



JUNE 2020

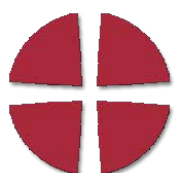
NEWSLINK

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

**How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings Good News.**

Isaiah 52: 7

*Nach álainn ar na sléibhte cosa an té
a bhfuil dea-scéala leis.*



including Methodist
District News

Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo

Picture credit: Jen McWhirter

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

"Our churches may be closed, our Church isn't!" That was the eye-catching slogan I saw in a photo of a church a friend sent me – the slogan filled the outside notice board where you would normally expect to find the times of services and contact details for the Rector.

'Very clever', I thought, 'a great play on words', but I also realised – 'How true!'. Churches around the world are closed or have been closed for months; some are now beginning to re-open. I can't think of a time in the whole of human history when churches were voluntarily closed on such a vast scale, all over Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. War time, the great plagues, none of these have succeeded in doing this, until the arrival of Covid-19.

But as that slogan reminds us, closing church buildings doesn't close the Church. The Church, the Body of Christ, is still present in the world as it has always been, active, engaging, and in a myriad of ways making Christ known in the world. The evidence is there. Many millions around the world are participating in worship on-line or through their phones. Several of our own clergy are already leading online worship Sunday by Sunday or even daily in some cases. In other parishes newsletters are distributed, prayers are shared, phone calls are made. And what's true in our own diocese is also true for our fellow Christians in other traditions and throughout Ireland and beyond. "As o'er each continent and island, the dawn brings on another day, the voice of prayer is never silent...", as the hymn puts it.

The Church continues to be active in social work and outreach – running care homes, feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless and refugees in Ireland and abroad, looking out for and caring for those who are marginalised or ignored in society.

Most common of all, the Church is there in simple acts of kindness and love as people care for neighbours and friends – the kind word or thoughtful phone call.

I find I'm turning off the TV more and going for longer walks. I don't listen any more to 24-hour news channels and I switch off my phone more often. And that does change us, as I realise that I don't really want to go back to the frantic pace of news and information coming at me from all sides, all the time. Though that in itself doesn't make us more religious it does allow us the space to think, to reflect, and perhaps be more sensitive to the presence of God in ourselves and in the world around us.

Perhaps the economy isn't the most important thing after all.

Perhaps family and friendships are more central to life than we had realised. Listening to nature and caring for the environment does matter much more than we had appreciated.

At the heart of our Christian faith is the belief in God as Creator, creating and sustaining the complex interaction we see within nature and without which no living creature would survive. At the centre of God is the most profound relationship – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – which models all human inter-relationship. When we have glimpses into the profound nature of family and relationships or the wonder of creation – there too is Church, uncovering and making real the presence of God in the world.

Keep safe!

With all good wishes,

+Kenneth

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Book Corner

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

Craig Grossi, Craig and Fred, eAudiobook

Agatha Christie, Agatha Christie Close Up, eAudiobook

Peter Robinson, Gallows View, eAudiobook

Emilio Estevez & Martin Sheen, Along the Way, eAudiobook

Richard Norton-Taylor, The State of Secrecy, eBook

Andrea Camilleri, Death at Sea, eBook

Kevin C. Kearns, The Legendary "Lugs" Branigan – Ireland's Most Famed Garda, eBook

SUGGESTED BOOKS

Steve Tomlin, At Least We Turn Up – the Biography of John Pullin with foreword by Sir Gareth Edwards

John O'Farrell, An Utterly Impartial History of Britain or 2000 years of Upper Class idiots in charge (an adult version of Horrible Histories?)

Frances A. Gerard Some Celebrated Irish Beauties (18th Century Beauties)



A prayer for Trinity Sunday...

Shield me

O may God shield me, and may God fill,
O may God watch me, and may God hold;
O may God bring me where peace is still,
To the King's land, eternity's fold.
Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

From The Creed Prayer, poems of the Western Highlanders

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)

Delivered to pew in bulk €42

Individual copy by post €50

Collected from printer in bulk €35

(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

Editorial

Unusual times call for extraordinary solutions. Having done some lateral thinking, we decided to publish Newslink: June, 2020 as an eMagazine.

Distribution has been a concern, though we rushed to have April Newslink with the printers before the big lockdown. Many received their April copy, but for those who did not, it was subsequently uploaded to www.limerick.anglican.org May Newslink was not published but June has come to you as an eMagazine, kindly distributed through the clergy of your parishes/circuit or others. It will also be uploaded to www.limerick.anglican.org As has happened during the COVID-19 virus with regard to other diocesan publications, everyone in the parish/congregation will receive a copy, that is if they have an email address.

Many of us have been catapulted into the technological dimension of the 21st Century over the last few months, rather than being dragged into it! One lovely story we heard is of a friend's mother of 97, with her headphones on, listening to the live church service on the computer. Her daughter also printed off the diocesan magazine for her to read. Another man told of his 92 year old mother reading her eMagazine from start to finish on the laptop! We are all becoming more inventive and emerging from our comfort zones!

The weather has been a bonus for those of us having to stay at home, though farmers and gardeners wish that we could have some rain, preferably during the night!

There is a completely new feature in the magazine this month, introduced by the former editor Joc Saunders. As many of you know, the Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe will unite with the Diocese of Tuam & Killala, sometime in the future. There is an article this month about the parish of Aughaval (Westport Union). As Tuam & Killala only print their magazine four times a year, there will be another article about a second parish in the Autumn. You will find this in what would have been the middle pages of the magazine, which may be kept for reference.

Finally, on behalf of us all as members of our respective parishes and congregations, we would like to express our appreciation of all the hard and unseen work that our clergy, ministers and diocesan officials are doing during these unprecedented times.

With every good wish and hoping that you keep well and safe
Janet & Ros

Smile-lines for June

ONE-LINE QUIZ QUESTIONS

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?

He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

No – just an apple.

Does God love everyone?

Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Absolutely ruthless.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes come close, though.

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - June 2020

Each Sunday in June

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

Diocese: In this Covid-19 pandemic, we pray for peoples of all nations:

*Loving Father,
we entrust to you the sick, the quarantined, and their families.
Bring them healing in body, mind and spirit.
Comfort the bereaved and anxious.
Sustain and protect frontline medical staff, carers and essential workers.
Further the efforts of those seeking to contain the spread of the virus.
Give wisdom to those in authority making decisions in response to the epidemic.
And guide us all to protect ourselves and our communities.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

7th June, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico and Most Revd Francisco Moreno, Presiding Bishop & Bishop of Northern Mexico.

Diocese: The vulnerable and anxious in our dioceses.

14th June, 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) and Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar & Bishop of Yangon.

Diocese: The Tubbercurry Group of parishes in the Diocese of Achonry, Priest-in-charge Rev Peter Norman, and the congregations of St George Tubbercurry and Killoran (Rathbarron).

21st June, 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and Most Revd Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja.

Diocese: The Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh, Rev Kevin O'Brien, and the congregations of St Columba's Drumcliffe (Ennis), St Fachtnan's Cathedral Kilfenora, Christ Church Kilfarboy (Spanish Point), and Kilnasoolagh church.

28th June, 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

Diocese: Youth work in our dioceses, and the work of Boys' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society, TK&A Children & Youth, and UDYC of L&K.

5th July, 4th Sunday after Trinity, Green

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

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

Diocese: The disabled in our dioceses, that we may cherish their abilities.

Planted in the love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father
You can grow, dear one,
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit
His fruit you'll show,
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,
And the thorns threaten,
And the storms around life's garden blow -
Your roots will hold,
And hold secure,
Because you're planted in the love of the Father.

By Daphne Kitching

In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne
The Son of God who ever cares
Who walks with us, we're not alone.

Though flood and pestilence should come
He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.

By Megan Carter

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay
We don't dress up or do our hair
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

The cattle grazing

Smooth pastures, long, and wide to roam,
Beneath your hoofs, rich meadowland,
Friend God the Son to bring you home
To fields where springs eternal stand,
Fields where springs eternal stand.

From poems of the Western Highlanders

Days to Remember

3RD JUNE - THE MARTYRS OF UGANDA

The Ugandan Church had dozens of martyrs within just ten years of Christianity arriving there. At first, it had gone so well: the first Anglican missionaries arriving in Uganda in 1877 were welcomed by the Kabaka (king) of Buganda, Mutesa. Mutesa also welcomed the Roman Catholics and Muslim Arabs, and, being a natural diplomat, retained his power by cleverly playing off the three groups against each other.

His son, Mwanga II, who became king about 1883, was very different. Mwanga II wanted to retain absolute power, and deeply resented the missionaries and new converts, whom he felt were giving their allegiance to Christianity, instead.

And so it was that on 31st January 1885 he ordered the execution of Yusufu (Joseph) Rugarama, Makko (Mark) Kakumba, and Nuwa (Noah) Serwanga. That October, even the Anglican Bishop, James Hannington, was murdered.

When Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe, a senior advisor to the king and a Catholic convert, condemned Mwanga for ordering Hannington's death, Mwanga had him arrested. Mukasa became the first Catholic martyr on 15th November 1885, when he was beheaded at Nakivubo.

Between December of 1885 and May of 1886 many more converts were murdered. The crisis came in May, when Mwanga ordered all the converts to choose between Christianity and complete obedience to his orders. (Mwanga had been furious and humiliated when the Christian pages in his own court refused his homosexual advances; it was unheard of to deny the king anything.)

Courageously, the young Christians chose their faith. And so it was that 26 pages were wrapped in straw and burned to death at Namugongo on 3rd June, 1886. In the following months, many other Christians throughout the country died by spear or fire for their faith. They included two Christians who were in the king's court, Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe and Charles Lwanga. Both had rescued royal pages from Mwanga's sexual advances.

The last Christian to die in this persecution was Jean-Marie Muzeeyi, beheaded at Mengo on 27th January 1887. The final list of 45 known Protestant and Catholic martyrs includes only those who could be formally accounted for.

The end result of the Namugongo martyrdoms was directly opposite to Mwanga's intentions. The sight of these young Ugandan Christians, who could die singing hymns and praying for their enemies, inspired many bystanders. They wanted to know about such a faith as this. Within a few years Christianity had taken firm root in Uganda.

7TH JUNE - WITHOUT THE TRINITY, THERE IS NO CHRISTIANITY

The Trinity is easier to say than to explain. Christians believe in one God, made up of three equal Persons. It is fundamental to the Nicene Creed, which sets out the definitive doctrine of the Trinity for more than two billion Christians worldwide, including all Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Reformed Christians.

The theologian Ian Paul, writing on the Book of Revelation, points out that chapter five has a wonderful depiction of the Trinity in

action. He writes: "...another figure appears in the drama, the lion who looks like a lamb. ... Here is the one who fulfils the hopes of God's people Israel, as the promised anointed Davidic king who was to come. Here is one who is fierce and powerful enough to conquer their enemies, and tear them apart.

"And yet when John sees Him, He is like a weak and vulnerable lamb who has been slaughtered, just as the Passover lamb eaten by the people, the suffering servant who was 'wounded for our transgressions' and the lamb offered as an atoning sacrifice. He is the one who was slain, but now stands, and shares the throne with God, and with Him sends the Spirit to enact His will on earth. Here we have the most explicit (and perhaps the most complex) Trinitarian statement in the whole New Testament."

From the Rev Dr Ian Paul's excellent blog at: <https://www.psephizo.com/revelation/what-does-rev-4-5-tell-us-about-the-trinity/> (dated May 17, 2017)

9TH JUNE - COLUMBA OF IONA, MISSIONARY TO THE UK

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

*Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.*

A View from the Basement by salters Sterling



Throughout this coronavirus interlude we have the almost daily pleasure of a wonderful vista from our breakfast table in the basement of St. Anne's, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly. The picture is of sunlight from the east etching patterns on the grey walls of the catholic church in the town set against a frequently cloudless blue sky. So beautiful has been the blue that it has evoked the magnificence of the satellite images of Planet Earth that appear occasionally on television. That

same blue sky has prompted a daily recall of the opening lines of a hymn I learned as a child and had completely forgotten. 'Above the clear blue sky, in heaven's bright abode' begins the first verse of a hymn written by John Chandler and published first in 1841. Whatever about the Theology there must be fact and truth engaged with Chandler's description "the clear blue sky". Nearly 200 years ago and despite the early industrial and agricultural revolutions Chandler's sky, except near the great industrial cities, would have been clearer and bluer than ours 'normally' is. William Turner, the great romantic water colourist, whose life overlaps that of Chandler, captures magnificently the multi-coloured clarity of the west European skyscape. These and similar thoughts enriched many of our cocooning breakfasts.

As did more joyful reflections when we linked clear blue skies with the diminishing level of carbon pollution in the atmosphere and then pondered how in a post-coronavirus world such deep-cleaning of our planet might be continued. In our imaginings we cannot ignore the cloud which is much bigger than a man's hand that sullies the blue and on occasion obscures the sun. That very real cloud is climate change and it cannot be ignored. It is going to be on the agenda long after coronavirus has been corralled. We in the dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert are very much rural based. Many of God's People are farmers. Many farmers are uncomfortable with the spotlight that climate change throws on the consequences of farming. The Church and the Churches have a fellowship obligation to consider how best to support farmers in the restoration of creation. Such a fellowship obligation must begin with a listening and learning process that leads to an understanding of what the problems are and what the possibilities might be....leading on to a process and programme for responsible change management.

As a Church we are already well placed to embark on this conversation. Gurteen Agricultural College is in our midst and not too distant from the southern end of our partner diocese which is also very rural. We have excellent relations with our Methodist Church friends. The context is ideal, so let's plan together an initiative for our post-cocooning world. We will be blessed.

Diocesan Organisations

Mothers' Union Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

OUR THEME FOR 2020
"Building Hope & Confidence"

It is god who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure
Psalm 18:32

No different to any other charity at this time, Mothers' Union as a whole is facing a significant shortfall in income into the future due to their inability to fundraise in the way that they used to. In Britain Mothers' Union would have held several major fundraising events throughout the year, the income from which would support their ongoing projects overseas and at home. Mary Sumner House, MU head office in London, would have been renting out their conference facilities and the sale of cards, books etc, which would be for sale at every event, are now online only. In an effort to cut costs the staff at MSH have been engaging in the Furlough Scheme that the British Government is offering and many other cost cutting measures have been put in place. The Dioceses throughout Britain and Ireland have been very generous and having risen to the challenge approx £400,000 to date has been raised. This is a wonderful achievement and hopefully, will see Mothers' Union come out of this crisis changed, but intact.

Many of us in Limerick & Killaloe Diocese are continuing to knit, which is a wonderful practical way to help from home, and please check out some of the knitting patterns on our website www.mothersunion.ie. The telephone is our friend and we are all learning new ways to keep in touch with each other.

There will be difficult times ahead for many families. Please keep in mind our Away From It All fund which can help to support families in a small way. Please contact your Branch Leader if you feel that there is a family who might benefit from this scheme.

We continue our prayerful support also for those whose experience of this crisis is not a happy one, and we already know that domestic violence is on the increase. In this diocese we continue to support several women's refuges on an ongoing basis and this is made possible through our Mums in May Grant which was generated through the production and sale of the Tea Time Treats cookbook of a few years ago.

Please keep smiling, keep praying and keep safe and I am really looking forward to the time when we can meet up again!

