for you when you were poorly, but she did not realise quite how good.

Now research has found that the traditional hot broths used in many cultures to battle flu and fevers pack a bigger punch than even the cooks realised.

A range of soups, ranging from vegetable to beef and chicken, were discovered to have the power to interrupt the life cycle of Plasmodium falciparum, which causes 99 per cent of deaths from malaria. Some of them were actually as effective as a leading antimalarial drug, dihydroartemisinin, in fighting malaria.

No one particular ingredient was found to be common to the broths, but there certainly seems to be "evidence that they contain antibiotic properties", according to one doctor. The study was carried out at the Imperial College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Deadline Date for Submissions to Newslink

All submissions for Newslink must be submitted by 11:59 pm on 15th of each month regardless of the day of the week. Therefore, all articles, photos and advertisements in the correct format, must be with the editorial team at newslink@limerick.anglican.org each month.

Views Expressed

The views expressed in the Diocesan magazine are those of those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The editorial team is striving towards GDPR compliance, and so all emails (notifications and/or reminders) are being sent as Bcc (Blind Carbon Copy).

NB: Photographs for Newslink

The following points must be observed if you wish the editorial team to include photographs of activities of your parishes, schools, congregations, organisations, etc.

All photographs must comply with GDPR (i.e. permission to include photos in the magazine with the person's/people's names in the caption).

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2020

10 issues February – December, part year pro-rata)

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(contact: Janet Bray, 34 Abbeyview, Adare, Co. Limerick V94 XE3V. Mobile: 086 399 6689. Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2020

(UNCHANGED from 2019, 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

Appointment To Castlecomer Parish, Ossory.

'Rev'd Edna Wakely, senior curate in Limerick City Parish, has been appointed Rector of Castlecomer in the Diocese of Ossory. Commenting on her appointment she said "Although I will be sad to leave Limerick City Parish, and the many wonderful friends I have made here, I am greatly looking forward to getting to know the people of Castlecomer Union of Parishes and serving them to the best of my ability."

The Dean of Limerick, the Very Rev'd Niall Sloane said 'we rejoice with Edna in her appointment as Incumbent. Edna brought a variety of gifts and experiences to Limerick, which I know will be of great value to Castlecomer. We wish her God's richest blessing in this new phase of ministry'

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - April 2020

Each Sunday in April

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down & Dromore and Bishop David McClay.

5th April, Palm Sunday, Red or 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: The diocesan Safeguarding Trust coordinator Margaret Brickenden, Safeguarding trainers and members of Safeguarding panels in our parishes and diocesan organisations.

12th April, Easter Day – The First Sunday of Easter, White or Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Peace of Jerusalem and the People of the Land of the Holy One.

Diocese: The Aughaval Union of parishes in the Diocese of Tuam, Rev Canon Jennifer McWhirter, and the congregations of Holy Trinity Westport, Christ Church Castlebar, St Thomas Dugort & Turlough Church.

19th April, The Second Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland and Archbishop elect John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland.

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

26th April, The Third Sunday of Easter, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East and Most Revd Michael Lewis, Archbishop & Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf.

Diocese: Members of Select Vestries throughout the dioceses.

3rd May, The Fourth Sunday of Easter, White

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop elect George Davison.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan) and Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate & Bishop of Hokkaido.

Diocese: Diocesan members attending General Synod.

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
in Ireland and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss
of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting
the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and
distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.

*Archbishop Michael Jackson
Dublin & Glendalough*

All in an April Evening

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road;
All in an April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and crying
With a weak human cry,
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet:
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hill-top green,
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.

Katharine Tynan

Dean Of Killaloe and Dean's Vicar

I very much regretted having to cancel the service of Installation and welcome for the new Dean and Dean's Vicar of Killaloe. However, despite that, the formalities whereby The Very Revd Rod Smyth was installed as Dean of Killaloe and Revd Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean's Vicar took place on Friday 13th March in a closed Cathedral.

While it's not the best way to begin a new ministry for either Rod or Paul, I do wish them both every blessing and good wish for this next chapter in their lives and ministry.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

Notice Of Diocesan Synod - 2020

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe will be held in Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 27 June 2020. Registration from 10.00 a.m. Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.

A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling



Most else pales into insignificance in the presence of Coronavirus/Covid 19. Indeed, when partnered with the evidence of climate change words begin to fail. Taken together and, if truth were told, even separately, these phenomena bring us face to face with the uncomfortable realisation that the experiencing of creation still has the capacity to topple humankind from our twin pedestals of rationalist superiority and scientific enlightenment. When

that happens we find ourselves possessed by the same fundamental emotions of fear and frustration, anger and anxiety, doubt and despair, as did our ancestors when they wrestled with ignorance and bewilderment.

Fortunately for us in Ireland, we have had demonstrated to us and for us a gleam of faithfulness. The professionals of our health service, the appropriate scholars in our universities and colleges, our leaders in the civil and public services, our politicians across all parties and our acting government have risen with magnificence to the challenges of their respective offices. Their performances on radio and television have been well-nigh perfect. They have spoken as folk having authority. Their information has been lucidly presented.

Their advice has been easily understood. They have addressed the nation with a sense of human and community solidarity and with the expectation of a positive response. And we, the citizens, would appear to be responding responsibly, with community consciousness and with focussed care for the vulnerable. There is a good sense of the equality of all, the basis of citizenship in a Republic. Is there anything which we can do specifically as people of faith and citizens of the Kingdom of God? I think there is.

We can continue to give thanks with renewed vigour, and in the paragraph above there is much for which to give thanks. We can sometimes grow careless about the centrality of thanksgiving in our worship and even in the celebration of the Holy Communion – the Eucharist – which name itself means 'thanksgiving'. This desire to give thanks comes to us from the work which our Creating God wrought as Saving God in Jesus of Nazareth who still comes to us as the Sustaining God whose work we recognise powerfully among us in all the activity being implemented to protect us, both as communities and individuals, and for which we must be continuously grateful. Both Lent and Easter are solemn and joyful reminders of that. Happy Easter Everybody!

Salters Sterling

Book Corner

'Reverend Readers' Book Club

The 'Reverend Readers' book club was started approximately 11 years ago in 2009 by the Rev Alan Matchett who was Rector in The Adare Union of Parishes and sadly died unexpectedly a year later. It is a tribute to him that we are still going strong after all this time.

We meet once a month except for July and August and membership numbers averaged approximately 10-15 people annually.

Every year usually in September a rota of members is drawn up so that each member has a turn to choose a book for us to read and review the following month.

Originally we chose 2 books a month to discuss but in recent years it was found more realistic to choose just 1 book each month (except for the summer months)

Each book is discussed in depth and given a score out of a maximum 10 marks

Over the years we have read and have had lively discussions and expressed controversial opinions on a wide variety of books such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and prose from fairy tales eg Nutcracker, Alice Through the Looking Glass and to Classics eg Dickens, H.G.Wells and even the Book of Job in the Bible!

The authors or people closely connected with some of our books have attended our meetings also.

In addition we've had social events such as Summer BBQs, Christmas Parties and visits to the cinema and theatre to see films and plays that we have reviewed.

Our numbers can fluctuate from year to year as some members may

have to drop in or out for a time for personal reasons. Many who cannot attend or have left the area keep in touch and follow our reading lists.

We are all ages and genders with many different cultural interests and backgrounds.

We are relaxed, have fun and often are challenged into reading material that may be outside of our comfort zone! To date we have read about 122 books

Also we really appreciate the support of our local libraries and their staff in sourcing books for us.

Currently we meet in the Woodlands Hotel Adare and each month our Secretary Liz Adam circulates the results of the meeting with the book's mark and the new book choice plus the date of the next meeting.

Borrowbox

For those who may not be aware of it, your local library offers a download service to which it has subscribed. This Borrowbox "app" is designed and powered by Bolinda Digital.

You need to have a valid library card and a device (smartphone or tablet) onto which you download a free Borrowbox "app". You can borrow up to five eBooks + 5 eAudiobooks at any one time. You may reserve books as well. There is an extensive selection of books, so if you want to listen to your favourite Dick Francis or Georgette Heyer novels, you just download and listen or read. You can select from a wide variety of genres, including children's books – most applicable now that we have been asked to reduce our travelling and to stay indoors.

SUGGESTIONS TAKEN FROM BORROWBOX

- Guy Shrubsole, Who Owns England?, eAudiobook
- David Montero, Kickback, eAudiobook
- Flann O'Brien, The Third Policeman, eAudiobook
- Emilio Estevez & Martin Sheen, Along the Way, eAudiobook
- Caitriona Perry, In America, eBook
- Andrea Camilleri, The Other End of the Line, eBook

Diocesan Organisations

Mothers' Union Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

OUR THEME FOR 2020
"Building Hope & Confidence"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- April 2nd – Holy Communion Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 11.15am. Limerick & Killaloe hosting with Derry & Raphoe Diocese
- April 18th – Diocesan Council/Trustees, Roscrea
- April 25th – All Ireland Council 10.30am, Christ Church Cathedral, Music Room

DIOCESAN NOTES:

By this time you will all be well aware of the effects of Covid 19 on our daily lives. It has also, unfortunately, been necessary to cancel our branch meetings for the foreseeable future, and indeed, the above dates will more than likely be changed or cancelled also. Hopefully, these measures will make sure that we are kept safe and in some way slow down and halt the progression of the virus. I hope that you and your families keep safe and well, and I suppose, on the up side, our gardens will probably be better attended and we will be able to catch up on all those things that we never seem to get time for!

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH:

At the end of February Edward Stokell, who is from South Africa, came to tell us what it is like to live in direct provision. Edward has been living here for quite some time and explained to us the reasons why he had made the decision to leave his home country, where he was running a business, to travel all the way to Ireland to seek a better way of life. Listening to Edward and his story it seems that Ireland would benefit greatly from the skills and knowledge that Asylum seekers bring. Edward explained the day to day running of the centre where he lives and the lengthy processes and many stages that he must go through before being granted leave to stay in Ireland, and this is not always the final outcome.



Edward Stokell with our members

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! At our branch meeting we all celebrated with Betty McGlone as she cut her birthday cake with the help of Vida Cowpar and Patsy Pomeroy. We wish Betty many happy times in the year to come.



Betty McGlone, Vida Cowpar and Patsy Pomeroy

BALLINASLOE BRANCH:

"The Birds And The Bees"

The topic of the birds and the bees was up for discussion at the March meeting of St John's Mother's Union. However, not in the traditional sense! What to grow in your garden to encourage pollination and support the wildlife was the theme for our guest speakers. Beekeeper, Anne Towers, complete with a beehive (no bees of course), outlined the role of the various types of bees and how they use the hive. With a very intricate process and a delicate balance of nature, members were encouraged to grow flowers and shrubs to allow the bees to collect pollen and nectar to produce their sweet honey. Ness Porter Kelly, from the local Grow It Yourself group, gave sound advice on how and what to feed the birds including the best things to grow to bring birds into your garden. Anne and Ness were both presented with gifts, including a toy bumble bee for Anne.

The Branch is very grateful to the Ballinasloe Christian Fellowship for providing a venue for their meetings following a fire in our usual venue, Gullane's Hotel.

With the concerns about the Covid 19 virus future Branch meetings have been cancelled for the time being and members will be advised as soon as the programme can be resumed.

WWDP PRESS RELEASE

"Take your mat and walk"

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer was hosted by Creagh Church and led by Maureen Casey. Prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, the theme for the annual ecumenical service was "Rise – take up your mat and walk" and based on the Bible reading in John 5:2. The readers came from Creagh, St Michael's and St John's Churches and a committee with Maureen Casey, Penny Kearney, Ann McCullagh, Agnes & Una Dignan, Muriel Duthie, Jackie Eastwood, Jane Treacy, Deirdre Lyons, and Valerie Swanwick had been meeting to share the Bible study and prepare the service.

Maureen Casey explained during the service that the Women's World Day of Prayer is celebrated throughout the world in many churches, universities, organisations, schools and in people's homes.

The altar in Creagh Church was decorated with the colours of the Zimbabwean flag together with a painting of their national flower, the flame lily, by local artist Jackie Eastwood. Music for the evening was provided by Nellie Hurley-Moclair accompanied by members of the Creagh Church Choir. Refreshments following the service were kindly hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council Hospitality Committee and allowed time for a chat and catch up among the congregation.

The 2021 service, to be held in St Michael's Church, will be prepared by the women of Vanuatu, an island in the South Pacific Ocean, and based on "build a strong foundation." Anyone wishing to take part in next Bible Study Group should keep an eye on the Parish Bulletin for details at the beginning of the year.

Diocesan Council for Mission

REPORT ON ECUMENICAL EVENING in Lorrha Community Centre, Sat 29th. Feb.

In spite of atrocious weather conditions and local flooding, a large number of people attended. The speaker was George Harding, a native of Lorrha, and now in his second year of studies at UCD.



George Harding

In July 2019, after almost 12 months of preparation, ten students from UCD travelled out to Tamil Nadu, in Southern India as volunteers on a 4 week pilot project. Tamil Nadu has a population of 81.5 million people and is about 1.5 times the size of Ireland, which means the province is densely populated, allowing for a number of large cities and towns. Having already selected a local rural community in which to reside and, bearing in mind that they were on a pilot project to find out the specific needs and material requirements of the inhabitants, the volunteers set to work in three areas:

- 1 'Mother self-help groups', which are broadly equivalent to our Credit Unions. It is traditional that the women stay at home to raise the family while the men-folk go off to the local cities or large towns to get work. George was impressed by the attitude to innovation and self-help which he found in the community, the ladies certainly do not let the 'grass grow under their feet'!
- 2 Education and technical training. There is an emphasis on learning English, which is essential if a young person is to find long term employment, whether in local government or in one of the large co-operations as Indian society rapidly becomes more industrialised. Over the four weeks, the volunteers renovated a number of class rooms in a local secondary school.
- 3 Agriculture, which is the back bone of the rural community, bearing in mind the size of the population. While they were there, they visited paddy fields, met many cows! (which are still sacred in Indian society), seen the key role horticulture plays in feeding the local community and assisted in the construction of a poly-tunnel.

Even though it is illegal under the constitution, the 'caste system' still plays an important part in the lives of people living in rural communities throughout India.

As a result of their endeavours, it is quite likely that there will be a long term project relationship between the Society for UCD Volunteers Overseas and the people of Tamil Nadu in South India. Funds permitting, George hopes to return as a volunteer for a longer period before he completes his studies at UCD.

NEXT MEETING OF THE DCM COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR SAT. 4TH. APRIL IN THE WOODLANDS HOTEL, ADARE AT 10.45 A.M.

Dorothy Brislane Communications Officer
David Frizelle Secretary

United Diocesan Youth Council

PAST EVENTS

Fundraising Coffee Morning with Cake & Home Produce Sale

On Saturday 7th March our Fundraising Coffee Morning with Cake & Home Sale took place at Adare Methodist Hall. It was great to see so many people come together, some familiar faces with many new faces. All had a great chat over a lovely cup of coffee or tea with a scone. There was a great variety of cakes, marmalade, cupcakes, biscuits, eggs, rhubarb, flowers, apple juice etc. We wish to thank everyone who came to support us and who brought lovely produce to sell. Also thank you for everyone involved in organising this event, it was a great success.



Some of the customers at UDYC Fundraising Coffee Morning with Cake and Home Produce Sale



Some of the helpers at UDYC Fundraising Coffee Morning and Cake & Home Produce Sale

Our Annual Fundraising Draw also took place where 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were announced. The winners were as follows: 1st Prize – Hilary Park – Limerick, 2nd Prize – Jackson Family – Aghancon and 3rd Prize – Eleanor Wakefield – Shinrone. Again, a massive thank you for everyone who sold and bought tickets.

APPEAL FOR INDIVIDUAL & PARISH DONATIONS

We simply would like to also record a huge THANK – YOU to every individual, family, group and parishes for all of the donations received to date. All of these donations have absolutely helped to make a huge difference to UDYC finances.

FUTURE EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 4th of April 2020 at 2.30 pm for Refreshments with meeting commencing at 3 pm in Basement Meeting Room, Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, Limerick City. We would appreciate attendance from as many people as possible.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553/ edhardy70@gmail.com or Valerie Walker 085 2832487/ vwalker@tcd.ie or myself. Please see UDYC Facebook & Instagram page.

Until next time;

Kate O'Brien

0867303268/ kateobrien1706@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Our annual Prize Day took place on Friday 28th February with Mayor Michael Sheahan as our invited guest. This was the first time a mayor had visited the school so it was a special occasion. We were not disappointed as Mayor Sheahan wore his chain of office and told us all about the work of the mayor. He brought along his bodyguard to mind the chain of office! He also brought his 'everyday' chain and the youngest and oldest pupils in the school were allowed to try it on! He presented every pupil with a prize for their efforts in 2019. Following the prizegiving, parents and friends were invited to the senior classroom where 6th class pupils served tea and coffee and lots of home-made treats. The money raised, €340, has been given to the Make a Wish Foundation and Animal Shelter. Well done to the pupils in 5th and 6th classes for all the delicious treats and for their organisational skills.

We were delighted to welcome Gareth and his team from Postal Bible Times for our annual prizegiving in early March. As usual there was lots of singing, stories and games before everyone was presented with their prize.

Our Gaelic football skills are being honed at the moment as Jerome Stack visits the school every week to teach us new skills. He works with all age groups and all the pupils look forward to his coaching classes.

The senior pupils were invited to sing at the Women's World Day of Player in Embury Close on Friday 6th March.



Gaelic football training in Adare



All dressed and ready for Lá Gaeilge in Adare

All the sporting events scheduled for the end of March and April have been postponed or cancelled due to the spread of the coronavirus. SeachtainnaGaeilge was celebrated in school just before St. Patrick's Day with lots of activities through Irish with the emphasis on speaking Irish in and around the school. We held a LáGaeilge on March 11th when we all dressed up in green, white or gold and spent the day taking part in fun activities. We had a treasure hunt as Gaeilge, when competing groups had to follow the clues and collect letters. Finally they had to work out the answer from the letters collected. This was followed by a TráthnagCeist (quiz) with mixed teams. There was a mix of easy and difficult questions which suited all age groups. We finished off with some Irish dancing in the playground. Bhisportagusspraoiaggachduine.



Irish dancing in Adare

As we come to terms with the closure of all schools until the end of March, teachers will engage with pupils via e-mail and send work home until we re-open.

This is a very difficult time for everyone and we hope and pray that all our staff, families and friends remain safe and healthy.

St. Mary's National School, Nenagh

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

William Wordsworth – "I wandered lonely as a cloud"

The longer days and dancing daffodils are here again. This spring time sees a host of activities at St Mary's.

A huge thank-you is offered to Our Parents' Association who organised the Valentine's raffle. 160 euro was raised towards funding part of our school tour this summer term. Thanks are also due to the families who supported the Cash4Clobber initiative at school.

World Book Day took place on 5th March and every pupil had the chance to visit Nenagh Bookshop to choose a free book. It was a lovely experience for all and we thank Nenagh Bookshop for their kindness, warm welcome and patient answering of many, many questions!



World Book Day March 2020 St Mary's No. 2 NS

On 12th March we braved the elements for our school sponsored walk. The pupils greatly enjoyed the activity and it was for a great cause, so thank you to everyone, pupils, staff and parents, who donned their trainers to facilitate the event.

Our school Aquatics programme takes place at Nenagh Pool on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of March.

Wellbeing Wednesday will take place on 25th March and 29th April. On Thursday 2nd April the boys and girls of the Senior Classes will run a school Mini-fair. There will be a cake stall, book stall and some fun activities for all. As ever, we are grateful to our dedicated parents who help and support these events.

On 3rd April the entire school community will don old clothes for our annual 'Spring-Clean' of our school grounds.

School will close at 12.00 on 3rd April and 12.30 on April 29th to facilitate Staff Training.

Saint Michael's National School, Limerick

SAINT MICHAEL'S CHOIR

Christmas wouldn't be the same
If Saint Michael's Choir never came,
But faithfully they come each year
And fill our hearts with Christmas cheer.

They all walk down – hail, rain or snow
And give us all a lovely show,
With songs we've heard from long ago
And new ones too that we don't know.

Enthralled we listen, ah the bliss
X-Factor's not a patch on this!
(Rose O'Connor, Richmond Terrace resident)

The school received this beautifully worded poem from a resident in Richmond Terrace, Limerick, when our school choir paid their annual Christmas visit to bring festive cheer. What a heartfelt compliment and show of appreciation, linking the school and the older generation in the wider community.