Lucy Kavanagh DP

MOTHERS' UNION OFFERS RANGE OF RESOURCES

The Mothers' Union has made a very practical response to the coronavirus.

As their website explains, "We know that our work and experience in re-building communities and supporting family life is going to be more important than ever once the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Our members will be some of the first in line to support those around them."

In the meantime, MU has drawn together a range of resources to "help nurture our members and their friends and neighbours through this challenging time." The resources will "help combat feelings of loneliness, to nourish faith and to help you continue to feel connected to your friends and community."

These include: rainbows, prayer cards, prayer resources, puzzles resources, and Bible study resources. More info at: <https://www.mothersunion.org>

United Diocesan Youth Council

Firstly a big HELLO to everyone and do hope that everyone is ok during this challenging time. It would be great to be meeting up with everyone at UDYC events but unfortunately that is sadly not possible but hopefully it will all be possible soon again when it is safe to do so. Many have shared happy memories of positive experiences over the last number of years.

Recently Edward Hardy received copies of two photos collages from two International Exchange Trips to Germany and Hungary in 1992 and 1994 respectively which was a wonderful surprise for him. The holder was clearing out contents of his attic and assured Edward that these were retained in the clear out! Let us all continue to treasure these and other memories and look forward to these opportunities soon again.

UDYC committee would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to supporting the finances over the last few months whether it was by supporting our Individual and Parish Donations Appeals, Annual Fundraising Draw Coffee Morning with Cake & Home Produce sale. All of these were a tremendous success and we are pleased to confirm that we achieved our fundraising target set. In relation to an UPDATE on events, it's difficult to provide any details on what is likely to happen or not happen at this stage for the next few months. However, it is highly unlikely that any events will take place until at least early August this year. UDYC were very disappointed that there will be no Summer Madness event this year for the first time in 33 years. In consultation with German and Romanian leaders UDYC have decided that there was no other option but to postpone our proposed trip to German in late July 2020 until July 2021. We did explore other options including October mid-term break and Easter 2021 but the eventual conclusion was July 2021. We would really like to hold the Junior and Senior Summer Camps during August but certainly the important restrictions on social distancing would provide us with a huge challenge. We will be absolutely adhering to Government and Church restrictions and guidelines and will be in contact as soon as an update is available on 2020 Summer Camps.

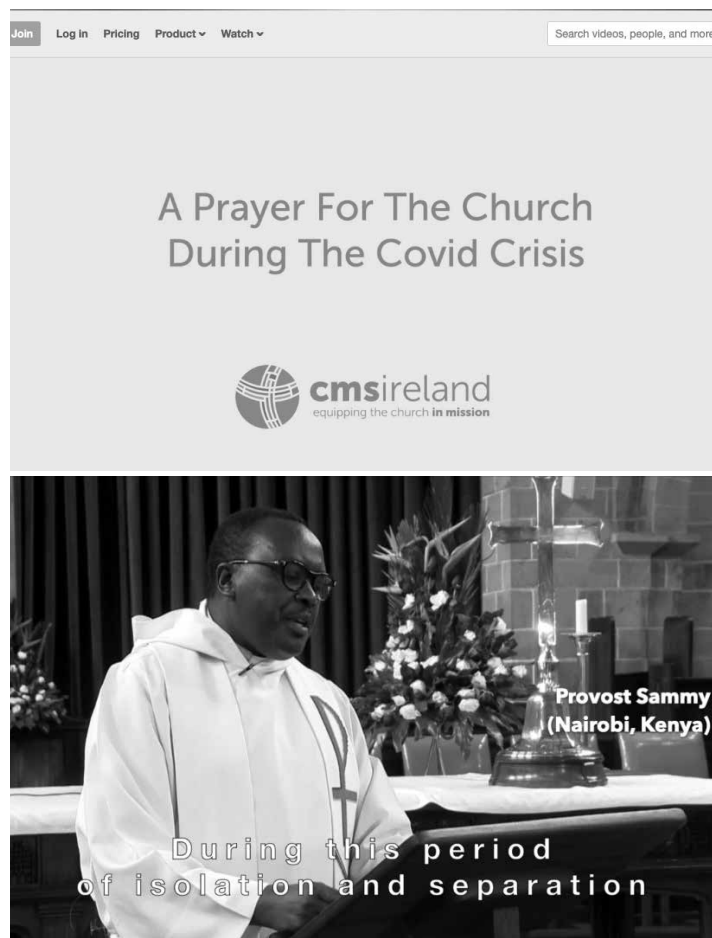
Over the last number of weeks UDYC committee have been sharing a free RESOURCE via e-mail, Facebook and Instagram along with a number of other Dioceses (Kilmore and Cork Dioceses). It's one of Christianity Explored courses and Christianity Explored Ministries have recently made all of their courses available for free on YouTube (until 30th June 2020) for use during this current crisis. The course is 'Soul', which is aimed at teenagers and young adults. UDYC have been sharing one of the episodes each week on a Saturday evening and we also shared a handbook for the course with discussion questions & Bible study material. To date we have had some positive responses and remember it's never too late to start the course!

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.

Kate O'Brien
0867303268/ kateobrien1706@gmail.com

Church Mission Society, Ireland

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH DURING COVID



CMSI Prayer Film; An image from the CMSI prayer film; The text of the CMSI Prayer.

For website use, the prayer video be viewed and downloaded directly from Vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com/416239734>

The Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) has launched a video of a special prayer for the global Church during the Covid crisis. The video features contributions from 29 different members of the CMSI family, including church leaders from all nine countries where the society's Global Partners are based.

As CMSI's Mission Resource Manager, Roger Cooke explains, the prayer is part of the society's response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

"In the early days of the Covid-19 crisis here in Ireland, the CMSI staff team were deeply touched by the numerous messages from our partners, assuring us - and the wider Church in Ireland - of their prayers and blessings. Our brothers and sisters wanted us to know that they were standing with us.

"Very quickly, it became clear to us that the impacts of Covid were going to be much more severe in the countries where are partners work. We launched our Covid-19 Response Appeal at the beginning of April to encourage financial support and prayer for our partners. We want to stand with them, as they have stood with us.

"This prayer is an expression of that sense of connection and concern that we share together in the global CMSI family. We hope it can be used by churches and individuals who want to pray for their own contexts, as well as looking to the wider world."

The prayer video, which includes contributions from Church Of Ireland clergy, can be viewed and downloaded from the CMSI website (www.cmsireland.org) or the society's Facebook page. A copy of the prayer text is also available.

CMSI SENDS COVID SUPPORT TO GLOBAL CHURCH



Last week saw the Church Mission Society Ireland transfer the first wave of financial support to its partners, as part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic. In all, over £20,000 was distributed across 12 Global Partners in seven countries, bringing much needed help to churches as they respond to the crisis on their own doorsteps.

CMSI launched its Covid-19 Response Appeal at the start of April when it became clear that the impact of the pandemic was going to be particularly severe for its partners and the communities they serve. As CMSI's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth explains, the initial support for the appeal has been very encouraging:

"We are so thankful for every donation that we have received towards this appeal. We are especially grateful for a generous grant of €10,000 from the Church Of Ireland Bishops' Appeal. Thanks to this grant and to the generosity of churches and individuals throughout Ireland, our partners are now getting to work to stop the spread, support the vulnerable and relieve suffering.

"The requests and needs of our partners are vast. We want to encourage more people to support them at this time. The more we give, the more they can do."

The money distributed to CMSI's partners last week included support for:

- Food relief programmes in DR Congo, Egypt, Kenya and Rwanda.
- Water tanks and hand washing facilities for schools in Burundi.
- Logistical support for PPE distribution to rural hospitals in Nepal
- Shelter and counselling for those made homeless by flooding in DR Congo.
- Training and support for Covid-19 preparations at a clinic in South Sudan.
- Support for mask-sewing initiatives in DR Congo and South Sudan.

Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and Chair of the Church Of Ireland Council for Mission, had this to say about CMSI's response:

"The global Church has been greatly impacted by the crisis. CMSI works in partnership with sister churches in some of the poorest places on earth. Can I invite you to support CMSI's Covid-19 Appeal which will make a huge difference to some of the most vulnerable people in the world? We are all in this together, so please give generously as resources will be needed in the short and long term to put things right in Jesus' name."

CMSI works closely with 20 Global Partners across nine different countries Africa and South Asia. These partners are all local expressions of the Church, engaging in life-changing, holistic mission. Given the long-term nature of the relationship with these partners, CMSI and link churches throughout Ireland are able to respond quickly, directly and personally to its partners.

Money donated to the CMSI Covid-19 Response Appeal will ensure that the Church is supported at the centre of this crisis – enabling

God's people to share His help and His hope with those who most need them.

To find out more or to support the CMSI Appeal, visit www.cmsireland.org.



*A member of the mask-sewing group of Maridi Diocese Mothers' Union (South Sudan).
For website use, the http address for the Covid-19 Appeal is: <https://www.cmsireland.org/covid-19-response-appeal>*

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A Prayer of the Godforsaken

based on Psalm 22(adapted from Psalms/Now, by Leslie Brandt)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from me?
I reach desperately for you,
but I cannot find you!

I know you are holy and righteous
and present everywhere.
I know that people of faith have put their trust in you,
from generation to generation.
But right now I feel empty and afraid.
My friends are far from me
and I feel all alone.

God, I need you now.
I am in trouble.
At this moment, I feel like I am falling apart.
Nothing seems to make sense any more.

Even though I cannot feel you near right now,
I know that you are in fact not far off.
You love me and accept me.
You will save me – even from myself.

You do not despise me
and you will never leave me.
Your love is eternal.

You will not ignore the afflictions of your sons and daughters.
Your children are precious to you.
You hear their cries
and feel their pain
and are always ready to support them
when they cry out to you.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Stephen Fletcher with some of the tools of his trade

I have written before in Newslink about the way the way we should be getting used to using the internet in our church communities. Like it or not the internet is the way we will keep in contact with each other in the future.

However, when I wrote then I had no idea of just how useful the internet would become in the situation this pandemic has caused, with our people self-isolating and our churches closed for worship.

Until three months ago our diocese had little experience of using the internet and certainly no experience of live streaming of services yet now when we look around the parishes we see that our Rectors are managing to engage and support their congregations remotely using different methods.. Where there is a good internet connection, they are using Facebook and Zoom as well as making resources available on their websites and by posting videos on YouTube. Where that is not possible due to poor internet connections they are keeping in touch via the telephone and having regular text and WhatsApp messages. Newsletters have never been more important, and these are being regularly being emailed out to everyone and neighbours asked to print them off for those who do not have computers. It means that clergy are not just having to prepare sermons and services they are also having to master using the new technical skills involved in broadcasting these services.

It is clear that it is more difficult to reach those more elderly members of our congregations who do not have even the basic modern technology or knowledge to use these online resources and I think that is something which we could look at in the future. I think there is an opportunity here for all our churches across the diocese to take a lead and to encourage and support our elderly members to learn and become confident in using the internet. Perhaps a church could run courses for these 'silver surfers', maybe using some of the children and grandchildren in the parish to sit with their elders and mentor them and show how it is done. I was talking recently with Patrick Comerford about how a whole generation in our congregations are impoverished because they do not have access to the internet or the skills to use it.

In the extraordinary situation we find ourselves in, locked down and isolated as a result of this pandemic, I see my role is to encourage and support parishes in using this new technology where it is available. But it is not just about using the latest whizz-bang video technology! There is also great power in making a simple one to one telephone call and making personal and direct contact with people using a phone or text.

Last year I started the Diocesan Podcast at www.anchor.fm/limerick-anglican This is just another way of collecting and distributing audio stories of what is happening in our Diocese. As well as featuring stories like the Nenagh Choir and the Tralee Bee Friendly Wall it also has stories of walks in the ancient religious sites in the Burren. I have recently obtained some equipment which enables me to record 'Rectory Reports' where Rectors talk about their parishes and provide an audio sketch of what is happening in and around their parish. You will also find Bishop Kenneth's reflections on the great festivals and seasons of our church.

According to a survey last year by Reuters 37% of Irish people have listened to a podcast in the last week. Our nation has the third highest listenership to podcasts in the world after high-tech South Korea and Spain. 76% of those listening are aged 18-44 with 81% listening with headphones through their mobile phones. 70% listen while commuting. This is another way to use the internet to tell our stories of how we see God working in our communities, and it is free!

The Government has said it is committed to the National Broadband Plan and is investing billions of Euro into bringing it to every part of rural Ireland. This pandemic has shown how important the internet and good mobile communications are and they will continue to roll out the service. Let us hope that good internet gets to all our parishes soon.

Communication has been continually evolving in Ireland as it has across the world. First there were footpaths, tracks through the forests and horses, next we used the rivers and canals, the Shannon was the equivalent of a 6 lane highway in the time of St Patrick and St Senan, then came roads and railways until we now have motorways and air travel. All part of how our ways of coming together have evolved. Each of these new ways of coming together needed people and their communities to learn and adapt to these new ways. I believe that the internet is the next stage in this evolution. It is important that the church uses it, especially when we are talking about a new combined Diocese with such a sparse rural membership spread over an area which is a third the size of the country.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown just how the internet is in enabling us to be together, but it is no substitute for actually coming together in our churches as we have done for hundreds of years. I pray that we will soon be able to do just that.

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Keeping your video conference secure

www.ireland.anglican.org/news/9739/keeping-your-video-conference-secure<<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/9739/keeping-your-video-conference-secure>>



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

Thursday 12th March 2020 is a day we won't forget in school for a long time. It started in its usual busy way. We had celebrated Lá Gaeilge in school the previous day with lots of colour, music and Irish language. The senior classes had been due to go on a sporting trip that day but that had been postponed earlier in the week due to Covid-19. This was fast becoming the only topic of conversation in many homes and schools. There was speculation about school closures and I thought that we might close on the Friday and probably not open until after Easter.

By 11 o'clock the word was circulating that our Taoiseach had announced that all schools were to close that day. This meant that we had to organise textbooks and make something of a plan before three o'clock that day. E-mails had to be sent to parents and a letter organised to be sent home so that families would have some idea what to expect in the schoolbags.

We said goodbye to our pupils that afternoon telling them that everything was fine and that these closures were happening to keep us all safe and well and that we would see them soon and to enjoy the time with their families.

The staff stayed late that day, planning and organising how school work would be sent home, gathering up all the books and equipment we might need at home.

We are still at home! A lot has happened since the 12th of March but school for children has been at home, set, organised and corrected by teachers but managed and supervised by their parents. It is difficult and challenging and yet we must simply get on with it and do our best. And that is exactly what is happening. Teachers spend their days planning, choosing, selecting, making videos and teaching from home. Families are working very hard to balance their own work, their children's schoolwork and family life. We are all doing what we thought was the unthinkable. We have learned to Zoom, to ClassDojo and to Seesaw, as a means of keeping in touch.



We managed to send home a link of some of our favourite assembly songs so we have been able to sing together at home. Thank you to Rev. Liz who made a video which was sent to all our families. It was just like being in assembly with her on Thursday morning.