Our pupils in Saint Michael's NS are very privileged to have opportunities to participate in Dance and Music Generation classes. Junior, and Senior Infants and First Class have enjoyed six weeks of wonderful dance classes with Angela. The obvious progress from the first class to the last has been amazing! Boys and girls alike have adored learning new ways to dance and the freedom to use our precious Hall for indoor pursuits is so welcome. Pupils from Second to Sixth Classes have equally enjoyed musical education with Steve every Friday this year. They are composing, listening, responding and performing musical activities within their own peer age setting. For those pupils who take music lessons outside of school hours, it has been a great opportunity to share their own talents and instruments with their classmates.



Junior Infants in World Book Day costumes

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday March 6th by inviting all pupils and staff to dress up as favourite book characters. The response was inspiring and very imaginative! A makeshift catwalk in the Hall allowed each class to model their costumes and share their ideas with other classes. We feel that this celebration of World Book Day greatly heightens the awareness and magic of the importance and delight reading gives each of us.

As per usual here in Saint Michael's NS, we go on our school trips out of the usually busy summer term. Fifth and Sixth Classes kickstarted this year's tours with a visit to Mitchelstown Caves, Cahir Castle and the Rock of Cashel. The bus journey alone is a delight for pupils to enjoy. The mix of the ancient world of underground cave formations as well as the real-life experience of spending time in very old buildings and ruins, had a memorable impact on all who attended. We were blessed with a dry, sunny day in the midst of our incessant wet weather of late!



Fifth and Sixth Classes at the entrance to Mitchelstown Caves

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

We were delighted to welcome Gareth, Margaret, Noel and Anne from the Postal Bible School to our school for the Annual Presentation and Prize giving. This was a great occasion when pupils received prizes for the work they carried out during the previous calendar year. We are very grateful to the Postal Bible School not only for the wonderful array of prizes, but also for all that the Postal Bible School does for us throughout the year

Well done to our teams who took part in the FAI Primary School 5s Competition at Ballmackey FC. The girls were in action first and put in tremendous performances on the day. Congratulations to both teams and especially to Aimee, Tabitha, Erin, Ella, Olive and Alina on Team B who got through to the final, won the final and progress to the next round. Unfortunately the competition for the boys was called off on the day due to inclement weather conditions. Thank you very much to James Scott, Football Development Officer North Tipperary and to his team of helpers, for all their work organizing these events.

To mark World Book Day 2020 all classes enjoyed a visit to Sheelagh na Gig bookshop in Cloughjordan where they got a chance to use their World Book Day vouchers.

Thank you very much to Declan Gaffney, once again, for his weekly visits to our garden tunnel, showing us all how to plant and care for our plants. Due to the sudden closure of schools the children brought home their plants sooner than expected – a surprise early gift this year for Mother's Day!

We were delighted to welcome Richard Clarke and Leroy Kulczynski to school to teach a Safe Cycling Course to our 5th and 6th Class pupils. We are very grateful to An Taisce for part subsidising this

course. Unfortunately the course has been affected by school closure, we hope it can be completed at a future date.

As these notes are being submitted school closure announced by An Taoiseach has just commenced. We hope that all will stay well during this outbreak of Covid-19 and that people will look after each other as best they can during this time of uncertainty.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine



St John's and Kiltallagh National Schools Service

St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

St. John's Parochial School is a National School situated in the heart of Tralee town, under the patronage and management of the Church of Ireland. The ethos of the Church of Ireland is upheld in the school; however, we welcome and respect children of all denominations, faiths, and none.

This is a three-teacher school with modern facilities in an accessible location. We welcome prospective parents to visit our school at any time during the school day.

The children were very excited to start The Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme, managed by Bord Bia, which aims to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables.

For World Book Day we visited Tralee Library. The children enjoyed Interactive Storytime and afterwards they selected their own books and carried out paired reading. For some children this was their first time at the library. Thanks to Tralee Library for inviting us.

The children were treated to delicious pancakes on Shrove "Pancake" Tuesday thanks to Martha and Karina. On Ash Wednesday, we were delighted to be joined by Kiltallagh NS for a Service in St. John's Church. The children sang and read beautifully. Afterwards we were treated to pizza in Teach an tSolais and some fun in the school yard. A huge Thank You to Ger Brick for the exceptional and thought-provoking talk on internet safety for our senior room and parents. Information is key to keeping our children safe online and Ger shared a wealth of tips and strategies with parents to help protect the children of our school. Hopefully he has helped fuel the conversation regarding safe internet use in every home.

Bhí na ranganna sínsearach ag foghlaim faoi tearmaí a bhaineann le eadaí agus feisteas. Bhain siad sult as a bheith gleasta i bfeisteas difriúil

David Tough
Board Member
087-6428560

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

LEAF PROGRAMME

As I mentioned in last month's notes we in Rathkeale 2 NS are taking part in An Taisce's LEAF (Learning About Forests) Programme. Part of the programme involves some classroom work on forests or trees. We've discovered that according to the Celtic horoscope everyone has a birth tree, similar to a star sign, depending on which month you were born in. They believed that a person's birth tree influenced their personality. We had fun looking up our birth tree and reading about the various personality traits.



Enjoying the day in Curraghchase

The second part of the programme involved a visit to Curraghchase Forest Park with two members of the LEAF team. Our visit took place on Wednesday 26th February. After some warm up games in the car park we divided into two groups. The groups separated to explore different parts of the forest. Children got the opportunity to examine the forest floor, searching the habitat for mini beasts, using magnifying glasses and eye lenses. They were reminded of the importance of the decomposers and also of the vital role trees play in producing oxygen. We spent some time estimating the age of trees by measuring the circumference of the tree at a height of 1.5 metres. We also spent some quiet time simply listening to the sounds of nature.



Measuring the age of a tree.

While the weather was not exactly spring like there were some signs of spring coming to Curraghchase. We discovered several different types of tree seeds which had begun to germinate. We located a giant redwood tree and were all amazed at how soft and spongy the bark is. This helps prevent the tree from burning in forest fires in its native California. Finally we stopped at the ruins of Curraghchase House which is now the home to the lesser horseshoe bat, one of Ireland's protected species.



Time for a break!

We look forward to one of the LEAF team visiting our school in May for a school based day.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We marked World Book Day in early March. Pupils in the junior classroom brought in some of their favourite books and pupils from the senior classroom took turns to read from them. All pupils received a World Book Day book voucher.

OPEN HOUR

Our Open Hour, giving new pupils an opportunity to see the school took place on Wednesday 11th March. We are now taking applications for September 2020. Please contact the school for an application form. The closing date for receipt of applications is March 31st 2020.

The Glebe National School, Aughrim



Villiers School



Congratulations to Bryan Smyth, Jack Haverty and Aaron Maunsell who collected their national student awards today for achieving joint 1st place in Junior Cert HL and OL Technology respectively.

Rugby: Great result for Villiers School rugby when our Senior Boys progress to the Mungret cup semi-final following a 13-13 draw vs Middleton CBS in a Titanic battle (2T vs 1T decided the game). However, it was hard luck today for our SCT who were knocked out of cup action today by Middleton College on a scoreline of 22-5. We are proud of this young team who represented the school so well this year. Thanks boys.

Hockey: An unfortunate result in the semi-final as our seniors lost out to Newtown but thank you to all our wonderful students, parents and past pupils who supported us - best of luck to Newtown School in the final.

Villiers are very proud of Tiarnan Gaffney who was capped as an U16 Irish Hockey International player - fantastic achievement Tiarnan. Congratulations to all those who took part in the regional finals for Junk Couture. We had 4 teams representing Villiers. A wonderful achievement.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

It is with some regret that we have had to cancel our upcoming Camino trip due to the Covid19 Virus. A lot of disappointment in the air but we went back to our original purpose for the trip which was to raise funds for disabled children in Uganda and this has been a wonderful success. All is quiet here in Villiers as I write this due to the school closure but I am certain that all will be well once again. It is time to talk calmly to our students, particularly those in exam years and not get too anxious about current events. I have been giving a message to all our community in the last few days and weeks, which is based on that wonderful piece of scripture; 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mk 12:30-31).

I think that this is such an important message particularly at the moment in our society. Our behaviour towards others and our concern for others is an attitude that we need to practice now more than ever. Young people learn from the way that we behave so we should be modelling good behaviour not only in regards to our health but also in our everyday lives. There are many reasons why people behave in particular ways. We often learn our behaviour from those around us, whether they are family, friends or peers. In some cases, this can be a good thing, but at other times, it can lead us into doing things that are not acceptable, and that we would not normally have considered taking part in. So rather than seeing images of panic shoppers wouldn't it be wonderful to see images of people looking out for the vulnerable, the elderly and each other. After all, as Christians that is precisely what we are called to do! How do we behave? Let's think carefully about the way in which we behave today. How does our behaviour affect others? Try to understand the effect that your actions might have on those around you as well as on yourself. Does your behaviour help others or hinder them? Do we listen to advice? Let's aim to take advice respectfully when it is given. Try and stay safe and remember to love each other, even those we don't know.

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for Villiers school and all in our community. Thank you for those who care for us and advise us on our life's journey. Please help us to think about the effect that our actions have upon other people. Help us to think of others before ourselves. Amen

Until next time,

Blessings and peace

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Praise God... and wash your hands!

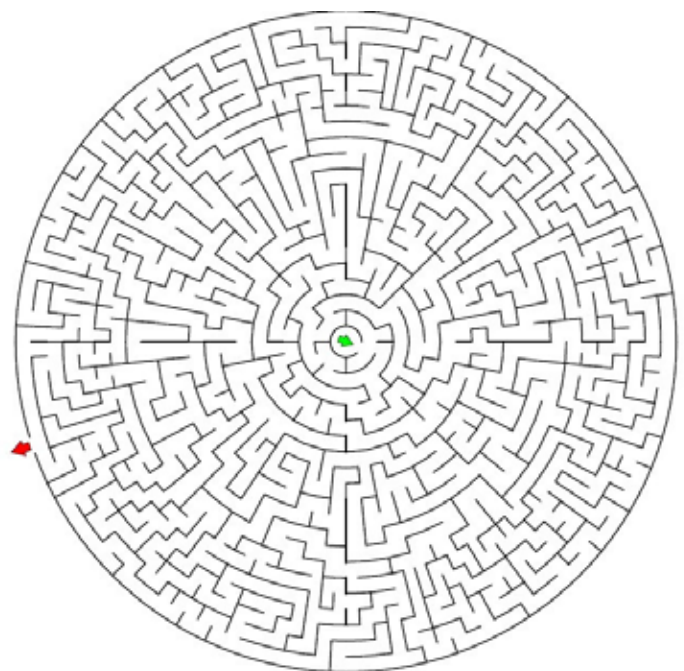
Public health advice is to wash our hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds during the Corona virus emergency. As an alternative to singing "Happy Birthday" twice to time your handwashing, why not try singing the Doxology?

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Listen to it at: youtu.be/sEjc2esWNas



Choristers singing the Doxology



EASTER: the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may

have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

Who moved the stone?

Editor: By the Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training. More details at: www.Charistraining.co.uk.

'When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.' Mark 16:4

Frank Morrison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to disprove the claims of Christ, specifically focussed on the last week of His life.

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, he was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again. In the end he wrote a different kind of book called 'Who Moved the Stone?' with the first chapter entitled, 'The book that refused to be written.'

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves

that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

Passionflower

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.

God in the Garden – Death stalks the garden

Murder was done in my garden a few days ago. The wings and feathers of an unfortunate wood pigeon lie strewn over the flowerbed beside the water-filled famine pot where pigeons often come to drink. And I think I know the culprit: next day I spotted the feral cat we often see skulking close by, no doubt hoping for another meal. I wrote murder, but that is the wrong word. The cat was simply doing what God has created cats to do, and deserves no moral blame. Cats kill to eat, and God feeds cats as well as people.



The pigeon's wings & feathers



The culprit – a feral cat

We all know that a different killer is stalking God's wider garden just now – the Covid-19 corona virus – and we human beings are its prey. It appears that for most the disease is quite mild. It kills a proportion of both older people like me and those with pre-existing conditions, though even for these 90% or so will recover. The Chinese and the Koreans seem to have brought it under some control, and we can pray that we in Europe will do so too, but I think most of us will be infected eventually. Lives can be saved if we succeed in reducing the rate that it spreads ('flattening the curve'), so that the health service is not overwhelmed, and those who need intensive care can get it. This is why it is so important for us to follow official public health

guidance. Let us be the good people God has made us to be by doing so, showing God's love to our neighbours.

I do not fear death, though I hope to stay around to see the grandchildren grow up, and perhaps to welcome their children. I am apprehensive about dying, dreading indignity and suffering, but perhaps Covid-19 is not the worst death.

The way I see it is this. My life from birth to death is like a 3 dimensional string in the 4 dimensions of space-time, starting at birth and ending in death. My life-string twines around the life-strings of every other person I encounter along the way, including family, friends, neighbours and strangers. God is not constrained by dimensions and sees the whole of my life-string, from birth to death. God judges me as a function of the love I show, both for him and for every person my life-string touches, summed over the whole of my life-string, because love is what pleases God. And despite the times I have displeased him, I believe that God is forgiving and will always love me, always love the whole of my life-string, just as he sees and loves everyone else's. This, to me, is eternal life, why I do not fear death.

And God's garden is full of life as well as death. While we worry about Covid-19, the natural world burgeons and unfolds as the days lengthen, this year as every year. The buds of *Magnolia stellata* in my garden have opened already. The pussy willow is yellow with pollen for the bees. And other pigeons are billing and cooing, getting ready to raise a new generation.



Magnolia stellata bursting into flower



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Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon & Tuamgraney

Dean: The Very Revd Rod Smyth

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Dean's Vicar: Revd Paul Fitzpatrick

Mob: 089 498 0495



Bishop Kearon, Very Rev'd Rod Smyth, Dean of Killaloe and Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick, Dean's Vicar

CASTLECONNELL

Well, notes for this month are sparse, as cancelation of so many events, (bar Cheltenham!!!!) has resulted in little to report on.

While much of our lives seem to have ground to a halt, the Corona virus (COVID-19) has forced us to look at how we can all behave as responsible citizens and obey the rules.

This is a chance to become a community again, to look out for our neighbours and to play our part in beating the virus.

With so much doom and gloom around it was brilliant to hear how Sean and Margaret Jackson's daughter Lucy and her drummers performed in full regalia, for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their recent visit to Galway. Lucy was spokesperson to meet the Royal couple and to shake hands with them. This, I hasten to add, was before the mandatory elbow bump was instigated.

In every parish there are people who take on responsibilities for the smooth running of all the unseen and thankless jobs that are part and parcel of keeping a community running smoothly. Audrey O'Brien is Secretary of the select vestry and for years she has done so much thankless work. From organizing meetings, printing forms, recording minutes, notifying members, compiling data and general secretarial jobs. On top of this she participates with all the other ladies, in the church cleaning, the tea and coffee, served every Sunday and takes her turn providing flowers on her allocated month.

Thank you Audrey for all that you do for this parish.

While we are handing out accolades, we are also indebted to Paul Butler and Leslie Hartigan who repaired a number of the worn hammers of the eight chimes and the damaged bell ropes. While up in such lofty heights they also secured bird access to the belfry and removed copious bags of debris.

Finally we wish Tom Tyrell well, as he continues his treatment and we welcome John Jarvis back, fully recovered after a nasty health scare.

Barbara@hartigan.ie

The Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly R42 FF90

Telephone: 057-912-0021 Mobile: 087-786-5234

email: mapleire@gmail.com

COVID-19

At this writing, we have just been informed of Bishop Kenneth's recommendation (in line with that of other Church leaders) that we should cancel all church services until at least the 29th of March. None of us, of course, have any idea of how or where this is going. If you are able, check our parish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes) for news of any possible resumption of services, of Easter services, and of Easter Vestry meetings. In the meantime, keep in your prayers those who are especially vulnerable to the virus, in our parishes and in our society, those already sick, and the health care professionals and others who are treating and caring for those who are affected.

PRAYERS

In addition, in our prayers we continue to remember Frances Ardill, Betty Eades, Violet Harding, Barbara Haslam, Keele Haslam, Tom Hayes, Iris Dyer, Brian & Elyse Thompson, and young Saoirse Gill.

DOROTHY OAKLEY

On Monday, 2nd March, Dorothy Oakley passed away peacefully after a short illness. Her funeral was conducted by the Revd Isaac Delamere, assisted by Archdeacon Carney and Canon Ruth Gill, in St Catherine's Church, Tullamore. Sincere condolences to husband Geoff, brother Dickie Abbot, sister Iris Ralph, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nephews, nieces, extended family, neighbours and friends.

NEW ARRIVALS!

Congratulations to Dermot and Lorraine Burke on the birth of their daughter, Emily, and to Roy and Claire Gill on the birth of their son, Conor. Both are grandchildren of Henry and Anne Gill. Congratulations, too, to Ross and Amy Jackson on the birth of their son, Luke, a younger brother for Adam, and a grandson for Barbara and Arthur. Much continued growth for Dorrha and Lockeen parishes!

LENTEN SERVICES

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we had been planning a series of celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in the homes of parishioners. Many thanks to Suzanne Corcoran and Whitten and Linda Gill, who hosted the first two evenings which were comprised of the Eucharist and a short Bible Study. We were due to visit Diane Dagg, David and Joy Frizelle, and Lord and Lady Rosse for the next three Wednesdays, until Covid-19 put paid to the whole enterprise.

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

Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336

eMail: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Roscrea-Group-of-Parishes

ALL-STARS AWARD 2020 Congratulations to David McCorduck on receiving an All-stars award for captaining the rugby team winners of the Manseragh Cup 1970. Rumour has it he still keeps his boots under his pew...may not be rugby boots!

A NEW INITIATIVE A get-together and chat with Roscrea and Dunkerrin Asylum Seekers takes place on Wednesdays 11.00 till 12.00 noon. Everyone is welcome to join in the activities in the Youth centre opposite the Old St.Cronan's School, Gaol Rd.


CONGRATULATIONS to Revd. Rod Smyth rector on Nenagh Group of Parishes on his appointment to St.Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe as Dean and to Priest-assistant to Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick who will work with the new Dean in Nenagh and Killaloe.

WELCOME Revd. Olive Henderson to Banagher and as Priest-in-Charge of Clonfert Group.



St. Brendan's Society visiting Roscrea.

ST.BRENDAN'S SOCIETY whose emphasis is all things Celtic came to visit St.Cronan's Church on Sunday March 8th. as part of their pilgrimage to Seir Ciarán. The small band of pilgrims led by Revd. Mairt Hanlry, rector of Baltinglass, were addressed by Mr. Adrian Hewson on the Celtic roots of St.Cronan and his move to Roscrea.



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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER took place in St.Cronan's (Col) on Friday March 6th. 2020. The service was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and led by Pam Troy Co-leader of the Elam Pentecostal Church in Roscrea and herself a native of Zimbabwe. The service included all four denominations in Roscrea taking part in an energetic liturgy not least because of Pam's special gift of singing. Mai Phelan was at the organ and Elam Oasis Roscrea, provided the African drums. The order of service offered suggestions for native food which Pam also supplied. Her native huts made of cake though,...no one had the heart to actually eat. The service moves on to the Methodist Church next year.

Covid -19 prevents notice of any near future dates with any certainty. Like everywhere else restrictions are in place. We look forward to the time in the not too distant future when our land will have beaten the virus.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey & Killodieran

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 087 970 6479

eMail: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

GFS DIOCESAN SERVICE

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 crisis the Diocesan GFS service which had been scheduled to take place in St Mary's Nenagh, on Saturday 21st March had to be postponed. This came as a great disappointment to all concerned, but it is hoped that, once we get through this immediate period of social distancing, the service will be rescheduled so that we can all celebrate the achievements of the girls over this past year.

ECO CONGREGATION AUDIT

During this winter, the Select Vestry asked a small working group to carry out an eco-congregation audit for the Nenagh Union. The working



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and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

Funded by TUSLA Child and Family Agency



group reported back to vestry with a very full report highlighting both strengths and weaknesses. The steering group identified three things on which to concentrate during the next year; firstly an ecumenical service to take place as part of Creation Tide, secondly an audit of what steps we might take to make reduce the carbon footprint of our Union and thirdly, an 'eco tip' section in each edition of the parish newsletter. In addition, during Lent, and linking in with our Lenten bible study on 'Caring for the Garden of the Earth,' a detailed leaflet was issued with the March newsletter detailing how parishioners might seek to use less plastic during Lent as part of their Lenten discipline.