Here in St. Nicholas' we are amazed at the creativity of our pupils and their parents. Along with regular schoolwork they have been cooking, baking, gardening, painting, making and exercising to name but a few. We have celebrated Active Home Week and An Taisce Clean Up Day, all at home. We use our Twitter and Facebook pages to share some of these activities and we were delighted to share the great news that we have

been awarded our seventh Green Flag. Well done and congratulations to our Green Schools' Committee under the guidance of Ms. Brown.

Here are some of the photos of what everyone has been up to while staying safe and at home. We cannot wait to be back together again but until then the message is always the same – Take care and stay safe.



St. Mary's National School, Nenagh

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson, 1900

May and June are usually busy months, full of excitement about school trips and Sports Day. This is usually a time when portfolios are gathered, and the books have been filled and closed with satisfaction. The Sixth-class pupils work on their memory boxes while the rest of the pupils practice their songs for the graduation ceremony.

Instead, this year, lessons are done at a distance and children remain at home, far from their friends and extended families. Teachers feel bereft, lost without the connectedness and discourse of real teaching. It would be understandable to buckle under this crisis, to let it make us lonely. But this too shall pass, and we will be reunited again.

Learning does not cease because school is closed. There are important lessons being learned every day by our pupils. They see the sacrifices that their parents and community members make for the greater good. They see fortitude and resilience being practiced every day. No paper lesson plan could have the same lifelong impact.

Although nature has forced us to press 'pause' on normal life, there are also great moments to be lived in the solitude of these days.

Until we meet again at school, stronger and wiser, let us send you all our best wishes for health, contentment and hope.

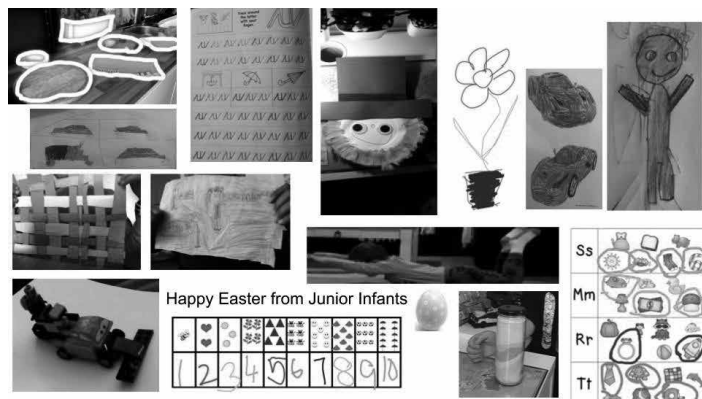
Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine

(This old saying roughly translates as "we all live in the shadow of others". Our ancestors lived in tougher times and knew well that together we shelter each other.)

Saint Michael's National School, Limerick

Saint Michael's National School is a very different place for everyone at the moment but the pupils, parents and teachers have risen to the challenge with which they were faced. Well done to everyone for the enormous efforts they are putting into working and teaching remotely, during these uncertain times.

Three classrooms – Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Classes, and 2nd and 3rd Classes – have been using the Seesaw app to complete a variety of book work and online educational activities. When pupils complete assignments and activities, they are able to post their work online and get feedback from teachers. It is also a great communication tool for parents to stay in touch with school during this time of self-isolation and social distancing.



Junior Infants Seesaw activities

Senior Infants and 1st Class have been going on virtual tours – one week they visited Dublin Zoo to watch the penguins being fed, and another week it was to an aquarium in California to observe jellyfish, turtles and sharks!



Pictures inspired by a virtual visit to the Zoo

2nd and 3rd Classes have been uploading photographs and completing projects in Geography and Science. The children have been sharing their fantastic art work. Everyone is working very hard and we are delighted at the effort that everyone is putting into this new way of teaching and learning. 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes are certainly getting into the swing of working from home. The pupils are following a structured and varied home-based programme enabling them to keep up to date with their school work and allowing them opportunities to visit and experiment with many interactive websites and videos. The programme includes

daily physical exercises, project work, art/cooking activities and lots of reading time. Our class email is in place so that everyone can submit their work for feedback.

We are delighted to be able to announce that our Sensory Garden Project will commence once school resumes. We are so thankful to one of our parents, Manual Smalis, for his design and for all his input in getting the garden project underway. The Sensory Garden has been a dream to this point but very soon that dream will become a reality. Parents and pupils will be able to lend a hand with washing and painting 80 tyres, an integral part of the design. Plans for the Sensory Garden can be viewed on our website www.smnslimerick.ie.

Earlier in March, we had our annual prize-giving visit from the Postal Bible Times School, always an eagerly-anticipated occasion! Everyone enjoyed singing songs, listening to Bible stories and participating in a quiz. We thank them for all the care and attention they take with the booklets the children complete every month.

Many thanks to Dean Niall Sloane for taking the time to make a lovely Easter Assembly video for the school community. All of us will greatly appreciate being back together again in Saint Michael's NS, whenever medical guidance deems it to be safe and appropriate. We are thinking especially of Maria Robinson, who teaches with us, whose father sadly passed away in April.

Rathkeale No. 2 National School

We hope that you are all staying safe and well during these challenging times.

Who would have thought a few months ago that we would find ourselves in the situation we are now in? What would usually be a term with school tours, sports days and other outdoor activities has become a term of empty school buildings and playgrounds with pupils and teachers staying home with their families. When the announcement to close the schools came, back in March, we were expecting the school to be closed for two weeks and we scrambled to gather together books and work for the children to send home with them for two weeks. The two weeks extended to three and then following the Easter holidays was extended to the foreseeable future. We now know that the plan is to reopen the schools in the new academic year.

As teachers, we have all had to adjust to a new way of facilitating learning. This has been very challenging as none of us were in any way prepared for remote learning. Suggestions were flying in every day to the school email about this online platform and that online platform and soon we were getting totally confused as to what new system(s) to use. Finally, thanks to the sound advice of colleagues, especially fellow principals on the IPPN (Irish Primary Principals' Network) we decided to not try to take on all these unfamiliar platforms which could cause further stress on everyone as they tried to negotiate their way around and to stick to one.

We email suggested work to parents each weekend for the week ahead and stress that this should be seen as a menu rather than a prescription with everyone choosing to do whatever they are comfortable with. We set up Google Classroom as an option (mostly for the senior pupils) and Classdojo is continuing to be used in the junior classroom. Both of these give parents and pupils the opportunity to return work and communicate with the teachers. Some families spend more time in the garden, baking or helping with other household chores and all this is very worthwhile. We hope that the suggestions we send out are a support for parents as they take on the role of home educators and would like to remind them that they are doing a great job.

We particularly think of our sixth class pupils, Sasha, Jack and Peter as their time in primary school ended so abruptly. We wish them every success when they begin their secondary education in the autumn.

Most important is that everyone stays safe and well. We are all looking forward to the day we can meet with family and friends again but until then we continue to stay the course and stay away to stay well.

Coronavirus crisis hits world's poorest

Rich countries have struggled. Poor countries will be devastated. But Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of Ebola and we can slow the spread of coronavirus too. Your gift today will save lives tomorrow.

Coronavirus is having a huge impact on the rich countries of the world. Our health systems are stretched and struggling. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost and the death toll grows with each passing day. But in the world's poorest countries, perhaps just three weeks behind the UK and Ireland, a catastrophe is unfolding. The infection has reached every one of the countries in which Christian Aid works, with the highest numbers of reported cases being in Brazil, India and the Dominican Republic. As ever, a lack of testing masks the true scale of the pandemic.

Aid agencies are warning that coronavirus will devastate poor countries, and here's why:

HANDWASHING - WITHOUT SOAP AND WATER?

Three billion people, 40% of the world's population, do not have access to soap and water. In sub-Saharan Africa, home to 645 million people, three-quarters of the population have no facilities at home to wash their hands with soap and water.

Physical distancing - in a crowded slum or refugee camp?

Physical distancing is impossible for the one billion people who live in overcrowded refugee camps, slums and shanty towns. And you can't isolate those with coronavirus symptoms if your entire family live in one room.



POOR PEOPLE = POOR HEALTH

Many people living in extreme poverty, in refugee camps, or battling drought, hunger, malaria and HIV, are already in poor health and lack the resilience to withstand a new infection.

FRAGILE HEALTH SYSTEMS

The world's poorest countries, many dealing with conflict and humanitarian crises, can barely handle their everyday caseloads, let alone a pandemic. Poor countries have few, if any, ventilators or intensive care beds. South Sudan, for example, has no intensive care beds and only two ventilators for a population of 12 million.

Fragile social welfare systems

The governments of poor countries lack the social welfare systems to help those who lose their jobs due to lockdown. For the newly unemployed in these countries, there will be no government bail-out or guaranteed 80% of their salaries to help ensure they are still able to feed their families. Many people will have no choice but to go to work, spreading the infection. The poorest people work in jobs that are insecure and cash-in-hand, leaving them with just enough money to get by each day. Even a single day of lockdown would

cause hardship.

But there is hope. Working with local partners and faith leaders, Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of the deadly Ebola virus and we are already working to slow the spread of coronavirus.

- In Afghanistan, our local partner has given hygiene kits containing soap to 1,400 people.
- In Afghanistan and Bangladesh, we are sharing vital health information via religious leaders.
- In Bangladesh and Myanmar, we are bringing food and soap to families facing hardship after losing their jobs due to the lockdown.
- In Myanmar, our local partners have given soap to more than 30,000 people and distributed 2,000 surgical masks.
- In the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, we are setting up isolation areas in health facilities to treat people with symptoms. There, and in north-east Nigeria, we are working to prevent the spread of fake news.
- In Angola, El Salvador, Gaza and Guatemala we are helping women at risk of domestic violence during lockdown.
- In South Africa, our local partners are campaigning to ban evictions during the pandemic so that shanty town dwellers don't face an even greater risk of infection.

Love unites, love protects, love never fails.

Even in the darkest moments, love brings hope.

- £27/€31 could help provide food for someone in quarantine, so they don't have to leave their home and risk spreading the virus.
- £50/€57 could help pay for a community toilet and handwashing block.
- £120/€137 could help provide areas within health facilities to isolate anyone with symptoms.

Please donate today to save lives. Visit caid.ie/coronavirus or call 028 9064 8133 (Belfast) or 01 496 4070 (Dublin).

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise

This may be a little late but many Christians consider it to be Easter all the time, as Jesus Christ is risen! Now there's a chance to brush up your Gaelige!



An tEaspag Michael Burrows
Domhnach Cásca
Bishop Michael Burrows
Easter Sunday

<https://www.dublinandglendaloughsermons.com/sermons/easter-sunday-as-gaeilge-bishop-michael-burrows>

Easter Sunday (As Gaeilge) - Bishop Michael Burrows

Apr 10

Easter Sunday (As Gaeilge) - Bishop Michael Burrows

Listen to Bishop of Dublin and Glendalough, Michael Burrows' Easter Sunday sermon for 2020.

Click here to visit their discussion website.

You can also read the text here:

Read it!

Audio

Is Chéist deiseithe. Is léas ar dhéana deiseithe ó na málaí.

Michael Burrows scríobh, an tEaspag i gCill Chainnigh agus léam ar ais na focal a

Scríobh ar ais na focal a

SERMONS FROM
DUBLIN AND GLENDALOUGH



A Visual Window to Rural Church Settings in the 1930s

Archive of the Month May 2020

www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

A rare set of 27 lantern slides depicting various churches principally in the diocese of Leighlin, but additionally from the dioceses of Glendalough and Kildare, and one of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, has recently been transferred from St Canice's Cathedral to the RCB Library by the Dean of Ossory, the Very Revd David MacDonnell.

The Dean comments: 'This set of lantern slides offers us a charming glimpse into the gentler times of 1930s rural Ireland. I am delighted that this collection, which has long sat on a dusty shelf in the cathedral library, may now be enjoyed by a wider audience online.'

He found the collection in the St Canice's Library building (also known as the residence of the Bishop's Vicar) adjacent to the cathedral.

These have been digitized, and to provide some lighter visual relief the collection is available to view, with accompanying descriptions, as May's Archive of the Month. There are more churches in the united diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory than in any other diocese in the Church of Ireland, and it is a treasure to have discovered a keen amateur photographer at work to capture them visually during the 1930s, or possibly earlier.

Who exactly the photographer may have been remains something of a puzzle, but the final image set (the only one to contain identified people) is entitled 'Canon & Mrs Dudley Fletcher in group at St Lasarian's, 25 June 1931'. It thus appears to capture the canon and his wife beside him, surrounded by five other women, with a partially-hidden cleric behind, possibly at some parish event or cathedral celebration.

Canon William Dudley Saul Fletcher (1862-1948) was serving as rector of Leighlin and Wells from 1927 until his retirement in 1946. In addition to this post, he also held various senior clerical posts within the diocese – as Treasurer of Leighlin Cathedral, 1930-35; later as its Precentor from 1935-46; and also as Prebendary of Killamery in the

neighbouring diocese of Ossory, 1933-46. He was thus embedded in the lives of both dioceses and likely to have been regularly moving around them, either to preach at services in different churches or at meetings and events with fellow clergy. Perhaps he took a camera with him, or in his leisure time got out with the camera then.

The result is a sequence of delightful images showing several churches, and two three diocesan cathedrals in the relative stillness and tranquillity of rural Ireland during the 1930s. Many of these images are captioned and specifically dated, so we know that they roughly date between 1932 and 1936. Significantly the collection contains six colour images. In 1935, American Eastman Kodak introduced the first modern "integral tripack" color film or Kodachrome, so it is interesting to see a similar technique in use for some of the photographs in this collection.

The collection may be viewed online in full from Friday, 1st May, at www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/archive-of-the-month



The collection has only one group image featuring Canon and Mrs Dudley Fletcher and their group 'at St Lasarian's, on the 25 June 1931' on what is clearly a bright summer's day, RCB Library St Canice's Lantern Slides.



The collection includes three images of 'Shillelagh Church, Co. Wicklow'; one showing the 'Gateway' erected at W. entrance Shillelagh Churchyard, Co. Wicklow, in memory of Dr F. J. G. King', RCB Library St Canice's Lantern Slides.



Here is a lonely figure and broken wall on the road into the village of Tullow, with the spire of 'St Columba's Church, Tullow, Diocese of Leighlin' visible in the distance.

Singing Hymns

I am not a regular attendee at Sunday services in St Mary's Cathedral. My visits usually coincide with events in my late parents' lives; birthdays or deaths mostly and including the Remembrance Day ceremony as my father served in the Allied Forces during World War II. My mother, Margaret Gladys Walsh nee Hanley loved St Mary's and we actually lived in a house on Clancy's Strand called appropriately enough, St Mary's. For obvious reasons I have been unable to visit on such occasions in the last couple of months, in particular my father Thomas Anthony Walsh's birthday and death so close to each other in April.

I receive via email the Limerick City Parish newsletter which recently has been indicating the service combined with personal notes. I do not log into the service but I do read the notes especially those to be remembered due to their illness or recent deaths. But the service listing includes hymns and as an ex-choirboy I recognise and know many of them and like my mother can sing many of them with not too much of a reference to a hymn book.

So, it is obviously the fault of the LCP newsletter that I have found myself lately whistling or singing hymns around our house. My mother did the same often with a half smoked cigarette hanging from the side of her mouth as she swept, polished or cleaned any house we may have lived in. In fact it has always been unclear whether she really smoked but just let the fag hang there until it died. Occasionally the hymn would be dropped in favour of some old Victorian ballade such as 'In the shade of the old apple tree', or a Vera Lynn classic or something similar. But depending on the time of the year a hymn would take precedence. My mother's hymn singing is a constant reminder of her presence and when I sing hymns around the house doing innocuous chores the first

thing that comes to mind is my mother doing the same thing. To me, immortality is impossible but there is a permutation of immortality that is possible. Why do we remember and think about some people when they're gone more than others? My mother and father are always with me in one way or another and are real to me now in my comments to my children that their Grandmother said this or their Grandfather said that.

As a professional artist a lock-down situation is nearly as close to normal as you can get as art eventually, after trying group and shared arrangements is most successfully made in isolation. I miss the odd coffee with a friend and I could probably do with a visit to a barber but what I miss most is that I do not have a choice. There is only one choice and that is to stay. We are learning the value of freedom, liberty and personal, independent decisions.

As a young man in third level education I would occasionally whistle a tune around the house and my mother would often say to me "Why are you so happy?" Having never associated happiness with whistling I had no answer. Like many of my generation I just did it. In time I have found it pleasing that I was once accused of overt happiness. And I still do it and over the last few months it has been hymns and of course, in the process of whistling these tunes I can hear my mother's voice, hear her singing once again and her presence returns to me as if she were standing beside me.

Samuel Walsh in lock-down with occasional spurts of cycling within limits for exercise.

Domnall Mór Ua Briain: the last King of Munster

by Craig Copley Brown

=Some of you may have noticed a new sculpture forming in recent weeks in the grounds of the cathedral; that of King Domnall Mór Ua Briain, the last King of Munster and the cathedral's benefactor. This sculpture was expertly carved by chainsaw artist Will Fogarty (Fear na Coillte), who is based in County Limerick. The sculpture was created from the single trunk of a Poplar tree, which was felled as a result of the damage it was causing to the perimeter walls of the graveyard (see photos attached). It was suggested that the remains of this tree could be used to create an artistic feature, and so, King Domnall was reinstated! In this article I hope to give a brief history of the man behind the sculpture.

Domnall Mór, the third son of King Toirdhealbhach Ua Briain (d.1167) and Queen Mór Ní Conchobair, Princess of Connacht; ruled as King of Munster (also styled as King of Limerick, King of Thomond and Prince of Limerick) from 1168 until his death in 1194. He married Princess Órlaith, daughter of the King of Leinster. He claimed the throne after the murder of his brother Muirchertach and led his kingdom during the beginnings of the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland in 1169. Domnall was a very successful military leader, campaigning alongside Strongbow as well as winning many strategic battles against the Anglo-Normans in later years. Domnall was infamous for consolidating his power by blinding his enemies. Claimants to the throne such as his brother Briain and cousins Dermot and Mathgamain all suffered this fate at his hands.

"The King of England (Henry II) then moved his army, and coming first to Lismore, halted there for two days; and thence he marched to Cashel, on the morrow. There Duvenald (Domnall), King of Limerick, came to meet him at the water of Suir, and having asked for peace, which was granted, became also tributary to the King of England, and did him fealty, which he promised faithfully to observe".

This quote comes from Gerald of Wales' Conquest of Ireland, which was written in 1189. It records the moment when King Domnall made an oath of loyalty to the English King Henry II at Cashel. It was

not long after this oath of loyalty, that Domnall committed treason against the English after burning areas of the city of Limerick which were rich with provisions. In its aftermath, Gerald writes:

"It was the work of the traitorous Duvenald (Domnall), who thus openly showed by his new and disgraceful perfidy, what little reliance could be placed on Irish faith".

King Domnall is perhaps most well known in Limerick as the benefactor of Saint Mary's Cathedral. The earliest recorded connection between Domnall and Saint Mary's can be seen in the Black Book of Limerick, dating from the thirteenth century. The book's earliest document entitled Carta Donaldi regis Limericensis deals exclusively with the endowment of the royal palace to the newly formed Diocese of Limerick and its Bishop Brictius. It was from this royal palace that the cathedral was built.

It is often reputed that the cathedral incorporated parts of Domnall's royal residence in its construction, chiefly the Great West Door and the arches of the Nave. Domnall's connection with the church in Ireland was well established during his reign, with his brother Constantin serving as Bishop of Killaloe from the 1170s until 1194. Domnall was also involved in the foundation of other churches around Munster, including Holy Cross Abbey in 1180 and Kilcooley Abbey in 1184.

After his death in 1196, King Domnall was purportedly buried inside the Cathedral. His kingdom was split after a period of bitter disputes, into the kingdoms of Thomond and Limerick, respectively, which were ruled by his sons. During excavation works in the cathedral in the mid nineteenth century a stone sarcophagus lid was discovered under the floor, not far from the Great West Door. It bore the coat of arms of the O'Brien clan and was said to be that of the King, owing to its ornate carving. During more recent excavations in the 1990s, human remains were found in the same area, and were dated to the late twelfth century; the time of King Domnall's reign.



Carving in progress



Trees coming down



Sarcophagus Lid



Domnall Mor



Finished Piece

Changed Relationships in a Global Pandemic

Discovering Mum on the floor of her bedroom, in her nightclothes at lunchtime on Wednesday April 22nd was a shock. Mum lives alone three miles outside Limerick city and will be 90 in August. She has enjoyed relatively good health; the only time I remember her being unwell or hospitalised was when I was in my late forties and Mum had a knee replacement. Even then she wasn't really sick, simply recovering after an operation. In recent years Mum, Alice, has suffered with angina which has slowed her down; breathlessness, nose bleeds etc. Mum had no recollection when I found her as to how she ended up on the floor or how long she had been there but thankfully there weren't any symptoms of a stroke except her right hand/arm was painful. I rang one of my sisters and when she arrived she decided we needed an ambulance. The paramedics were excellent with Mum when they came, they discounted a stroke but she did need to be hospitalised.

Coming to terms with my almost 90 year old Mum requiring hospitalisation during the Covid-19 crisis was not a pleasant thought. Seeing Mum being taken away from her home by ambulance, unwell and shaken distressed my sister and me. My sister, Sheila, followed the ambulance to the hospital while I went to my aunt (Mum's sister-in-law) to let her know what had happened. Understandably because of the corona virus Sheila was not able to be with Mum when she was admitted to University Hospital Limerick (UHL) – she remained in the waiting room wearing a mask and physically distanced from others waiting there. Mum underwent a number of tests and word came back that she had dislocated her shoulder. The following day she was tested for the virus and to the relief of everyone, the results thank God came back negative.

Not being able to see Mum, to put our arms around her, console and comfort her was very difficult but we were reassured by the excellent care we knew she was receiving in UHL. The day after Mum was admitted we organised a mobile phone for her which meant that even though we were not able to see her, we could at least talk with her. It was during those daily calls that I was able to express my love – people of Mum's generation often do not verbalise how they feel even to their children. Mum told us how deeply she appreciated everything we her family were doing for her – thanking us for all our kindnesses and thoughtfulness. She was especially grateful for the

care we were taking of her beloved cat Luna! Over the years Mum and I had not always had as harmonious a relationship as one might have wished for – there was blame on both sides. Mum's fall, despite the difficulties it caused her physically, gave me the opportunity to appreciate her more when I reflected on the seriousness of the situation we found ourselves in. One of the aspects of having a parent who lives to a great age is the difficulty an offspring has in letting them go when their time comes.

Since Wednesday April 22nd I have been reflecting on events and am thankfully for the opportunities it has given me to draw alongside Mum, to offer her comfort, do small acts of kindness for her, tell her how I feel and reassure her of my and my siblings presence and assistance come what may. I am pleased that Mum has developed an awareness in herself of how and where she finds herself now and that she has been able to express her thoughts. It has been an occasion to saying some, if not all those things one wishes to say but never gets to. We as a family have had those opportunities and I thank God for those occasions – having the understanding to recognise and the courage to act on them.

As happens in situations such as these, we have set up a family Whatsapp group – my three sisters, my brother and me. Communicating with each other daily, nay hourly especially since Mum returned home last Thursday (May 14th) has brought us closer. While physically distancing we have spent time together in Mum's home as we discussed plans for her return and now as we spend time providing care for Mum in the initial days of her recuperation. Opportunities have arisen for us to chat, to support each other and to be thankful for every goodness to Mum especially my sisters who have volunteered to overnight with Mum. Out of a very difficult and frightening situation, goodness and deepening of relationships has come. The President of the Irish Methodist Church Rev Sam McGuffin writing in The Irish Times earlier this year in the wake of the corona crisis sums up my feelings when he encouraged us to remain positive, reminded us that we are people of faith, hope and love – The Lord is with us and nothing can separate us from His love. Those facts have sustained me in this tough time and give me hope for the future.

Tony O'Connell

20th century the Protestant population in the Foynes, Shanagolden and Loughill parishes was contracting. History researched by Allan Callender.

In the year 1912 Reverend Robert James Connolly, looking to the future, sought permission from the Bishop, Raymond d'Audemar to convert the small disused building into a smaller and more convenient Church of Ireland church. Conor O'Brien, the famous sailor and architect, who was a local parishioner kindly provided advice and drawings for renovating and converting this building to a 'Chapel of Ease'.

In the renovations a unique chancel arch was incorporated into this building. This arch was constructed from an ancient 12th. century window that lay scattered in the grounds of Shanagolden churchyard. As work proceeded in early 1925 it was discovered that a portion of the old sandstone Window brought from Shanagolden was either damaged or missing. In that same year the fate of Loughill church

was sealed and it was being demolished. Conor O'Brien aware of this found that salvaged Caen stone from this church could be tastefully used to complete the historic arch and in return Lord Monteagle promised to preserve and maintain the tower of Loughill church as a navigation aid for shipping on the river Shannon.

The arch when completed led to a small chancel in the building and Lord Monteagle donated an east window in memory of his late wife. On the 25th of June 1925 the Primate of all Ireland, Charles Frederick D'Arcy laid the foundation stone for the converted building. When the works were completed major celebrations took place and the Bishop of Limerick consecrated the building on the 31st. October 1926.

God in the Community

A biblical plague of locusts

A new wave of crop-eating locusts has been devastating East Africa, just as communities are also dealing with an increase of coronavirus cases.

At the start of 2020, Ethiopia and Somalia faced the biggest invasion of the insects in 25 years – and the worst in Kenya and Uganda for 70 years. The locusts also reached parts of South Sudan, where millions of people are already suffering from severe food shortages amid conflict and political instability.

The latest plague could be 20 times larger. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is calling it 'an unprecedented threat' to food supplies and jobs.

Yet tackling the locusts will be even harder now that coronavirus has forced governments to close their borders. With severely reduced air travel and cargo shipping, pesticides from Europe and Asia can't get into the countries – and to the farmers – that need them. Tearfund is asking governments to recognise activities responding to the locust swarms as essential services, so that they can continue despite the restrictions on travel.

'The locust plague, together with the coronavirus pandemic, could mean all the work Tearfund supports communities with is on the brink of collapsing,' says Ephraim Tsegay, Tearfund's Country Director for Ethiopia.

'If the second wave of locusts is not prevented before it inflicts further damage, more people will be forced to leave their homes to find food, land for their animals to graze, and an income elsewhere. It will also make people more vulnerable to coronavirus.'

Looking at God

By the Rev Paul Hardingham

'How long, O Lord?' – the lament of Psalm 13

As we struggle with the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, we might echo the words of Psalm 13: 'How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?' It is one of a number of lament psalms, where the psalmist cries out in pain, because he feels abandoned by God. In our current circumstances, these psalms enable us to talk to God about our fears and frustrations, while renewing our confidence in Him. What does Psalm 13 say?

Bring your complaint to God: The psalmist brings his pain and questions to God: 'How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?' (2). He is open with God about his complaints, despite the anger he feels.

Ask boldly for His help: He goes on to ask for God's help: 'Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him...' (3-4). While avoiding despair ('there's no hope') or denial ('everything's fine'), the psalmist is confident in God's power to deliver.

Choose to trust Him: 'But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me.' (5-6). The lament is a journey to the point of renewing our trust in God in the brokenness of our life.

The psalms of lament (eg. Psalms 10, 22 and 77) give us a prayer language for dark times. They enable us to be honest with God about what is happening to us and remind us that God has not abandoned us. He is a God who is both sovereign and good.

'Laments turn toward God when sorrow tempts you to run from Him.'

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A SCIENTIST REFLECTS ON GOD'S HEART FOR THE SUFFERING

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, writing this under lockdown, I have found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19 because the reminders of its impact on people's lives are everywhere that I look.

One of the ways I have been managing my own feelings during the pandemic is by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: 'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted' (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is 'the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort' (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised 'new heavens and new earth' mentioned in the New Testament. One day 'creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay' (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes' (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

Church

CREATIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR BIBLE

Bible Society is urging people to make good use of their enforced time at home by using their creativity to read the Bible with better appreciation. To help with this, Bible Society is offering a range of creative Bible-based resources to help people learn new skills, such as journaling, colouring or doing crafts that are Bible-based.

These include:

- Bless Our Nest (£5.95) – a colouring book filled with Bible verse designs, featuring colour charts and tools for Bible journaling.
- Faithful Papercrafting (£12.99) – now you can create note cards, gift tags and scrapbook paper, mini cards, bookmarks and envelope templates full of inspiring Scripture.
- Complete Guide to Bible Journaling (£14.99) – offering new creative techniques for Bible journaling.

Go to: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>

Getting to know each other in Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe

Our dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe and Tuam Killala & Achonry will be united under the remaining bishop when either see is next vacant. Last year both our diocesan synods unanimously ratified the bill passed by General Synod to give effect to this, and now it is just a matter of time. The united diocese will be known as the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe. It will have a single, united diocesan synod, but in other respects the two present diocesan organisations will continue as before until and unless the diocesan synod decides otherwise.

While we wait for unity, it is appropriate for us to begin to get to know each other better. As part of this the editors of our two diocesan magazines, Newslink and Tidings, have agreed to publish profiles of parishes in the other present diocese. Here is the first one, for the Aughaval Group of Parishes, whose Rector, Canon Jen McWhirter, is based in Westport.

Joc Saunders

The Aughaval Group of Parishes – Westport

The Aughaval Group of parishes is located in west Mayo and includes Achill Island, which is connected by bridge to the mainland. Apart from Achill, which is 50 km from Westport, the other three churches are within 25km of each other.

The Rector, Canon Jen McWhirter, resides in Westport which is, according to the panel that chose the town as the recipient of The Best Place to Live in Ireland Award (2012), 'a beautiful place, well-kept and pleasant to visit...it is a community of people working together to make the best of the town's many advantages. Indeed, community spirit through cooperation is a hall mark of the town'. The town has also won both regional and national tidy towns awards. Westport (c.6,000 pop.) is a premier tourist destination, popular with holiday makers from all over the world.



Croagh Patrick

Castlebar (18 km from Westport) is a thriving market town and is the administrative centre of the county. It boasts a number of international chain stores and enjoys a rich diversity among its population of c. 12,000, with many different nationalities choosing to make it their home. The Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and Mayo University Hospital, where the Rector is chaplain, are situated in the town.