INSTALLATION IN KILLALOE

The Installation Service of Rev'd Rod Smyth as Dean of Killaloe and Priest-in-Charge of the Killaloe and Stardbally Unions of parishes, and the Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean's Vicar to serve in the Killaloe, Stardbally and Nenagh Unions had to be cancelled due to the present government restrictions. The necessary formalities, whereby the Very Rev'd Rod Smyth was installed as Dean of Killaloe and Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean's Vicar, took place privately..

A particular set of circumstances very often calls for thinking outside the box, and that is what has been taking place over the last twelve months in Killaloe. The result is what one might describe as a novel arrangement, as two full-time clergy take up the challenge of ministry in a larger ministerial area, stretching all the way from Mountshannon to Templederry.

The simple fact of the matter is that, across the diocese, the effectiveness of rural ministry is being challenged by decreasing numbers and the considerable distances involved. Indeed, at Diocesan Council level, there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving and automatically being replaced by another, are probably over. New creative models of ministry are having to be explored, and this arrangement may well be the first of many team ministries of various types and descriptions, covering larger ministerial areas, in the future

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Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney & Ballingarry

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

Tel: 0505 42183 Mob: 087 203 9333

eMail: terrym438@gmail.com

Eco-Congregation Cloughjordan, an ecumenical initiative of all three Churches, held its first public meeting on the 2nd March week with a well-attended talk and discussion about Fair Trade, in particular Fair Trade chocolate.

Journalist Ollie Moore, who recently travelled to cocoa cooperatives in Ghana, gave a slideshow with audio recordings of the people he met.

Ollie showed a picture of a single water tap, bought thanks to Fair Trade income, which transformed life in a village similar in size to Cloughjordan – one tap for the whole community. It meant women and children no longer had to make the three kilometre walk each way to draw water. Other evidence of the real benefit of Fair Trade to these communities was construction of schools, hospital and bridges and the purchasing of school books.

He showed pictures of how the cocoa pods grow, about 40 directly up the trunk of the cocoa tree. During the harvest women harvest about 600 cocoa pods by hand with machetes. These are then chopped open to reveal about 30 beans in a sweet-tasting, jelly-like substance. The beans are then dried over about a week. The empty pods are used for making soap.

Most of the producers live in extreme poverty, on less than a €1 a day. Ten really powerful companies control the world's cocoa plantations, explained Peter Gaynor (CEO of Fairtrade Mark Ireland), with child labour and an estimated 30,000 people in slavery in the West African cocoa industry.

"Most of the world's chocolate is eaten in the EU, so we need human rights standards to be put in place for chocolate," he said. "Our Government must join with other EU governments to put in place accountable standards. In 2018 there were chocolate sales here of €615 million so the Irish Government earned €115 million in VAT on the back of the poorest in the world."

He urged people to press our political representatives to push for such standards, in addition to taking responsibility as consumers by choosing Fairtrade products, which are available in many shops.

He encouraged Cloughjordan to consider becoming a Fair Trade town, whereby the local community commits to buying Fair Trade and raising awareness of how it benefits the world's poorest. The evening finished with a tasting of Fair Trade tea, with three different teas from Aldi, Lidl and SuperValu Own Brand Fairtrade. And despite it being Lent, there were Fair Trade chocolates on offer too.

(Iva Pocock)

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Confirmation Classes and ecumenical Lenten Bible Study due to the coronavirus. The Confirmation Service has been postponed to November. We have also had to cancel Church Services for the rest of March and will advise congregants about services in April in due course.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Aghancon, Dunkerrin, Kinnity & Shinrone

Priest-in-Charge (Part-time): Rev Charles McCartney

Mob: 087 709 4468

eMail: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

We will advertise this month on our parish notice sheet due to the present national emergency and changing situation.

EASTER VESTRY

We had plans for Easter Vestry meetings and again we will advertise on our own notice sheet when the guidelines for meeting become clear.

EASTER SERVICES

We will advertise locally.

We have plans for our Youth group and the Select Vestries treated us to a very nice lunch out, the theme "you are important to us". Bishop Kenneth joined us for lunch and discussion, we look forward to a pet service and more integration of our youth. Plans are being developed, but again we must support the authorities as they fight Corona virus, this must be our main effort also. We have a photo of the group and we really do look forward to better times.



Shinrone Youth Group with Bishop Kenneth and Rev Charles. Cecilia hiding behind Charles!

We were very sorry to lose Rebecca Johnston 14th February 1925 - 3rd March 2020. The Funeral service was in Dunkerrin Church and we assure Daphne and her husband of our sorrow with them as a Church and also to the family circle.

The Rev Janet White-Spinner provided the Tribute and the Rev Terry Mitchell a Bible Reading and Sermon. The Rev Charles McCartney led the service and family members Great Grand Daughter Emma and Mum Amanda read from the Bible and a prayer poem.

Just as we go to press Dunkerrin has been notified of another funeral. We again are sorry to lose another member Sarah Clarke who passed away this morning Sunday 15th March and the Funeral planned for St Patrick's Day. We will be working with the Family to meet changing guidelines due to the present situation and a fuller report next month.

Again our prayers and support to both family connections at this sad time.

Very Sincerely

Thank you. Charles

Drumcliffe Union of Churches with Kilnasoolagh

(Ennis, Spanish Point, Newmarket on Fergus).

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Kevin O'Brien

Tel: 076 622 4784 eMail: frkevinobrien@me.com

Parish Website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

CAMINO INGLÉS PILGRIMAGE

This is a longer term project, as it can take a year to plan such a group event, but we are looking to gauge interest in walking the Camino Inglés, one of the routes to Santiago de Compostela. It is 118 km long and takes around 8-10 days if we start from El Ferrol. Alternatively, we may be able to complete 25km on Irish pilgrim walks that qualify towards the final certificate (see www.pilgrimpaths.ie) and then complete the final 75km from A Coruña (direct flights from Shannon). The way is relatively easy going (no mountains), it very much looks like Ireland, and we would cover around 15kms per day. There will be a presentation about the walk that gives more information after Easter, so at present we are only looking to have general expressions of interest from our people, rather than a firm commitment. We would probably look to walk in spring/early summer of 2021. Doing so as an ecumenical pilgrimage would be well worth considering. To whet people's appetite we shall be showing the movie "The Way" starring Martin Sheen, which is about the Camino walk to Santiago de Compostela. It is a moving and inspiring film – although we hope that our own pilgrimages won't be quite so dramatic!



Camino Ingles map

THE BIBLE CHALLENGE

One way people might like to keep Lent and beyond is to commit to read the Bible from cover to cover. We have produced an easy to use reading scheme where with three short readings each day you can complete the Bible in a year. Any Bible can be used although this particular scheme includes the Apocrypha readings. It also allows for people to start at any point in the year and progress at their own pace – if they miss a day or two, that is fine, as they can pick up where they left off. We are so used to Bible readings in church, but far fewer worshippers have ever read the Bible 'cover to cover'. This gives them a chance to do so, that is sustainable and achievable.

ONLINE SERVICES

Whilst our church services are temporarily suspended during the coronavirus preventative measures, we have started online services sooner than we had expected. We were already planning to develop live streaming of services in due course, but for the immediate need we are putting a simple weekly service on YouTube, based on the Service of the Word format. Each service will run for around 20-25 minutes and there will be a service sheet and pew sheet that people can either print or

view on their computer screen at the same time as the service runs. As time goes by, we may be able to add music and hymns, although there are copyright issues and we don't want the service to be too long. On the first weekend the Facebook posting received around 400 hits with nearly 200 views on YouTube – so that is a great encouragement to develop a proper fuller social media and web presence. We shall also be producing short talks and video clips to have regular reasons to 'tune in'. To that end we shall be integrating the various online channels with a 'branded' feel but also be aware that different people use online media in different ways and for different reasons. That means trying to anticipate why people might visit us and why. Certainly, in such a widely spread parish the use of modern communications may well be one of our key tools for the future.



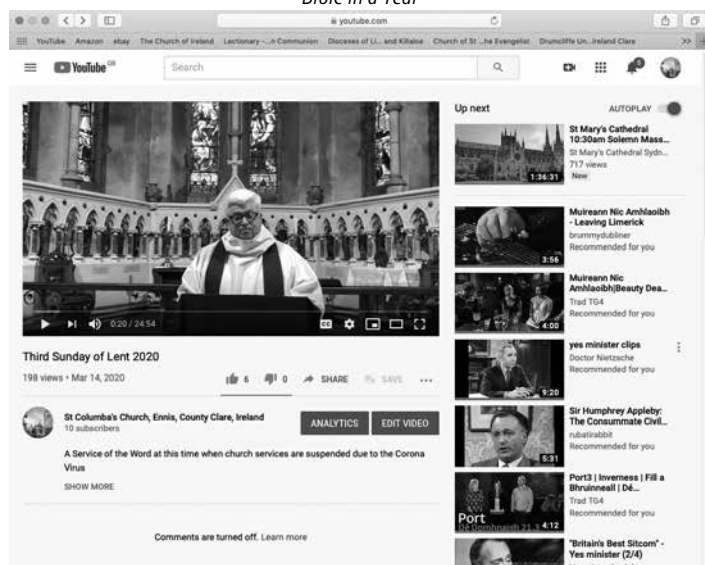
St Columba's Church, Ennis,
with Christ Church,
Spanish Point
and Kilnasoolagh