Achill Island is the largest island (148 km²) off the coast of Ireland and is home to over 2,700 inhabitants, although this number swells considerably during the holiday months. Marked by rugged mountains and bogs, the island is known for its high sea cliffs and clean beaches – the beach at Keem Bay inspired visiting writers Heinrich Böll and Graham Greene. Its breezy shoreline makes it a popular spot for water sports. St Thomas's Church is located in Dugort on the north of the island.



Clew Bay

Turlough is a village 6 km north-east of Castlebar. It is rich in history and the surrounding countryside is dotted with standing stones. The Turlough 9th century Round Tower is one of the most complete and best-preserved round towers in Ireland. The Museum of Country Life (part of the National Museum of Ireland) is located in Turlough's 'big house', the former home to the Fitzgerald Family. The Museum incorporates the estate's fully restored house, built in the High Victorian Gothic style. Turlough Church is situated 1 km from the village.



Mayo Peace Park, Castlebar, Ireland

SPORT AND LEISURE

An extensive range of sporting activities is to be found in the area. Proximity to the coast, with its pristine beaches, provides ample opportunity for water-sport enthusiasts, with sea-kayaking, surfing, kite-surfing, wind surfing, sailing, etc.

The Great Western Greenway is a 42-km long greenway trail that starts in Westport and ends in Achill, passing through the towns of Newport and Mulranny as it runs along the coast of Clew Bay. It is an off-road trail intended for use by cyclists and walkers.

Mayo is considered a key destination for angling enthusiasts. Its numerous lakes are renowned for their top-quality wild brown trout fishing and its deep-sea angling centre is located at Clew Bay. The Moy River is regarded as the most important salmon river in the country.

OUR PARISHES

The four parishes of the Aughaval Group, Westport, Castlebar, Turlough and Achill, are distinctive and each has its own administrative Select Vestry.

In addition there is Holy Trinity Church of Ireland National School in Westport and the recently founded Sacred Path retreat centre in Dugort, Achill.

ST THOMAS'S PARISH, DUGORT

St Thomas's Church is located in Dugort on Achill Island. The church was founded in the mid-19th century by the famous Rev. Edward Nangle as a Mission Church. Much has changed since its turbulent history of inter-church rivalry!



St Thomas' Church, Dugort, Achill

St Thomas's Parish is a small parish community that works hard to maintain this church. In summertime, when there are visitors to the island, many of whom have been coming for generations, there are services each Sunday.

Recently the vestry of St Thomas's Church bought a building in Dugort which is an original part of the 19th century mission and is also close to the church. The building will be used as a facility for the Sacred Path ministry and for the whole community on Achill Island.

The Sacred Path ministry is a new spirituality and retreat centre for the Diocese and the wider church and is currently coordinated by the local Ordained Local Minister (OLM), Revd Maebh O'Herlihy who resides on the island, under the direction of the Rector.

HOLY TRINITY PARISH, WESTPORT

Holy Trinity Church, located in Westport is a particularly beautiful and important building. Consecrated in 1872, Holy Trinity is the last Church of Ireland church built before the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871. The Ruskinian, early Arts and Crafts interior took a further 20 years to complete. The graceful pencil spire is visible from almost every approach to Westport. The church is currently undergoing a major restoration project under the guidance of the Select Vestry's building restoration committee.

Several Holy Trinity parishioners have played leading roles in the success of the local inter-church EcoCongregation.

Local festivals appreciate and need Holy Trinity's hospitality for concerts annually, at a very modest cost to the organisers: International Choral festival, Chamber Music Festival, Folk and Bluegrass Festival, Arts Festival, Rolling Sun Festival, etc. Holy Trinity has also been a venue for touring choirs and orchestras.



Holy Trinity

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH, CASTLEBAR



Castlebar Church

Christchurch is one of the oldest buildings in Castlebar – its first stones were laid in 1739. From 1800 to 1828, it underwent renovations. Inside, visitors can explore the history of the town from 1590 to 1914 through numerous commemorative plaques. It stands in a central location in the town adjacent to The Mall.



Turlough Church

Christchurch has been increasingly used by groups, including the Mayo International Choral festival, to stage performances. Other music and choral performances have also been hosted, some in conjunction with the Linenhall Arts Centre.

TURLOUGH PARISH

Turlough Church, constructed in 1821 and built on land donated by George Fitzgerald of nearby Turlough House, sits in a beautiful rural setting off the N5 and a short distance from Turlough village. The church is of simple cruciform shape and has undergone a number of restorations over the years, including the restoration, in 2003, of the Alex Chestnutt organ.

Statement from the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin

The Most Revd John McDowell & The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson

Over the past few days An Taoiseach, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and the devolved administration in Northern Ireland have each published some form of "road map" to guide us out of the current severe restrictions which had been put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the road maps differ somewhat from one another, they all point to a gradual and a graduated easing of restrictions. Each is set out in stages and presupposes that movement to the next stage will require satisfactory progress against certain criteria. It is acknowledged that there may be setbacks.

We want to thank all of those in the Church of Ireland community and far beyond who, by their sacrifice of personal liberty, have made progress to this point possible. We especially wish to thank all of those who have self-isolated and all who have strictly observed the guidelines laid down by public health authorities. It has often been far from comfortable to do so.


We wish also to commend those who have been involved in reaching out into their parishes and communities to maintain the work and witness of the Church; through online services of worship; through parish initiatives to maintain a sense of togetherness; and through action with other groups and projects. In short, by serving God, "not only with our lips but in our lives".

The burden of work and of suffering during this period of emergency has not fallen equally on us all. As the picture becomes clearer and the statistics more complete, we want to pay tribute to and give thanks for all who work in care homes throughout the island. Their selflessness and resourcefulness in caring for very vulnerable people under difficult circumstances cannot be praised highly enough. The workers, residents and families in that sector, along with all who work on the front line in hospitals and in the community, remain at the forefront of our prayers. We continue to pray also for all who are ill and those who have been bereaved of loved ones at a time when funerals and grieving cannot follow their usual patterns.

As progress is made, there is an inevitable eagerness to return to our old patterns of worship. That is our hope too in the long run. In the meantime, as with any other gatherings which have the potential to spread the Covid-19, progress towards that goal will be gradual. A return to even small gatherings for worship will require close observance of both social distancing and hygiene requirements as laid down by the public health authorities. Even where such gathering for worship is permitted, it may

well require each parish to carry out an evaluation and risk assessment. For now, we thank God for the vocation he has given us to worship him, to care for his people, for our neighbours and for and his world. We thank you for being faithful in living out that vocation in troubled and uncertain times and for moving forward in faith, in hope and in love.

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Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal

SUPPORTS GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the light of the global Covid-19 pandemic, Bishops' Appeal – the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme – is releasing a total of €50,000 to five key partner mission and development agencies to support their efforts among the world's most vulnerable people. The five agencies are Christian Aid, Tearfund Ireland, CMS Ireland, USPG, and Motivation. The emergency responses include distributing essential supplies such as food, soap, medicine and information to people whose markets have shut down and who have no access to supplies, people who live in informal settlements and in refugee camps, and people who are living with a disability.

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Chair of Bishops' Appeal, said: 'Aware of the financial pressures parishes are currently experiencing, the Church of Ireland is not launching its own major appeal but asking dioceses, parishes and individuals to give what they can to the appeals launched by our partner agencies, with Bishops' Appeal acting as a conduit. In the midst of our own sufferings and fears at this time, it is vital that we remember those in countries with fewer resources and expertise.'

Further donations can be sent to Bishops' Appeal through its website at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give <<http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give>>



Hand Washing Credit Christian Aid

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid is using the lessons from the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus. The agency is already taking action in Rohingya refugee camps where 850,000 people live in cramped conditions. Working together with partners, Christian Aid is informing people about the risks, offering hygiene and handwashing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps have triage and isolation spaces in order to receive suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

TEARFUND IRELAND

Tearfund is working in Ethiopia, Cambodia and Uganda and with Syrian refugees in Lebanon who are living in densely packed conditions in makeshift shelters, waiting for peace and the possibility to return home. Whereas people would have previously congregated to receive essential supplies, volunteers now knock on hundreds of doors delivering food and medicines. These are countries with much fewer resources than Ireland to face this pandemic – for example, in Uganda, it is estimated that there are more government ministers than ICU beds.

CMS IRELAND

CMS Ireland is working with partner churches which are distributing handwashing supplies in refugee camps in northern Uganda. Diocesan clinics in the region need assistance to upgrade their personal protection equipment and to upgrade their main hospital to be ready as a treatment and isolation centre. In South Sudan, partner churches are requesting funds for bicycles to

help to spread accurate information. The war has ensured that the vast majority of people living in the country have no financial reserves – so being unable to work their gardens or sell at market has left many in need of food and soap. Several dioceses wish to make packs available to the most vulnerable in their communities. The Mothers' Union in Maridi has been busy making masks for the diocesan clinic and they need further supplies. In eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kindu Diocese is also suffering the devastating impact of local floods at this time and their communities are displaced, already without food and basic supplies. The Urban Development Programme in Kenya ministers to communities in informal settlements. The programme has identified many elderly residents who are without basic household supplies and would like to provide these for them.

USPG

USPG is launching a new fund in solidarity with churches locally – across South and East Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Oceania, the Middle East and Europe – as they provide care and support for their communities most in need, out of their faithful commitment to God's love. USPG has already sent money to Guinea, in West Africa, for the distribution of sanitation kits, and emergency support to families of agricultural labourers in central Sri Lanka where coronavirus restrictions have severely exacerbated pre-existing difficulties created by unusually dry weather.

MOTIVATION

Motivation is working with disabled people in Africa and South Asia who have lost jobs and income, lack access to food and medicine and are struggling with pain and loss of dignity, due to a lack of urinary and sanitary products, which increases their risk of serious infection. These people are also often excluded from support so a network of communication and support is being utilised to keep them connected and informed.



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Online Talking Jesus course FREE during the Covid-19 lockdown



HOPE Together has made the hugely popular Talking Jesus course available to rent free to watch online during the Covid-19 crisis.

Announcing the new online opportunity, Roy Crowne, executive director of HOPE Together, said: 'We have had lots of requests during the Covid-19 lockdown to make the Talking Jesus course available online. We are thrilled to do this and to make the course free for churches to use online over the next few months. There seems to be an increased interest from non-Christians in spiritual issues. People are searching for hope. We want to help equip Christians to tell their story and to make the most of every opportunity to talk about the hope we have because of Jesus.'

The Talking Jesus course includes six practical, video-based teaching sessions with inspirational testimonies to give real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus. There are also short parable-style films designed to get groups thinking. To access the course free until the end of August visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingjesus

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's assistant director, said: 'The Talking Jesus research showed the UK church that non-Christians know us, they like us and some of them, right now, are open to having conversations with us about Jesus. The more we have shared the research, the more we have found it has encouraged Christians to have confidence to talk about Jesus and share their faith. That's why the course was created.'

HOPE Together, the Church of England, and KingsGate Community Church in Peterborough, developed the course to equip Christians to talk about Jesus, sensitively, appropriately and with respect in everyday life.

Recommending the course, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said, 'The most helpful way people hear the Good News of God in Jesus Christ is by a follower of Jesus Christ sharing their encounter with Jesus Christ. This inspiring course will help Christians to be witnesses to Jesus Christ wherever God has placed them.'

The Talking Jesus course is ideal for small groups. Group members are invited to discuss the video teaching, apply it to local situations, and pray together asking God to help each one to make Jesus known naturally and effectively as opportunities come up in everyday life. The goal is to equip Christians to make the most of every opportunity to help friends, colleagues and family members to consider Jesus for themselves and become his followers.

Under-fives key to significant church growth



New research shows that young families with children under five could be a vital element for church growth.

The Talking Toddlers report, using research by Savanta ComRes*, released on Monday 18 May, shows that 74% of all parents with children under the age of five have attended a church-based activity in the past year.

This new research was commissioned by HOPE Together, the Church of England, and the Evangelical Alliance to highlight the potential for sustained church growth if the church nurtures the faith of under-fives and their parents. A webinar to discuss the findings of the report will be held on 26 June – to sign up visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingtoddlers

In the 2017 Mapping Practising Christians research, commissioned by HOPE Together and the Church of England, 40% of practising Christians said that they came to faith before the age of five. In fact, of all generations, the under-fives were the generation where the church has the biggest impact. This statistic led to the commissioning of the Talking Toddlers research.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, assistant director of HOPE Together said of the Talking Toddlers report, 'We so often hear about aging church, but here is something new – very young church. Can the church reach a generation of under-fives and their parents? Could they be the missing link for church growth?

'The church has the most extraordinary reach and a huge opportunity to help a generation begin in faith if they start with the under-fives and their parents – they are already in touch with us, many are open and questioning and the opportunity is now.'

The Talking Toddlers research shows that churches are already in contact with nearly three-quarters of all parents of under-fives in Great Britain:

- 74% of all parents with children under the age of five have attended a church activity in the past 12 months
- 12% of all parents of under-fives are practising Christians, double the number of practising Christians in the population
- 62% of all parents of under-fives are not active Christians, but they have attended a church activity for this age group in the past year
- Over half of these parents, 55%, say that they have explored their own beliefs because of attending these activities
- Only 25% of all parents of children aged 0-4 are currently not in contact with a church, but 35% of them would welcome an invite to a church-based activity for them and their children

Dr Jordan-Wolf said, 'I was praying at the age of three and singing my own worship songs. My hope is that the church will see the incredible opportunity it has to help as many under-fives as possible to experience faith for themselves.'

She added, 'The opportunity to turn round decline in the church might be right in front of us – a long-term strategy starting with the very young.'

Rachael Heffer, head of mission for the Evangelical Alliance said, 'This research offers a real challenge to church leaders to prioritise mission and ministry amongst the very young – investing much more now for the future.'

Revd Canon David Male, Director of Evangelism and Discipleship for the Church of England, said, 'This important research offers complimentary data to the 'The Toddler Group Research' in 2017 and should ensure that every church leader is considering how they are helping faith to grow both for parents and their children.'

To join a webinar at 10am on 26 June on the Talking Toddlers report, please complete the form at www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingtoddlers

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon & Tuamgraney

Dean: The Very Revd Rod Smyth

Tel: 067 32598

Mob: 087 970 6479

eMail: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

Dean's Vicar: Revd Paul Fitzpatrick

Mob: 089 498 0495

eMail: paulfitz1000@gmail.com

We were delighted when Bishop Kenneth came on Sunday 9th February and announced before the service that he had nominated Rev Rod Smyth, Rector of the Nenagh group of parishes to also be Dean of Killaloe and also that Rev Paul Fitzpatrick, then attached to the Limerick group of parishes, would become Dean's Vicar in the Killaloe group of parishes. Accordingly, the service of Installation was arranged for the evening of the 13th March in St. Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe. Alas! Restrictions to contain the spread of Covid 19 were announced and the Installation was postponed. We are looking forward to the event at some future time. Meanwhile, Dean Rod and Rev Paul have been ministering to us in their new roles - albeit often by remote means. To date, this sometimes extremely nasty and fatal infection isn't rife in our area. We are SO grateful for those who are ministering to our daily needs in many different ways and remember them before God asking for His protection and a special blessing for them. This includes our gratitude to our clergy who are live-streaming services for those who are able to access them. Thank you.

A small number of parishioners observed the Women's World Day of Prayer in the cathedral on the first Friday in March as usual. This year the service was planned by the women of Zimbabwe. Sadly students from St. Anne's Community College weren't able to take part at the last minute because they had progressed in a swimming competition which clashed with the Service. Thanks to Beverley Hartigan nevertheless for her efforts and her intention to help the school participation next year.

Meanwhile, everybody, Wash your hands (with soap!), keep your distance and thank a God for summer, long warmer days, bird song and friends - And Perseverantia..... There are no bullets and bombs and we are not starving so there is much to be thankful for. God is still on the throne!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CASTLECONNELL, COUNTY LIMERICK.

Well what extraordinary times we are living in.

Could anyone have predicted such dramatic and life changing conditions worldwide.

The sad family losses in isolation are traumatic and heartbreaking. The amazing sacrifices and dedication of all frontline workers are inspiring and the kindness and efforts of friends, neighbours, family and complete strangers are impressive.

Corvid has spawned an appreciation of the beauty of nature and the heroism of ordinary people in extraordinary times.

We especially remember all who have been bereaved, the lack of visiting rites, the celebratory send off, the hugs and the retold joyful memories, all missing, from the family and friends get-together that we Irish do so well.

We send our best wishes to Shirley McCarthy (nee Newenham) and

her family on the death of Justin. He will be sadly missed.

We think of Tom Critchley, Geraldine's brother-in-law, who died on the 7th of April in Poole, in England. He was a much loved brother to Bob and a supportive friend to Geraldine.

Tom, will be remembered with respect and gratitude by all who knew him and who will miss his lovely smile.

Friends will be delighted to hear that Baden Powell is alive and well in Newport. He is revelling in the level of organization that has entered his life. He is cocooning with the local papers and the Farmers journal and a regular supply of groceries delivered to the house every day.

A photograph organized by his daughter Ruth, of two of his grandchildren, that appeared in the Nenagh Guardian, sending love to their granddad, to their Uncle James and of course their Uncle Raymond. It was such a thoughtful gesture and source of utter delight to Baden.

I was amused to hear that his son James took the keys of the Jeep off his Dad to ensure that this "cocooner" stayed put! Talk about role reversal, (Parents, may do well to remember, what goes round, has a habit of coming round.)

Dean Rod and Reverend Paul have worked tirelessly to hold all the group of parishes together with their daily thought-provoking services, where we can sit cocooning in our slippers, every day, morning and evening, belonging to a warm, vibrant and caring community. This constant, virtual presence has been a reassuring aspect and a great comfort for anyone feeling the isolation just too much. Our sympathy is also extended to all the Holmes Family who recently buried their Aunt Ruby in Threecastles, Kilkenny. She had reached the wonderful age of 101.

To all the parishioners, young and old, who are trying to cope with the changing criteria and uncertainty of school and state exams we wish you, your teachers and your parents well.

Leaving Cert. students Adam Jarvis, Sam den Dicken, Aaron Farrell, Daibhi Hartigan, Klara Carty and Harvey Hartigan are all in our thoughts.

To Oisín Cleary, Kate O'Brien, Oscar Carty, Darragh Stapleton and our most loyal and dependable Church Warden Ray Smith we salute your efforts, applaud your dedication and wish you all every success.

(We can all breathe easy as Darragh is heading to Galway after his college exams for work placement making ventilators!)

It is great to hear that John Jarvis is making a good recovery after his recent surgery and that Tom and Peggy Tyrell Tyrell are also in good form.

Finally Lucy Jackson hopes to be married in a small civil ceremony at the end of May as booked last year! The garden party celebration will held at a later date when Covid dictates that family and friends may gather for a truly memorable "knees up." I know that Margaret and Sean will be en route to Oranmore, over the mountains, via the back roads, resplendent with wedding hat and wellingtons as the dawn chorus heralds a special trip, that might just be outside the 5 k limit! (The wellingtons are a precaution should a bog trot through undergrowth, be necessary to avoid a routine road block.)

We wish them all a wonderful day and a healthy, happy future life.

Finally, WE, in All Saints in Castleconnell, wish everyone in our extended parish the strength to cope with our isolations and the optimism to look forward to the warmth of friendship, the joy of shared memories and real conversation.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234

eMail: mapleire@gmail.com

COVID-19

It looks like regular Sunday worship might not be restarting in some form until at least the 20th of July. However, we have all been finding ways of worshipping God in these unprecedented times. Here is what is happening in our Group of Parishes.

For those with Internet, I have been sending 'A Prayer for Today' every day to those whose email addresses I have. These are also available on the Parish Facebook page, (www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes).

Each week, I am sending out a Sunday service to everyone on my email list. This includes the readings from Scripture for the day, a short sermon, prayers, and a canticle. There are also generally two hymns, with the words shown, and a link to a video of the hymn, so you can either listen or sing along. If you open the email with the service on a computer, laptop, or tablet, all you have to do is to click on the link (or sometimes hold the 'Ctrl' key and then click) and it should play. You can also print the service out.

If anyone is not receiving the daily prayer or the service, and would like to, they should just send a request to mapleire@gmail.com and I'll be happy to add them to the list.

PRAYERS

Mildred Dillon and James Coburn have been in hospital over the last number of weeks. Please keep them in your prayers, along with Frances Ardill, Betty Eades, Violet Harding, Barbara Haslam, Keele Haslam, Tom Hayes, Iris Dyer, Brian & Elyse Thompson, young Saoirse Gill, and all those who have been 'cocooning' since the start of the pandemic.

TREES

Since the last issue of Newslink, the beech trees on the Glebe Street side of the Rectory property have been cut down. These were definitely old and diseased, and according to tree surgeons, posed a safety hazard. The three chestnut trees beside the drive were also removed; they were also losing large branches in storms.

NEW RECTORY

Plans for the proposed new Rectory have been approved by the Representative Church Body (RCB) and Offaly County Council, and we are now involved in the tendering process. The funds realised by the sale of some of the Rectory lands to the County Council can only be utilised for Rectory purposes, and some other capital works on buildings, according to RCB rules, and cannot be used for the day-to-day running of the parish.

THANKS

Many thanks to all who contributed to parish funds over these weeks, when no Sunday services have meant no regular Sunday collections. Though the churches have been closed, parish expenses continue. Some of our parishioners will have had serious loss of income due to the pandemic, but for those who can afford it, continuing contributions are most welcome.

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

From the registers: We offer our sincere and particularly heartfelt condolences to Sarah Williams and her family at the death of her husband Robert Joseph Williams on March 22nd. 2020. Robert's

funeral took place in St. Cronan's Church Roscrea and laid to rest in Dungar cemetery, midst the regulations of national lock down.

Holy Baptism: Ivy Sarah Cunningham was baptised in St. Molua's Church Kyle on Monday March 21st. 2020. Congratulations to Jean and Damien on bringing baby Ivy before God and promising to bring her up in the faith of the Church. The date of the ceremony was brought forward. All the bare essentials were there (some by proxy) ...the extra dimension at the ceremony was a promise that service of welcoming would take place at a later, safer date and a party would follow.



Baby Ivy with her parents and her grannies

Congratulations to Alison and Jason Patterson on the safe arrival of their daughter Leah Shirley Elizabeth on April 2nd. 2020. a little sister for Ethan. We look forward to meeting Leah and her parents just as soon as the time is right.

Easter 2020. As a parish group we kept in close contact with one another. Many people were able to catch Holy Week and especially Easter Day ceremonies on line or on television. What a strange experience but how fortunate we are to be able to avail of electronic media.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness 2020 took place, comprising the clergy of the four churches in the town....keeping their distance! Revd. Steven Foster of the Methodist Church arranged the electronic connections allowing pick up by our people. We had a Garda escort as we took to the middle of the streets. Stopping at each church where a prayer or reflection or the Bible was read.

On Easter Eve word came that churches were invited to leave their lights on as a welcome to Easter Day and as a sign of the Light of the world. So, at dusk, the lights of St. Cronan's Roscrea were turned on. Not all of the lights but certainly the lights facing the town and the lights of the great East window were deliberately switched on... What a wonderful view of Easter welcome those essential people who keep us all safe would be treated to as they drove through the town on their mission....Well that was the plan...but someone else saw the lights and assumed they had been left on by a mistake! Now, on any other night of the year, any of the 364/5 (this year), it would have been... the correct...even kind ...and thoughtful...even generous spirited thing to do...to think some key holder, shrivel the thought that it might have been the rector!...who left the bulbs burning...that key holder opened up the church...and extinguished all the light. I wonder who the...? There is a list, a very short list of suspects... (That individual should know the rector roared laughing that Easter morning!)



St.Cronan's Churchwarden making preparations for end of July 2020

BUT all was not lost in the parish group. Yes, our smallest building St.Molua's Kyle! It might be thought, stands in the middle of nowhere. In fact, it stands just off the Old Dublin Road. On Easter Eve its light shone forth, in the darkness of the night all around. It was clearly seen from the road. The Light of the World shone full of Easter meaning and hope Roscrea Group of Parishes. Happy Eastertide everyone and what a special Pentecost celebration beckons!



St.Molua's Church Kyle Easter Proclamation 2020 (1)

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www.jjryanundertakers.com

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey & Killodieran

Rector: Rev Rod Smyth

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We have all been coming to terms with living life in a sort of limbo land of unreality for the last six weeks or so, as we come to terms with Covid-19 and the challenges it has thrown up for us. It is as if time has stood still for the past number of weeks, and it is hard to credit that we are now in the month of June! It has certainly been a very frustrating time to take up a new phase of ministry as Dean of Killaloe.

Many of us who are not technically minded, have found ourselves being educated in the ways of 'live streaming' of services on facebook and uploading videos of the same on to youtube. Skills which we didn't have before, but, as they say, 'necessity is the mother of invention.' And so, we have had to acquire them. I am aware that many parishes have been broadcasting services, and Rev Paul Fitzpatrick and myself have been streaming two services each day, either from St Mary's in Nenagh, or from Rev Paul's home in Aghancon, and, judging by the feedback we have received, it seems to be providing a rhythm to the day and, indeed to the weeks of parishioners and some from further afield. It has also provided a way of being in contact with many former colleagues in various parts of Ireland, both North and South and the UK.

One of my wife's main concerns about the 'lockdown', was how on earth we were going to cut the substantial amount of grass in the church grounds and the rectory since the parishioner who normally does this is 'cocooned' in Moneygall. As I sat at the computer one afternoon, I was aware of the sound of lawnmowers which seemed terribly close. When I went out to the garden to investigate, I found two men cutting the grass. Upon further investigation I discovered that it was Fr. Des and Fr Michael from St Mary's, our neighbours from 'over the wall.' They have faithfully returned each Tuesday, weather permitting, and cut the grass for us - such a nice ecumenical gesture!

Maintaining contact with parishioners has been going on by telephone, email, notelets through the post, and the streamed Sunday services have become a place, not only for virtual worship, but also a virtual meeting place where parishioners can greet each other. Nonetheless, we look forward to the day when we can be together again in our church buildings, a day which will come all the quicker if we stick to the restrictions put in place to curb the spread of the infection.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney & Ballingarry

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell

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eMail: terrym438@gmail.com

CONDOLENCES

- Vera Larke - On behalf of the Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to Des Larke and his extended family, with the death of Vera on the 30th March. The funeral was held on the 1st of April and whilst attended by the family, friends and neighbours came to pay their respects as they met outside their front gates and at the graveyard to bid their farewells. The burial took place at the Modreeny Graveyard
- Evelyn Hodgins - On behalf of the Group of Parishes we extend our condolences to Robert and Beverley Hodgins as well their

extended family on the death of Evelyn on the 10th of May. The funeral was held on the 12th May and attended by the family, as friends and neighbours came to the graveyard to pay their respects. The burial took place at the Borrisnafarney Graveyard. Both Vera and Evelyn were longstanding and loyal member of the parish and will be missed by both family and friends who knew them and loved them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

PARISH NEWS

The spread of the coronavirus has affected us all in different ways. Our senior members have been very good in cocooning, farming fortunately has carried on unabated, as has the work of the nurses and those working in the supermarkets and the food supply chain. For most of us we have been working from home with the odd visit to the office.

I would particularly like to wish those in their final year of school the best of luck as the education department finds a way for them to complete the Leaving Certificate. To those at University and Colleges well done in persevering under difficult circumstances and to the children at home, the lovely weather must have made 'home school' very difficult. Thank you also to our teachers in the parish for making provision so that school could carry on. For all of us, we have had to adapt to a new way of life and are looking forward to returning to some level of normality in the months ahead.

Thank you for your support for one another through all the phone calls across the parish, text messages, Zoom and Skype meetings, checking in to the online services on the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of Parishes Facebook Page, emails and updates from the Diocese. It has been both an example to us all to witness your resilience, as well as patience in helping to keep our communities and parishes going in these unusual times.

I am sure each one of us has our own story as to how we have been encouraged during this time in different ways, as we remember the prayer of Julian of Norwich, who lived during the Black Death: 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

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

Our prayer in these days must be that our parishoners stay safe and those in authority make the correct decisions for our country. We remember with great gratitude those on our front line in Hospitals and Medical Centres and in the community. The list is large and includes our Garda officers and Care Workers facing danger from this invisible enemy.

We also remember two families bereaved since our last Newslink.

- Sarah Elizabeth Clarke 10/2/1929 – 15/3/2020. Funeral from Dunkerrin, St Patrick's Day. Sarah had lived some years in care, not far from the Rectory in Banagher and it was a great privilege for me to visit while priest in charge. We also had a monthly Holy Communion and Sarah would join a number of our own parishoners. Family members had the opportunity to take part in the funeral service which took place as the lock down began to take effect and we all worked together in a changing world. "Nearer my God to Thee"
- Gladys Alexander – 93 years of age. Funeral from Shinrone 28/04/2020. We especially remember Bert (husband) in this time of bereavement, perhaps being made more difficult to manage in these very changed times. A world of new rules

and yet I believe we managed to be respectful and safe. Thank you to the small family group on the day. Thank you to our undertaker for her guidance and thoughtfulness. Also, to our Church officers as they also managed new rules. Thank you to our front line carers in Ealga Lodge. "Safe in the arms of Jesus"

As we all work with change almost every day, we look forward to light at the end of the tunnel. Perhaps families may like to get together in the future and remember a loved one in a more inclusive Church environment.

In all of this please stay safe and let's do our best to accept the guidance.