Read the Bible in One Year

Day 1 Gen 1 | Ps 1 | Mt 1:1-17
Day 2 Gen 2 | Ps 2 | Mt 1:18-25
Day 3 Gen 3 | Ps 3 | Mt 2
Day 4 Gen 4 | Ps 4 | Mt 3
Day 5 Gen 5:6-8 | Ps 5 | Mt 4
Day 6 Gen 6:9-7:24 | Ps 6 | Mt 5:1-20
Day 7 Gen 8-9 | Ps 7 | Mt 5:21-48
Day 8 Gen 10-11 | Ps 8 | Mt 6:1-18
Day 9 Gen 12-13 | Ps 9 | Mt 6:19-34
Day 10 Gen 14-15 | Ps 10 | Mt 7:1-14
Day 11 Gen 16-17 | Ps 11 | Mt 7:15-29
Day 12 Gen 18 | Ps 12 | Mt 8:1-17
Day 13 Gen 19 | Ps 13 | Mt 8:18-34
Day 14 Gen 20 | Ps 14 | Mt 9:1-17
Day 15 Gen 21 | Ps 15 | Mt 9:18-38
Day 16 Gen 22-23 | Ps 16 | Mt 10:1-23
Day 17 Gen 24 | Ps 17 | Mt 10:24-42
Day 18 Gen 25-26 | Ps 18:1-30 | Mt 11:1-15
Day 19 Gen 27 | Ps 18:31-51 | Mt 11:16-30
Day 20 Gen 28-29 | Ps 19 | Mt 12:1-21
Day 21 Gen 30 | Ps 20 | Mt 12:22-37
Day 22 Gen 31 | Ps 21 | Mt 12:38-50
Day 23 Gen 32-33 | Ps 22 | Mt 13:1-23
Day 24 Gen 34-35 | Ps 23 | Mt 13:24-43
Day 25 Gen 36-37 | Ps 24 | Mt 13:44-58
Day 26 Gen 38-39 | Ps 25 | Mt 14:1-21
Day 27 Gen 40-41 | Ps 26 | Mt 14:22-36
Day 28 Gen 42-43 | Ps 27 | Mt 15:1-20
Day 29 Gen 44-45 | Ps 28 | Mt 15:21-39
Day 30 Gen 46-47 | Ps 29 | Mt 16
Day 31 Gen 48-49:27 | Ps 30 | Mt 17
Day 32 Gen 49:28-50:26 | Ps 31 | Mt 18:1-20
Day 33 Ex 1-2 | Ps 32 | Mt 18:21-35
Day 34 Ex 3-4 | Ps 33 | Mt 19:1-15
Day 35 Ex 5-6 | Ps 34 | Mt 19:16-30

Day 36 Ex 7-8 | Ps 35 | Mt 20:1-16
Day 37 Ex 9 | Ps 36 | Mt 20:17-34
Day 38 Ex 10-11 | Ps 37 | Mt 21:1-22
Day 39 Ex 12 | Ps 38 | Mt 21:23-46
Day 40 Ex 13-14 | Ps 39 | Mt 22:1-22
Day 41 Ex 15 | Ps 40 | Mt 22:23-46
Day 42 Ex 16-17 | Ps 41 | Mt 23:1-22
Day 43 Ex 18-19 | Ps 42-43 | Mt 23:23-39
Day 44 Ex 20-21 | Ps 44 | Mt 24:1-22
Day 45 Ex 22-23 | Ps 45 | Mt 24:23-44
Day 46 Ex 24-25 | Ps 46 | Mt 24:45-25:13
Day 47 Ex 26-27 | Ps 47-48 | Mt 25:14-30
Day 48 Ex 28 | Ps 49 | Mt 25:31-46
Day 49 Ex 29-30 | Ps 50 | Mt 26:1-25
Day 50 Ex 31-33 | Ps 51 | Mt 26:26-46
Day 51 Ex 34-35 | Ps 52 | Mt 26:47-75
Day 52 Ex 36-38 | Ps 53-54 | Mt 27:1-26
Day 53 Ex 39-40 | Ps 55 | Mt 27:27-50
Day 54 Lev 1-3 | Ps 56 | Mt 27:51-66
Day 55 Lev 4-5 | Ps 57 | Mt 28
Day 56 Lev 6-7 | Ps 58 | Acts 1
Day 57 Lev 8-9 | Ps 59 | Acts 2:1-21
Day 58 Lev 10-11 | Ps 60 | Acts 2:22-47
Day 59 Lev 12-13 | Ps 61 | Acts 3
Day 60 Lev 14 | Ps 62 | Acts 4:1-22
Day 61 Lev 15-16 | Ps 63 | Acts 4:23-37
Day 62 Lev 17-18 | Ps 64 | Acts 5:1-16
Day 63 Lev 19-20 | Ps 65 | Acts 5:17-42
Day 64 Lev 21-22 | Ps 66 | Acts 6
Day 65 Lev 23-24 | Ps 67 | Acts 7:1-30
Day 66 Lev 25 | Ps 68 | Acts 7:31-60
Day 67 Lev 26-27 | Ps 69 | Acts 8:1-24
Day 68 Num 1-2 | Ps 70 | Acts 8:25-40
Day 69 Num 3-4 | Ps 71 | Acts 9:1-22
Day 70 Num 5-6 | Ps 72 | Acts 9:23-43
Day 71 Num 7 | Ps 73 | Acts 10:1-23
Day 72 Num 8-9 | Ps 74 | Acts 10:24-48
Day 73 Num 10-11 | Ps 75 | Acts 11
Day 74 Num 12-13 | Ps 76 | Acts 12
Day 75 Num 14-15 | Ps 77 | Acts 13:1-25
Day 76 Num 16-17 | Ps 78:1-35 | Acts 13:26-52
Day 77 Num 18-19 | Ps 78:36-72 | Acts 14
Day 78 Num 20-21 | Ps 79 | Acts 15:1-21
Day 79 Num 22-23 | Ps 80 | Acts 15:22-41
Day 80 Num 24-25 | Ps 81 | Acts 16:1-16
Day 81 Num 26-27 | Ps 82 | Acts 16:17-40
Day 82 Num 28-29 | Ps 83 | Acts 17:1-15
Day 83 Num 30-31 | Ps 84 | Acts 17:16-34
Day 84 Num 32-33 | Ps 85 | Acts 18
Day 85 Num 34-35 | Ps 86 | Acts 19:1-20
Day 86 Num 36 | Ps 87 | Acts 19:21-40

Bible in a Year



Drumcliffe YouTube

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Union of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardahan, Clontuskert & Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

Tel: 0909 673 735

Mob: 087 900 8085

eMail: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

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

We offer our deepest sympathies to Mary Clegg, of Ardahan Church, on the death of her sister Phyllis.

The baptism of Zoey Onyia took place in a private service on March 15th in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim. We wish every blessing upon Zoey and her parents Ogechi and Emmanuel.



Baptism of Zoey Onyia in Aughrim

St Catherine's Church, Ahascragh hosted an uplifting community service on Sunday 23rd February. Following an unfortunate act of vandalism there, in which the church exterior was defaced with graffiti, St Catherine's was packed to capacity at that service with well-wishers from the parish and wider community. Sincere thanks go to all who went out of their way to show their support, not least to Father Christy McCormac and to Sinn Féin councillor Dermot Connolly who took part in the service. The outpouring of goodwill towards us has been quite extraordinary. Within days of that vandalism, local volunteers had scrubbed down the church signpost, repainted the church door and sandblasted the walls. We are also grateful to the team in Mountbelliew Garda Station who successfully apprehended the young offenders.

The beginning of Lent was marked by a special Ash Wednesday service in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim, on February 26th, at which we were joined by the students, staff and families of The Glebe National School. There was a most welcome community engagement with this year's Lenten Bible study course, Caring for the Garden of the Earth, hosted in the Glebe NS, which was led ecumenically by the rector and Father Gerard Gerarghty. The course has been encouraging us to reflect on ways in which our Christian communities can take a lead in serving and preserving the garden of the earth, including through the creative use of our church properties. We hope that the conversations begun during the classes will continue to feed the spiritual journey which our community is on, as we work together to develop the Aughrim Climate Action Park. St John's Mother's Union have been reflecting on similar themes, inspired by a talk given by the President of the local Bee

Keepers' Association, Anne Towers, on March 10th.

We were most grateful to Bishop Patrick Rooke and Dean Alistair Grimason for the invitation for the clergy and readers to attend the annual Lenten Quiet Day in Tuam Cathedral on March 4th, which was led by the Bishop of Clogher. Such opportunities for our dioceses to grow together in faith and fellowship are a source of great joy.

World Book Day was celebrated in style in The Glebe NS, Aughrim, where parents were invited to visit the classroom throughout the day to read to the children, and to enjoy the dioramas which the children had created about their own favourite stories.

The theme of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, was 'Take up your mat and walk!' Sincere thanks go to the enthusiastic team who met over a number of weeks to pray and prepare for the ecumenical service held in Creagh Church on March 5th.

In response to the health measures announced by the government on March 12th to contain the spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus, all services and parish events here have been cancelled for the coming weeks. We hope that by working together to maintain such social distancing measures, vulnerable people in our community can be protected from the disease. .

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt & Portumna

Rector: Rev. Olive Henderson (Institution on Friday, 6th March, 2020)

Mob: 086 142 3922 eMail: olivevnest@hotmail.com

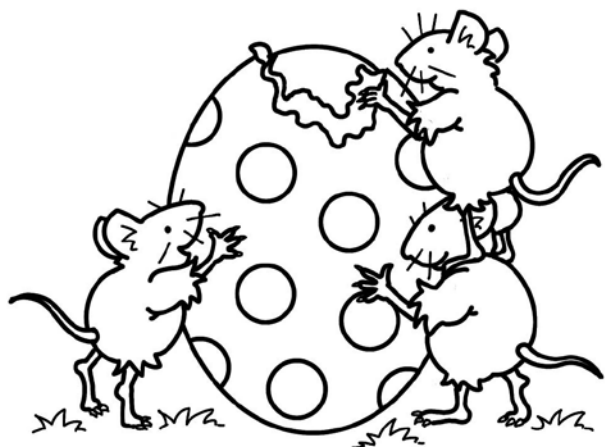
Priest-in-Charge: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

eMail: mapleire@gmail.com



Rev Olive Henderson installation as Priest in Charge for Clonfert Group of Parishes
photo courtesy of Rose Mannion of Midland Tribune



Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane

Tel: 061 310 293 eMail: dean@limerick.anglican.org

Curate Assistant: Rev'd Edna Wakely

eMail: curate@limerick.anglican.org

Tel: 061 302 038 Mob: 086 357 4917

Parish Website: www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org

www.facebook.com/limerickcp/

Saint Mary's Cathedral: www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

www.facebook.com/stmaryscathedrallimerick/

www.twitter.com/stmaryslimerick

Saint John's, Abington: www.facebook.com/AbingtonChurch/

'Newslink Distributor': Gillian Cheatley

FROM THE DEAN

Clerical Moves

By the time we go to press, the Rev'd Paul Fitzpatrick will have been installed as Dean's Vicar in Killaloe. We thank him for his ministry amongst us and wish him well in Nenagh & Killaloe.