Sincerely Charles

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh & Shannon

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 (with direct flights from Shannon). The way is relatively easy going and we would plan to cover around 15kms per day. Galicia has an ancient Celtic heritage and the countryside often looks very much like rural Ireland, with a good deal of cultural exchange between here and there, especially with regard to traditional music. Later in the year there will be a presentation about the walk that gives more information, 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 summer of 2021 but that very much depends on how the travel scene looks by then – we certainly would want to ensure that people stay safe and well – but we also want to look forward to better and more open times. Undertaking the walk as an ecumenical pilgrimage would be well worth considering. To whet people's appetites 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

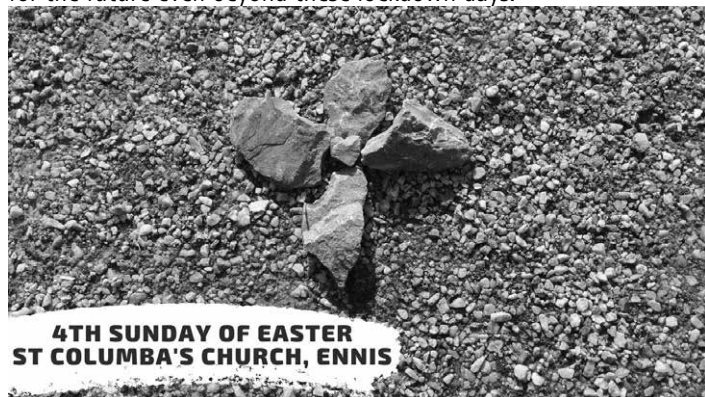
THE BIBLE CHALLENGE

One way people might like to devote some time during the lockdown 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 does include 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 from start to finish. This gives them a chance to do so, that is sustainable and achievable. If you would like a copy of the scheme please visit our site www.clareanglicans.ie and you will find the link to download a pdf or email the Rector on frkevinobrien@me.com.

ONLINE SERVICES

Whilst our church services are temporarily suspended during the coronavirus preventative measures, we have released recorded online services through Lent, Holy Week and now the weeks following Easter. Each service generally runs for around 20-25 minutes and there is a service sheet and a weekly pew sheet that people can either print or view on their computer screen at the same time as the service runs. We also include some suggested hymns with links to YouTube videos of a choir with lyrics on the screen so people can add hymns to the service if they wish. Like other churches doing online services we have often seen 'congregations' far in excess of the number who normally can come to church, so it is wonderful to be reaching people who ordinarily we wouldn't see. We are now producing short talks and video clips to have regular reasons to 'tune in' and short weekly prayer video meditations for those who would like a 'holy moment' in their day. Bible study on Zoom is a new experiment for us. Certainly, in such a widely spread parish that covers most of North and West Clare down to the Shannon, the use of modern communications may well be one of our key mission tools for the future even beyond these lockdown days.



Online services - St Columba's church

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Union of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, 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

Easter time is the most sacred time of the year for all Christian communities, and yet this Easter we faced the stark reality of being unable to come together to celebrate the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of the Covid-19 Coronavirus crisis, we are called to show the love of Christ by staying apart from each other. However, in this time of enforced isolation, we are learning just how closely connected we all are.

Rarely has it been so clear that each of our actions has the potential to effect the lives of countless other people, known and unknown to us. The spread of the Coronavirus across the globe makes a nonsense of the tribal identities which the human race so often clings to. We are all in this together.



Easter Vigil in Holy Trinity Church

We are also learning about humility and gratitude, through our new-found experience of powerlessness. Most of the plans that we had busied ourselves making are now meaningless, because this disease has robbed us of the agency which we normally take for granted.

We realise now just how indebted we are to all those people on whom our wellbeing depends: the front-line staff in our hospitals, medical centres and pharmacies; the staff in our supermarkets; those who are maintaining supply chains; people who continue to provide essential services. Standing at the till, with food in the trolley, is now an invitation to profound gratitude: "Give us this day our daily bread."



Full bloom in the rectory orchard

As we grow into a deeper understanding of our shared humanity, we can also grow into a deeper appreciation of the message of Holy Week. In the life and death of Jesus Christ, God shared fully in the human experience which unites us. Jesus himself understood just how intimately connected he was to the rest of humanity.

Jesus knew that his actions had the potential to effect the lives of countless people around the world. That's how he found the courage to face up to his own suffering and death, with love and compassion for in his heart for the whole world. On the cross, Jesus carried the love of God into even the darkest of human experiences.

That is a precious message for us all in our present suffering, as we watch and pray, through these troubled times, for the light of the resurrection to dispel this present darkness.

Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with the loved ones of

Velma Jackson (nee Newton), a daughter of this parish, who died on Easter Day in Portlaoise. We offer our deepest sympathies to her children Clive, Pamela and David, her sisters Pearl and Ruth, her brother Arthur and all the family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs Adair Leech and her family in Adrahan, on the death in Nenagh her mother, Mrs Judy Dean. A private graveside funeral was led by the Dean of Killaloe, Reverend Rod Smyth. We offer our sincere condolences to the Joynt family on the death of Mr Bill Joynt in Loughrea. By invitation of the family, the rector attended a funeral mass for Bill in St Brendan's Cathedral Loughrea and the burial afterwards in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Kathleen Newton, of Aughrim parish, on the death in Moneygall of her aunt Evelyn Hodgins, and with Mr Glenn McCullagh, of the Glebe National School, following the death in Clondalkin of his aunt, Denise Jones.

Following the inspirational example of parishes throughout the diocese who prepared online services for Holy Week, our own parish has been uploading Sunday services to YouTube each week since the Second Sunday of Easter. Recorded in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim, they can be found on the new Aughrim & Creagh Parish YouTube channel, or by following the link on the diocesan website. Thanks to the recently updated parish database, the rector has been able to distribute links to the services widely, both by text and email, including into nursing home and hospital settings. Do let him know if you would like your details to be added to the distribution list.

The constraints of the platform mean that services need to be under 15 minutes in length. This allows time for a streamlined liturgy which includes a Greeting, Confession, Collect, Gospel, Sermon, Intercessions and Blessing. The discipline of having to re-record the whole service if the time limit is exceeded is training the rector in the preaching of short sermons! At the moment the footage is being recorded in a single take on the rector's iPhone, perched in front of the altar, hence the sound of his scurrying feet at the end of each take.



Rogation time in the Rectory Garden Project

Despite the crudeness of the recording, these services are proving an important way for us to stay connected both with each other and with the liturgical year. It is also of symbolic significance that Holy Trinity Church remains prayed in each Sunday. This is also a welcome opportunity for us to draw closer to the wider diocesan family, by joining online worship from other parishes. At a time when the doors of church buildings remain locked, it is heartening to see how the Gospel message is breaking through in creative and Spirit-filled ways.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the first phase of lifting the Covid-19 restrictions, which should allow the staff of Aughrim Development to return to work on the Rectory Garden

Project. It is a propitious date, falling on the first of three rogation days between Rogation Sunday and Ascension Day. May God richly bless the seeds which they will sow, and the symbols of God's goodness which we hope will flourish here in the months ahead.

Pandemic, by Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt & Portumna

Rector: Rev. Olive Henderson

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

Our sincere sympathy to the Finney family, Shannon Grove, on the death of Helen. We remember Isabel her mother, also sisters Jackie, Hazel, Kathryn, and Lynn and her brother Mark. We remember Dave and their children Luran, Jake, Alice and Ellie. The service and burial took place in Eyrecourt on 1st March. Helen's rector from Stradbally, Rev. Alec Purser took the service assisted by Archdeacon Carney. Helen was held in very high esteem by everyone who had ever met her and this was shown by the large attendance at her funeral. Our prayers are with the Finney family and the Bickerdike family.

We continue to remember Bobby Howard who is now out of hospital and in a nursing home in Ahascragh. We wish him well.

It was not possible for us to partake in the Woman's World Day of Prayer this year. We were disappointed as the service was compiled by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Japanese tours to Clonfert Cathedral could not go ahead. The Galway 2020 concert was also cancelled as was a wedding.

It was so good to have Rev. Henderson and her husband Ernest in our churches on the 8th March and also in the Cathedral for a midweek lenten service. We look forward to church services in the future.

Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Francis Delahunt on the death of her sister Mrs. Violet Despard of Limerick City and also to Mrs. Annie Hardy on the death of her brother Mr. Alan Wilkinson of Mountmellick.

We are delighted to hear that Albert O'Neill is making great progress and is enjoying the lovely weather out and about in his garden.

We pray for all who are suffering as a result of Covid 19.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM REV OLIVE

What a wonderful, warm welcome you gave Ernest and I to your Parish on Friday 6th March. Thank you for a very meaningful service and for the magnificent array of 'goodies' you served afterwards. Well done to all, your generosity was greatly appreciated by us and our family. Thank you also to Bishop Kenneth, Archdeacon Wayne and all the clergy who attended, Yvonne all the way from Tralee, to all who sent good wishes and for your friendly welcome to this Diocese.

Little did we know then what was ahead of us and that I would only get to share worship with you on one Sunday. However, all going well, it is expected that services can resume again on the last Sunday in July when there will be a service in all three churches. I am really looking forward to beginning ministry with you again – maybe you could arrange another welcome service – followed by 'goodies' of course!

Until we meet again, keep safe, keep well and keep the faith.

With every blessing

Olive

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

Until further notice all parish activities and acts of public worship

have been suspended. If you need to contact a member of the clergy, please find details below.

SING ODE TO JOY LIVE FROM SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL LIMERICK: On Friday 8th May, Mr Peter Barley (Organist & Director of music in Saint Mary's Cathedral) led an online 'sing' of the Ode to Joy by Beethoven to mark European Day. Many people joined us through the Cathedral livestream and Facebook. It truly was a 'joyful' event.

SCM VOICE FOR LIFE LESSONS: Thanks to the benefits of modern technology, it has been possible to keep up some of the choir work that normally takes place in the 'Blue Room' each Friday. A number of the younger choir members are currently working their way through the 'Voice for Life' scheme run by the Royal School of Church Music. They are working towards taking their Bronze Award exam, all being well to be taken later this year. With the benefit of the 'Zoom' platform it has been possible to keep these lessons going this term, during the Covid-19 'lockdown'. The delivery of the various elements of the course – singing, musical theory and aural musicianship training, basic liturgical knowledge and 'choir in context' work has all worked reasonably well online, and has enabled the students to keep in touch with cathedral music in this way. (Peter Barley, Organist & Director of Music)

KEEP ACTIVE: If you like jigsaws – try one of Saint Mary's Cathedral. Log on to www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=search&eq=%22Saint%20Mary%27s%20cathedral%22

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale on May 12th 1820. It may be of interest to readers that here in Saint Mary's Cathedral our East Window is dedicated to Stafford O'Brien who is said to have been a great help to Florence during the Crimean War. When contributions were being sought for this memorial window in 1859, Florence Nightingale contributed to the cost.

LIVESTREAMING: In the last week and in collaboration with Church Services TV a camera has been installed in the Cathedral to livestream services. We are grateful to the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund who have made this possible. The Dean has been given a special letter permitting him to travel to/from the Cathedral to conduct services which may be viewed live at www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys Sunday services will be on air at 10.30am.

This facility is NOW ABLE to record services so there will be an opportunity to view the service afterwards. The Facebook page will not be streaming the service but will provide a link to the Church Services TV website. Please do join us!

CHURCH CLOSURES: Due to ongoing restrictions, it is with regret that all our church buildings are fully closed to the public.

ANXIOUS? This is an anxious and unsettling time for everybody. If you are concerned about your mental health, may I direct you to the following resource – <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK

TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick



East Window, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick



Ode to Joy in St Mary's Cathedral

Help! Limerick has come together like never before to help those most in need during the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. As you will be aware, members of sporting clubs, community groups, various agencies and organisations and individuals are volunteering to support the elderly and vulnerable at this time.

- To contact the Response team Freephone 1800 832 005 or email covidsupport@limerick.ie
- To register to become a volunteer please email volunteer@limerick.ie

www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/age-friendly-limerick/limerick-covid-19-community-response

MOBILE CONTACTS: As a means of communication (in particular) for those with no internet access, we are looking at ways of communicating via text message. If you would like to subscribe to this facility, please text 'Subscribe' with your full name to 0873524046.

FINANCE AND GIVING: The parish treasurers and envelope recorders have received a number of donations from parishioners which is very much appreciated. Despite the on-going situation, the ministry and mission of the parish continues, and we are grateful to all those who support this. **THANK YOU!**

If you have any questions with respect to the Christian Stewardship / Free Will Offering 'Envelope' scheme, please contact Lindsay Boyle (087 7867134), Saint Mary's Cathedral or Trevor Lyttle (0879191314), Saint Michael's. For general enquiries about giving please contact the Treasurer of the appropriate church Terry Cusack (Saint Mary's), Daire McNamara (Saint Michael's) or Bertie Swanton (Abington).

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES: Please see www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/607/covid19-resources-for-family-activities#section-607 for a selection of resources for the junior members of our parish.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Pascal & Marie O'Grady on the birth of their granddaughter.
To Eddie and Mary Fraser on the birth of their granddaughter.

SYMPATHY: We express our thoughts and sympathy to Geraldine, Alan and the Whisker family on the recent death of her sister and her niece Margaret, Richard and the Brickenden family on the death of her uncle Ian, Elizabeth & the Beamish family on the death of his aunt in Cork
Philip, William, Louise, Victoria and their families on the death of their mother, Violet Despard

Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon

Rector: Rev. Canon Liz Beasley

Tel: 061 396 227 Mob: 087 719 9750

eMail: revlizadare@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.adarekilmallock.org

One could say there is not much news to report for the past month, even two months, since our last issue of Newslink. I suppose all of us are saying that. Certainly it is true if we think of what our church news usually consists of: reports of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and church events.

There is always news, however, because there is always something happening. It is just that what has been happening among our parish members has been in the quiet of our own homes, or over the airwaves between us.

We have discovered several things during this two-month lockdown. One is how much we are depending on other means of communication — phone calls, text messages, sending videos and inspiring messages to one another — and how important these are. But at the same time we are discovering how much we miss good person-to-person communication. Perhaps when we emerge from lockdown we will have greater appreciation of talking face-to-face.

Many have also discovered that we miss church. Some people in our parishes are worshipping several times on Sunday, using different online or TV offerings, such as the broadcast from St. Mary's Cathedral, Songs of Praise, and other services. Some are also worshipping during the week, using available offerings. Several people have suggested that when we are allowed to return to church that we celebrate Easter, even though the Easter season itself will likely be long over. It's a great suggestion. Every Sunday is a mini-Easter anyway, but we will have emerged into some form of new life, God willing.

One fun thing we have done is to have an online table quiz, thanks to Kieron Brislane, who had the means and knew of an app for doing it. Twelve households connected via Zoom, representing close to 30 people of a variety of ages and from throughout our group of parishes. It was great fun and good to see everyone.

vWe have not had Zoom worship services, for a number of reasons, primarily because of security concerns and the logistical difficulty of sending out a password that could remain secure. Instead, Rector Liz Beasley did audio recordings of Palm Sunday and Good Friday services, and of sermons since then. They are posted onto the church website, along with service sheets. The service sheets include links to suggested hymns available on YouTube, usually with the words, so that participants at home can sing along if they like. There is also

a recording of a Late Evening Office; soon to come will be Morning Devotions for each weekday.

The Rector also participated in a service with one of the priests, Fr. Richie Davern, serving the Raheen Roman Catholic Church. That church has a webcam, so the service was live online.

Sadly enough, we have had to postpone one baptism and two weddings. But we give thanks that we have not had any deaths in the parish.

May God bless us all and watch over us and guide us into how to live as we re-emerge from lockdown.



St Nicholas' Church, Askeaton with Cross

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown & Kilnaughtin

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Canon Patrick Comerford

Telephone: 087 66 35 116

eMail: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

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



'Ring the bells (ring the bells) that still can ring' ... ringing the bells on Sunday mornings at Saint Mary's Church, Askeaton, Patrick Comerford, Askeaton, 2020

Ring the bells (ring the bells) that still can ring.

Forget your perfect offering.