The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory has appointed the Rev'd Edna Wakely to the incumbency of Castlecomer in the Diocese of Ossory. This group of 4 parishes is situated in County Kilkenny.

Edna will finish her ministry here in the coming weeks and suitable opportunity to acknowledge her ministry amongst us will be organised. A date for Edna's institution will be announced shortly. Please do pray for Edna at this time of transition.



The Clergy Team in Limerick City Parish

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Annual Community Awards took place in the Cathedral on Sunday 16th February. This year's recipient was Mrs Veronica Rowe whose contribution to the cultural life of the city was acknowledged. At the service the Dean presented some €10,000 in donations to local charities arising from fundraising activities within the parish in the latter part of 2019.



Community Awards

NICHOLAS ST AWARD

Now in its 14th year, the 2020 All Ireland Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA took place on Saturday 15th February 2020 in Croke Park Stadium. These awards recognised and celebrated community and councils working together. They provide a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within our communities, to reward our unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they've made to our lives. We were delighted that the Nicholas St Painting Project (featured last month) was nominated for an award.

MOTHERS' UNION

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

WHIST DRIVES

As another season draws to a close, we thank all those who support the Whist drives. In particular, we thank Tracey Lyttle, Noreen Johnston, Gillian Cheatley, Margo Marsden and Margaret Brickenden who look after proceedings in Saint Michael's.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Sunday 23rd February in Saint John's, Abington – Caoilinn Rachel Hayes, daughter of Amy & Peter, and granddaughter of Joe and Lucy Kavanagh.

SYMPATHY

We extend our prayers and thoughts to all those who have recently been bereaved, among them Richard and Margaret Brickenden who have both had the bereavement of an aunt in the last month.

CHAPTER NEWS

We welcome the Very Rev'd Rod Smyth to the joint chapters of Limerick, Killaloe & Clonfert.



Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

Tel: 061 396 227 Mob: 087 719 9750

eMail: revlizadare@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.adarekilmallock.org

As we all know, events are changing daily, even hourly, because of the virus Covid-19. So what is written here – in mid-March – might be completely changed by the time this issue appears at the beginning of April.

In the Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes, we held a service in Adare on 15 March, but cancelled services in the other three parishes. Worship and prayer are crucial during difficult times such as this, and so worship was held for anyone who wished to attend. We had 21. We all figured that in St. Nicholas Church, it is easy for people to sit a metre apart, and we were not going to run the risk of having more than 100 people in attendance!

As of this writing, the plan is to continue having worship in Adare

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

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Thompson Undertakers
Limerick

on upcoming Sundays, but this remains open to change, depending on advice and regulations coming from the government and the Church of Ireland. If we do continue with worship, it will be held at 10.30am, as this is a time more suitable for a wider number of people in the Group.

We do have some cancellations. The concert of the Mustang Chorale, from Wyoming in the USA, scheduled for 1 April and announced last month, has been cancelled.

All updates are posted on the parish website: www.adarekilmallock.org or www.adaregroup.org.

EASTER VESTRY

Again, this date may need to change so check the website. Currently the Easter Vestry is planned for Sunday, 19 April at 11.30am, following a joint worship service of all four churches at 10.30am. Venue to be announced. This is the triennium Easter Vestry, at which we will elect Parochial Nominators and Representatives to Diocesan Synod. We will also recommission our Parish Readers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Hugh Lillingston of the Kilmallock church on the occasion of his confirmation, which took place at Eton College on 8 March.

PAST EVENTS

Before the cancellation of various gatherings came into effect, we were able to participate in two celebrations of the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6 March. One was in Adare at Embury Close, and the other in Kilmallock at Sts. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church.

Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown and Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Canon Patrick Comerford

Mobile: 087 663 5116 email: revpatrickcomerford@gamil.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RathkealeGroup/>

We have moved from Ash Wednesday through Lent into Passiontide and Holy Week, and are looking forward to the hope of Resurrection and Easter Day.

But in the in-between time, the Corona Virus or Covid-19 pandemic first closed the school gates and then shut the church doors.

As we prepare in hope towards Easter, it is worth reminding ourselves of Christ's promise that he has come so that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10: 10).



An empty church in Askeaton on a Sunday morning in Lent during the Corona Virus pandemic (Photograph Patrick Comerford)

The present restrictions are so that all may look forward to sharing an abundant life when this pandemic has passed.

Meanwhile, Patrick is available on his mobile 'phone, and continues to pray – in an empty church in Askeaton Sunday mornings – for parishioners, the parish, the Church and this land.

The services and Easter Vestry meetings listed here are tentative – and hopeful – but are subject to change given present circumstances. The parish Facebook page is being kept up-to-date with any changes.

MINISTRY, MISSION AND HOSPITALITY

The Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) had to call off Patrick's planned to visit Myanmar to represent USPG at the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Church in the country once known as Burma.

But the Rectory in Askeaton is the venue for another Ministry Training Day on 19 May.

EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

- Castletown and Askeaton: 29 April, 8 pm, the Rectory.
- Kilnaughtin (Tarbert): 19 April (after the Parish Eucharist).
- Rathkeale: to be arranged.



It is sad to see these notices outside empty churches on Sunday mornings in Lent, Photograph Patrick Comerford



Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin & Killiney

Rector: Rev. Jim Stephens Mob: 087 052 9107

eMail: stjohs.ashstreet@gmail.com or stiofain.s@gmail.com

Rev. Phyllis Jones

Tel: 066 713 0767 Mob: 085 855 8594

eMail: phyllisjones@eircom.net

Parish Website: www.traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/traleeanddinglegroupofparishes

No notes submitted

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe & Muckross

Rector: Ven. Simon J. Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick

Tel: 064 663 1832 Mob: 086 870 3997

eMail: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

Parish Website: www.churchofthesloes.ie

Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchofthesloes

COVID-19:

As with all other parishes in the diocese the congregation at St Mary's are trying to come to terms with the impact of the covid-19 Coronavirus strain. The effects of the virus are many fold, varying from fear, a sense of isolation, actual illness to varying degrees and as we have already seen, even death. Whereas the foregoing is in itself a tragedy, there are particular effects in a community like ours which can also last a lifetime leading to completely different health outcomes. Being Killarney, of course these outcomes are inevitably linked to the tourism industry and the current prognosis – even in the short-term – looks very bleak.

Thousands of local jobs and the vast bulk of commercial activity revolves around tourists visiting the area annually. Already in St Mary's we've had all of the foreseeable concerts – our major fundraising revenue stream – cancelled. We will urgently need to review this in light of planned projects in the church, many of which will need to be shelved immediately. If there was a factory closure, or a weather event which affected the farming community, we would expect, and usually get, a government response fairly quickly. But the prospect of dozens of jobs being lost across scores of hotels, gift shops, restaurants and pubs is unlikely to meet with anything other than acceptance whilst the government do all that they can to control the virus. Behind all of these job losses will be families dropped unexpectedly into a financial abyss with the attendant worries of mortgages, college fees, etc.

My own daughter works seasonally guiding tours both here and in Europe and she's estimated that she's going to lose €20,000+ this year with the cancellations she's had already. However, she agrees with me that the critical thing is for everyone to pull together and ride out this storm and pray that it passes quickly. We should all pray, not just for those who will become ill, but for those who will be affected in any way by the current situation.

CHURCH EVENTS & SERVICES:

Rev. Simon has been very pro-active to-date with text alerts, etc. and the following applies at the time of going to press, though regular updates can be expected:

- The weekly "Jesus Prayer" Liturgy at 6pm on Fridays is cancelled

- The weekly Christian Meditation Prayer Group is cancelled
- All Concerts for the foreseeable future are cancelled
- All Sunday Services are cancelled
- Decisions relating to Easter Services will be reviewed and communicated to all in advance
- The Wander Wild Killarney Outdoor Festival, which was to be based in St Mary's is cancelled

SPRING IS COMING THOUGH:

The children, young and older adults at St Mary's were delighted that the fruits of last year's labour in planting 3,000 crocuses in the lawn resulted in a fine showing this year. The photograph shows some of the flowers being admired by congregants in late February



Kayla Wharton, Isabel Wharton, Mrs Noeleen Lumby, Ralph Nisnisan, Vincent Nisnisan carrying his daughter Dominique, Christian Wharton, Grace Moore and Evan Wharton

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

St Michael's Killorglin & St Carthage Castlemaine

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Isabel F. Keegan Tel: 066 979 0359

Mob: 085 853 2431 eMail: revikireland@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ann-Marie L. Stuart

Mob: 085 852 9414 eMail: revstuart29@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

The first Sunday of Lent began in a truly Lenten manner in Kilcolman as we immediately put in place no handshaking, on entering and leaving the church and of course no wine at the Communion Service. A reminder that the Living God cannot be tied down to material things.

During the second week of Lent we learned from our wonderful little Kiltallagh school to deliver Confirmation work sheets to our Confirmation candidates at home alongside the work the school also sent them to work on during their break from school attendance.

On the third Sunday of Lent we have two Baptisms as cousins born within a week or so of each other will be received into the Christian Community in for the first time at a private ceremony and assured of the Living God's enduring love surrounded by their close family members.

Meanwhile, Isabel and I have decided to use these strange days of concern about the world health situation to savour every single moment of the gift of life. To savour even the wind and rain on our faces, and to glory in the moments when the sun breaks through as we watch the sleet slant across our windows and the clouds come across the Slieve Mish mountains, from the Atlantic estuary and give thanks for all that the Living God has given us.

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville & Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 160 6312

eMail: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

Firstly, a big Thank You to Barbara, Brian and Marjorie for covering the full programme of services in the Kenmare & Dromod Union while Michael was away.

Michael took the opportunity to spend a little time in a 'God Pod' at Glenstal Abbey (look them up on Google) as well as attending the Dublin Theological Institute to hear past Archbishop Rowan Williams deliver a lecture titled 'Faith in Democracy', a short summary of which follows.

The Archbishop began by asking whether, given what many would describe as a 'Global Political Nervous Breakdown', do we live in a democracy or actually a 'tyranny of the multitude', when perfectly valid minority opinion is ignored and dismissed. A democracy, he argued, is only working when it is possible to carry on arguing.