*There is a crack in everything (there is a crack in everything)
That's how the light gets in*

Leonard Cohen's song 'Anthem' was written at a time of great difficulties and challenge: 1989 saw Chinese troops move against the protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, and also saw the fall of the Berlin Wall.

This too is a difficult year none of us could have foreseen or imagined. But the bells continue to ring in the tower at Saint Mary's Church in Askeaton as a sign of hope every Sunday since Easter.

Nor has the parish forgotten its 'perfect offering': the Parish Eucharist continues to be celebrated every Sunday morning ... first behind the closed doors of Saint Mary's Church, and then every Sunday in the Rectory.



The Parish Eucharist continues every Sunday in the Rectory in Askeaton, Patrick Comerford, Askeaton, 2020

There are constant signs of hope in the parish: many parishioners, in their own ways, took part in the 'Darkness into Light' dawn walk in support of Pieta House. There have been home deliveries and phone calls, texts and emails. The church doors may be closed, but the hearts of parishioners have remained open and generous.

There have been Zoom meetings of the school board, Zoom meetings of the cathedral chapter, the Parish Facebook page gets hundreds of 'hits' each week, and the planned sermon and planned intercessions go 'live' every Sunday on Patrick's blog (www.patrickcomerford.com) and on the Parish Facebook page, and they are available, by request, in an email posting every Sunday.



Darkness into Light ... dawn light above the Friary ruins and the River Deel in Askeaton, Patrick Comerford, Askeaton, 2020

The Sunday intercessions recently remembered Rosemary Eacrett of Doonard, Tarbert, who died in Killarney, and was buried in Lea Churchyard, Portarlington, Co Laois. She lived in Tarbert for almost 50 years and was a valued parishioner of Saint Brendan's Church, Kilnaughtin. She served as Treasurer for many years and as a vestry member. She later lived in a nursing home in Killarney, close to her daughter Valerie. Her husband George, who died in 2009, was a churchwarden for many years. She is survived by her daughter Valerie Hilliard and her son Peter.

In the midst of the bewilderment and uncertainty brought in with this pandemic, the light keeps breaking through. To symbolise this, candles spelled out the word 'Hope' at midnight recently in the Rectory garden.

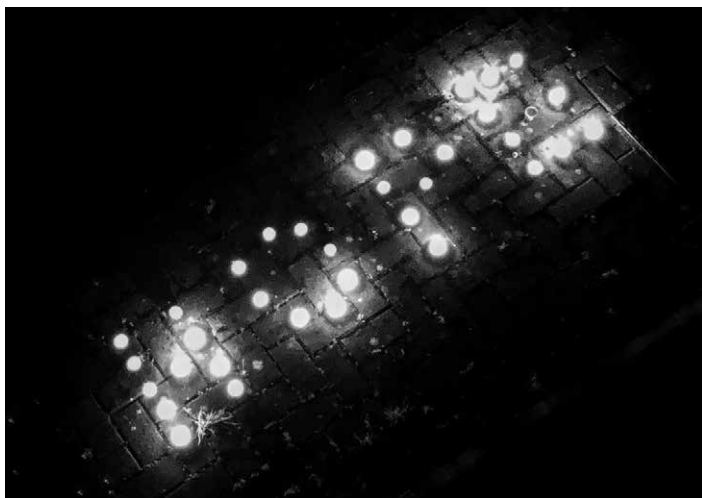
At the end of his song 'Anthem' Leonard Cohen sings:

There is a crack in everything (there is a crack in everything)
That's how the light gets in

This may be a reference to the Aaronic blessing imparted by Jewish priests or Cohanim, and which he sometimes pronounced as a Cohen at the end of his concerts:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace
(Numbers 6: 24-26).

Tradition says the light of God pours through the five gaps of the upraised fingers of the priests in this blessing. In our cracked and broken world today, the light of God keeps pouring into our lives in abundance and in generosity.



*Hope in the darkness ... candles at midnight in the Rectory Garden,
Patrick Comerford, Askeaton, 2020*

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin & Killiney

Rector: Rev. Jim Stephens Mob: 087 052 9107

eMail: stjohs.ashestreet@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

'Counting our Blessings' is the theme of this month from Tralee and Dingle. We have so many things to be grateful for. We live in a country with access to a good health system staffed by brave and compassionate people. We have clean water on tap, our rubbish is collected and we have an efficient sewage system. We have very many people willing to bring us our weekly shopping, family, kind friends and neighbours who look out for us. Local stores, chemists and butchers will deliver to us if we are cocooning. The weather has been sunny to help us to lift our mood.

Many of us were able to take the opportunity to repay a debt of gratitude to American Indian Tribes undergoing hardship in memory of

their kindness shown to a previous generation during the Famine.

Cocooners are now allowed out to exercise or go for a short drive. Shop workers, Gardai and postmen are among the many who are willing to stay in work to care for our needs.



Bee Feeder Grace and Luke



Bee feeder Isaac

Our own Soup Kitchen has gone from strength to strength thanks to Collette and her team who source, cook and deliver meals and food parcels to so many people in the church and wider community. Collette who runs this on being told that not all heroes and heroines wear capes' replied 'no, most of them wear masks'. Yes, indeed, we have many, many blessings Thanks to modern technology we can stay in touch with friends and family both near and far, some of us can even work from home, we can and hear each other. With the aid of Zoom, WhatsApp and You Tube we can see and hear the beauty of the spring flowers and birdsong.



*the soup kitchen which is based at Teach an tSolais which is the parish centre
attached to St Johns Church Ashe Street in The Tralee and Dingle Union of Parishes.*



The Soup Kitchen which is considered an essential service has had to adapt the way it works. It can no longer serve food in a restaurant type format, but according to the recent guidelines and observing social distancing.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of our Clergy and Readers, we have the benefit of Sunday Services right in our own homes.

These services come in different formats such as informal services where a number of parishioners have come together via zoom. More traditional services from the Church one of which was made available though one of the Ballymacelligott community alert facebook page.

The Wednesday group has also begun to meet via zoom for an informal time together on Wednesday mornings.

These Services are circulated by email and can be accessed through our Website and Facebook page.

Even though the BB are not able to meet, Collette has asked them to do little projects or paint some pictures on various themes, Some of these pictures are included.

We'll finish with a prayer written by Jim recently.

Loving God, we give thanks for all who work in Healthcare at this difficult time. Keep them safe and strong as they care for all who are unwell and may feel anxious or distressed. Be with them as they bring healing and hope to those who come to them in need. Amen



He's got the whole world in his hands, this is to say that's with God's love the world and we will heal



pictures from Isaac and Abigail

Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe & Muckcross

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

Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe & Muckcross

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchofthesloes

COVID-19: THE WEST WINDOW



It just so happened that the scaffolding for the repairs and restoration of the great West Window in St Mary's went up just before the COVID-19 lockdown. The scaffolding remains in place whilst the workmen wait. In the late 1970s a project was instigated to install secondary security glazing on our church's stained-glass windows, to protect the outside from damage. The glass used is a frosted type with inlaid wires for strength. It creates a mottling effect when the light shines through. However, during the 70's work, the workmen completely sealed in the secondary glazing with putty. This in effect created double-glazing. The air in-between the panes gets warmer and starts to soften the lead holding in the pieces of stained glass together. We are now having to repair that damage and re-lead sections of the stained glass to prevent the glass just falling out. This – and other immediate works – are costing an arm and a leg and were decided upon during more predictable times where we anticipated income streams, which have completely dried up. Some will argue that we can no longer embark on building projects such as this, but things will change and the job of any select vestry is to do the right thing; because it is the right thing to do and we will find a way to resolve the financial commitment just as we always have done in the past.

THE "NEW NORMAL":

Whilst we comply with the Government's stay at home and social distancing advice, the Rector has been experimenting with YouTube and Facebook for pre-recorded services and for live streaming. The photo shows Kayla and Isabelle Wharton at home using the Sunday School material (which was emailed specially for the occasion) whilst the whole family—including the new baby—listened to and participated in the Palm Sunday Service which the Rector had pre-recorded and uploaded to YouTube. The Rector has also pre-recorded sessions for the local ecumenical Christian Meditation Prayer Group,

the weekly "Jesus Prayer" Liturgy and a special Tenebrae Service for Holy Thursday. The Good Friday Watch Service—a three-hour Vigil of prayers and reflections—was live streamed on the Church's Facebook page at 12pm on Good Friday; it was split into sessions so people could participate in the different segments as they were able. Attendance figures on YouTube and Facebook showed that there was a substantial participation across the whole membership of our Church. For all Sunday and other services which are uploaded, the Rector text alerts all of the St Mary's community and rather than seeing a declining numbers of participants – which could be expected – the numbers have actually been increasing.



"AND STILL, THE ORDINARY THINGS MUST BE DONE":

As with all churches nationwide, when money stops flowing something must give and St Mary's is no different. It is imperative that weekly contributions continue because our ongoing financial commitments didn't disappear with the lock-down. Parishioners are asked to make some arrangement to get their contributions in and either Adrian Hilliard or the Rector will be happy to take a phone call to give advice on the best way to do this. However, we are very conscious that in an Area where the economy is driven by tourism and many people have lost their jobs, that not everyone will be able to give as they have been doing. With that in mind, parishioners who have remained relatively unaffected are asked to consider if they could increase their contributions even as a stop-gap temporary solution.

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

This historic period of Covid19 has been one of creativity and innovation for our parishes. Early on, the clergy devised a way of remaining in close touch with all our parishioners by an illustrated letter and by email, for those with computers.

From Easter morning onwards we shared short services of the word and reflection with some music with all those who could receive our videos, later we learned the use of Zoom which proved trickier. We had an excellent rehearsal with five people taking part, only to find on the day that only three people, Revd. Isabel and Revd. Annmarie plus Barbara our Diocesan Reader could take part. Then our Web Master Stuart Broomfield helped us to live stream our short services, which reached out beyond the confines of our parishioners to include friends and families, and even those from around Ireland, and abroad.

Meanwhile, Revd. Annmarie from time to time continued her reflections and spiritual insights concerning what we have all been experiencing here in Kerry on Kerry Radio's Horizons programme, thanks to Mary Fagan who was very helpful. While Revd. Isabel has phoned around regularly to parishioners and in particular those living alone.

And our parishioners have been busy also. One who together with her brother runs a local Post Office, has used the opportunity to reach out to those customers clearly only too glad of someone to listen and someone to engage with on their almost daily visits. As other businesses in our area in Killorglin, Milltown and Castlemaine ensuring social distancing have used creative ways of engaging with their customers and ensuring that everyone is helped in one way or another. We have watched the church returning to the kind of church it was before any churches were built. We are rediscovering what the church really is a Community of friends with the Risen Lord in its midst. Meanwhile from the many phone calls and emails we have learned a great deal more about our parishioners as they gradually reveal more about their hope and joys, their fears and concerns during this time of lockdown. We have been so impressed by the insights they have shared with us.

Lastly, Isabel and I have been inundated by parishioners and others wishing to assist us in anyway they can. Their offers of help have been warm and so very generous for which we would like to thank you all.



Rev. Ann-Marie

Rev. Isabel

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

I guess that never before have so many people been grateful for technology! Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, Live streaming, Skype, Vimeo, Tik Tok and the rest have entered the day-to-day language of those 'cocooned' or self-isolated, even though they have so far been self-confessed Luddites as far as social media is concerned. (yes, Officer, I was that person).

Funnily enough, our distancing has in an unexpected way brought us closer as a Union of Parishes. Our four church buildings are geographically quite separate, – it takes an hour and a half to get to Valentia from Kenmare – and opportunities to worship as one congregation have been few and far between, but now we are using that technology in praying together, sharing readings, music clips, a brief 'sermuncle' (yes it is a real word – look it up), video clips for young people and even some exercises.

We don't know how long the C-19 situation will persist. What we do know is that our lives will be permanently changed, and that will include our pattern and style of collective worship and prayer. What will not change is God's love and presence alongside us in difficult times; neither will His command to take that love into the world. We see that love exercised daily, in the courage of those who, at great personal risk, seek to serve and comfort others. Their example should inspire us too, to seek opportunities to serve in whatever way we can – and at the

moment, even though we might be isolated, our prayers are a powerful weapon.

The following URLs may bring a smile as well as tell the Easter story in a slightly different way. Enjoy and feel free to share.

- Lazarus - <https://youtu.be/USWgZ8mE7Y>
- Palm Sunday - <https://vimeo.com/403326284>
- Maundy Thursday - <https://vimeo.com/405399526>
- Easter Day - <https://vimeo.com/405782611>

Every Blessing
Michael

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Adare & Ballingrane

Minister: Rev. Ruth Watt,
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Telephone: (061) 396236
Email: ruth.watt@irishmethodist.org



Empty Church

Our churches are empty! Something we have been concerned about and praying about for years as our churches have been getting emptier and emptier (in general). Never did we expect the sudden cessation of gathering for worship in church buildings that has come about in recent times. And yet it seems to have led to more people than usual worshipping and wanting to connect with each other! Services conducted online or in youtube videos (as in our case) have greater number of participants than usual attend church on Sunday's! But isn't that so often the case, when things are difficult, when people are afraid and worried, that is when we turn to God. But when things are going well we don't see a need to worship God. (It has disappointed me greatly that the increased wealth of the average Irish person during the 'Celtic Tiger' corresponded to an average decrease in giving to charity.) Why do we, as human beings, wait to depend on God until things are going poorly or difficulty reaches our doors? Why do our churches empty and our Christian giving decrease when things are going well? Why will we only rely on God when our own strength is fading? I don't know all the answer to these questions (it will be different for everyone), but in a time when many are turning to God and to the churches for answers isn't it wonderful that we can be there to help people connect to God, even if that 'there' is over the phone or virtually through the internet.

SERVICES FOR JUNE:

Services can be found on youtube. Search for the page under 'Ruth Watt'. Services usually uploaded on Sunday morning about 10:30.

EMBURY CLOSE: A SOCIAL DISTANCING & COCOONING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

In this time, especially with the recent 'Stay at Home' order for

vulnerable adults, we are unable to meet in our church buildings for worship and fellowship. Many different and creative approaches of gathering Christians together have been used, including YouTube services, Zoom bible studies, etc. Embury Close Sheltered Housing, a complex of 28 apartments with it's own gardens, has had a unique opportunity for worship.

Since the beginning of May a service of worship has been held on the grounds (weather permitting) for residents only. As I (Rev. Ruth, Methodist Minister of Adare and Ballingrane) live next door I was able to come in and lead a service of worship for all who would like to join. The photo shows the first service when the weather was good and the majority of residents chose to join in. One person remarked afterwards that this was the first time they had been at a Methodist service. While there are more and more ecumenical opportunities in our communities as the years go by isn't it wonderful that one of the positives of this virus, and the conditions put in place to try and contain it, is that Christians have been brought closer together! This this is not just true of the services in Embury Close as many take the opportunities given to worship with different Christian communities through the TV and internet. May we continue to be so open as to worship together and learn from each other when our church buildings can once again open.



Embury Close service

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

Vacant

Minister-in-Charge: Jackie Mc Nair Mob: 087 776 5973

No notes submitted.

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev Karen Spence

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Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org

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.



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



Bursaries & Discounts

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

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

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

North Circular Road, Limerick

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

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