He believes it good for society to include awkward and difficult people, and that an ethical society is much more than simply consensus – religious freedom of belief allows freedom of conscience, which in turn is the cornerstone of political freedom. So no matter if I believe that I am totally right, my act of faith must allow different opinions – I need to understand why my neighbour disagrees – and that this is the necessary first step towards seeking goals to which we both can agree.

In essence, faith in democracy is faith in the power of human argument, accepting that although we disagree, we are mutually dependent as the Body of Christ.

Quoting Roger Lipsey's biographical summary of past-UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld's views, he listed the virtues that underpin a fully ethical democracy: The need for awareness of the source of your convictions: the imagination needed to empathise with and understand my opponent: a strategic understanding of what actually works in the real world: the patience and courage to sustain opinion and the ability to see beyond the next corner: and finally, self-respect – believing myself to be accountable for my actions. These are the virtues on which religious communities need to act, participating in the prevailing culture in a faithful, democratic way.

Bishop Rowan's thoughtful presentation was very positively received by his (almost universally sympathetic) audience of students, clergy and others; however, it has to be said that the people who most needed to hear it were nowhere near. His views and well-constructed argument would readily be accepted by people of good will – but it was hard to imagine autocrats and dictators (without naming any names) giving it any credence at all.

*"The rain it raineth on the just
And also on the unjust fella;
But chiefly on the just, because
The unjust hath the just's umbrella."*

Charles, Baron Bowen

Methodist News

Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Ruth Watt,

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road,

Adare, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 396236

Email: ruth.watt@irishmethodist.org

What a difference a month makes; what a difference a day makes! I write this wondering when, or even if, you will be reading it! We don't know what this next week will bring as the coronavirus continues to spread. The one thing we do know (or at least think we know) is that things will get worse before they get better. As I write this we have another day with an increase in diagnosed cases, although, thankfully, no increase in the numbers of fatalities. Both, I am sure, will increase again.

But there is great light to see in the darkness of this global situation. God is love, He is never changing, He is with us still, and He will give us the strength and patience to get through the days, weeks, and months to come. I don't know what we will be doing when I am due to write the notes for next month, I don't know if we will even be able to remember the sacrifice of Jesus in our churches on Good Friday, I don't know if we will be able to celebrate the Risen Christ with dawn services on Easter Sunday; what I do know is that Christ will still have died and risen for us, He is still alive and seated at God's right hand, and eternity with Him is still available to all who call on this name.

Let us live following the advice of our government and health system, and even more importantly let us live in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Saviour. And let us live loving and caring, in whatever way we can, for our families, friends and neighbours as Christ would have us.

SERVICES FOR APRIL:

Please see our facebook page for information on future services because at this point only God knows what will be happening. FaceBook page name: Adare and Ballingrane Methodist church

Christ Church, Limerick (United Presbyterian & Methodist Churches) and Christ Church, Shannon

Vacant

Minister-in-Charge: Jackie Mc Nair

Mob: 087 776 5973

It is with great sadness that we have decided that Church Services will be cancelled until 29th March. This is in line with the Government regulations on public gatherings. Please keep all in your prayers as we will hold everyone before God. Many of the events which were due to take place in Christchurch have been cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. We apologise for any inconvenience. Thank you for your support.

- Christ Church AGM planned for Sunday 5th April following Sunday Service
- Church Council – Next meeting Monday 6th April in CB1

WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF

Go the extra mile for World Development & Relief's 50th Anniversary! Join WDR at the Belfast Marathon on 3 May 2020 and raise money for our partner in Lebanon, Father Andrew Institute for the Deaf. There are various walking and running events to choose from, something for all ages and abilities! Visit the website for more info: www.methodistworlddevelopment.org

WHIST DRIVES VILLIERS SQUARE

Monthly on Saturday's: March date to be advised: at 7:30pm sharp, admission €6 – Contact Hilary Park

WOMEN'S MORNING COFFEE – (Meet fortnightly) Please contact Jean Webster for further information.

GET INVOLVED – Take a look at Christ Church Central Building's or CB1 Facebook page and add a comment or picture or simply just 'like' something. Come and have coffee and enjoy the art in CB1 Coffee Dock and Gallery.

HELPERS – VOLUNTEERS – SUPPORTERS – If you are interested in using your gifts or trying something new or becoming more active in Christ Church (please speak to Andrew Roulston) or Central Buildings Community Project, (please speak to Rev Vicki Lynch)

CB1 OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11AM – 5PM

- Knitters for Life CB1 Monday and Tuesday mornings – all welcome
- Community Art Group Church Hall Tuesday 2-4pm – all welcome
- Babies, Toddlers & Parents Group Church Hall Tuesday 10.30am – all welcome
- Free English Conversation Classes Church Hall Wednesday 10am-12pm – all welcome

During the Ministerial Vacancy please contact the Rev. William Hayes for all Pastoral matters 085 1476929 william@tullamorepresbyterian.org

Blessings

Jackie McNair

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev Karen Spence

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org

Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Facebook: Millstreet Methodist Church

Facebook: Killarney Methodist Church.

No notes submitted

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Roscrea

Minister: Rev. Steven Foster Tel: 0505 21 670

eMail: steven.foster@irishmethodist.org

Website: www.irishmethodist.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northtippermethodist

No notes submitted

Statement from the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop-elect of Armagh The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson & The Rt Revd John McDowell

The people of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are passing through a period of considerable distress as the effects of the coronavirus are felt throughout the whole island. We wish to add our voices to those of so many others to encourage a sense of solidarity and responsible citizenship as we help our Governments and our communities to plot a path through the various challenges which lie ahead.

We are confident that the people of the Church of Ireland will do all they can to act in the interests of the common good by following closely the guidance being issued, and regularly updated, by public health authorities in the respective jurisdictions.

Preparations in parishes

In doing so, we would urge parishes to do all they can to ensure that the necessary practices of self-isolation and social distancing do not leave already lonely and vulnerable people feeling abandoned.

That will require some ingenuity on the part of clergy and laypeople but may well be made easier by the many virtual ways of being alongside and remaining in contact with others that technology affords. It will also provide an opportunity for a younger generation of tech-savvy people to reach out to those who are more immediately affected by isolation.

There will also be many new opportunities to do practical things for one's neighbours. Parishioners who have more freedom of

movement may wish to volunteer to help out in practical ways. Neighbouring parishes should consider how they can work together to best serve all those who will need assistance.

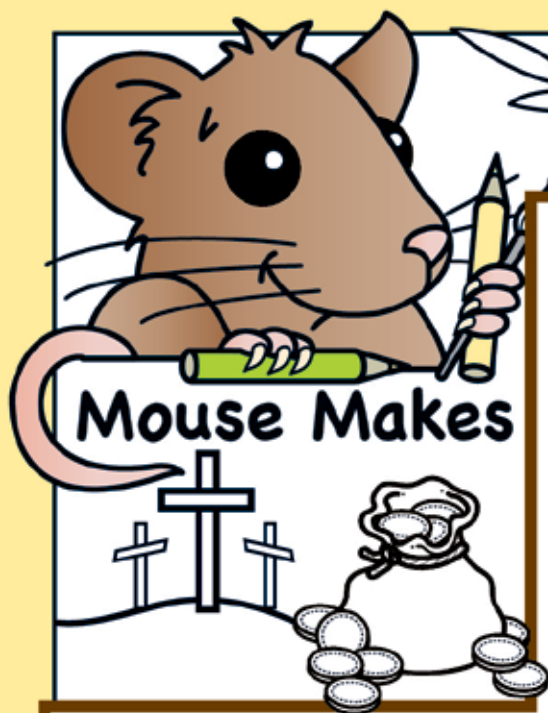
Above all, as people of faith, we should both pray and maintain a sense of balance and proportion. There is every reason to believe that, by acting together in solidarity, this challenging period can be humanely and effectively negotiated. We are confident that God, in the words of the Collect for Ash Wednesday which we use so often in Lent "who hates nothing that he has made," will be present through his Church and in the gentleness of the Spirit to be a comfort and strength to all who are in need.

A Prayer for Peace of Mind

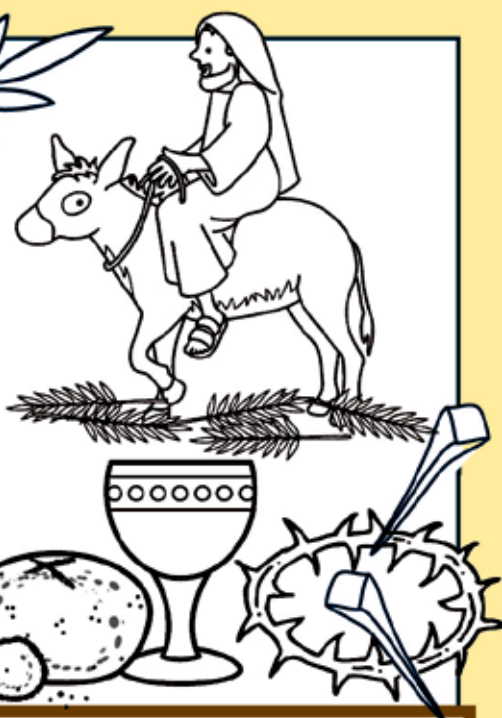
You will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you Heavenly Father, in your love and wisdom you know the fears and anxieties of all your children. Your Son, Jesus Christ, said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid, It is I," and to the tempest: "Peace be still".

We ask, not only for ourselves but for all others, especially our healthcare workers, that we may cast all our cares on you, for we know you care for us.

Give us peace of mind and unshaken trust in you and guide us into perfect peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



LABROAD
OCROSSE
RHAPPYB
DONKEYS
FSCIASC
EAHNCAO
ANEGETA
SNSPLOT
TAPALMS



DIMOURJEWS SLNPATTCUPKJCBD
RPASSOVEROBEARRCHRISTEREE
IGNABODYKILLIAROOLOOTSUTA
NEATTMEALGODLYELRWILLUCRT
KDISCIPLESONSUSTNNMESSIAH
EBREADWINEDXGETHSEMANEFYE
DARKNESSHTLINENAHEAVENYYD

HUGDAWN
RTOMBMG
EOOTPOE
ECDEFRL
DRNM RNK
AOEP AI I
YWWLINS
SDSESGS
EASTERB
GUARDEU
SAVIOUR
PRAISEY
IDCUTKT
RIDJOYE
ICOINSL
TETREEL

DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER





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- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

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

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

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CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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