

Newsletter

Clonenagh Group of Parishes - January 2004

Borris-in-Ossory, Annatrim, Lacca, Mountrath, Roskelton, Seir Kieran.

Date ->	4th Jan.	11th Jan.	18th Jan.	25th Jan.
8:45am	Seir Kieran Morning Prayer	Mountrath H.C. Service. 9:45am	Seir Kieran Holy Communion	Seir Kieran Morning Prayer
10:15am	Borris-in-Ossory Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory Morning Prayer	Annatrim Holy Communion
10:15am	Roskelton Morning Prayer	Annatrim United Family Service. 11:00am followed by tea/coffee	Roskelton Holy Communion	
11:30am	Mountrath Holy Communion		Mountrath Morning Prayer	Mountrath Morning Prayer
11:30am	Lacca Morning Prayer		Lacca Holy Communion	

Rector:
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- 28th SunLaois CIYC Day Trip to Dublin.
2.30pm Baptism Service, Roskelton Church.
- 29th 8pm Puppet Team Sleepover at the Rectory.
- 31st Wed evening.....Laois CIYC over 18's Disco, Gandon Inn.
- January.**
- 2nd Fri evening.....Laois CIYC Junior Disco, venue - Mountrath Parochial Hall.
- 6th Tue 2pm Clonenagh Housing Association Meeting at the Rectory.
- 13th Tue 8.30pm ... FAS Sponsors meeting, Old Girls School, Mountrath.
- 17th Sat 8.30pm Kool Club, Parochial Hall.
- 20th Tue 8pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, St. Fintan's Roman Catholic Church, Mountrath - Preacher, Rev. Cliff Jeffers.
- 24th Sat. 10am Kids Club, Parochial Hall.
8pm Informal Praise & Worship Service - Lacca Church.
- 27th 7.30pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, Borris-in-Ossory Roman Catholic Church, Preacher, Rev. Cliff Jeffers.
- 29th Thurs eve..... Diocesan Meeting, Kilkenny.
- 31st Sat. 8pm Bowling and Chinese in Portlaoise (for Adults). Book with Jennifer Lalor by 25th.
- 1st Feb.. 2pm Baptism of Amy Jestin, Borris-in-Ossory Church.

No names on Newsletter this month. It makes distribution easier, as people go to different churches over Christmas. Please take an extra one for anyone you know will not be in Church over Christmas.

Special retiring collection for the family of the late **Rev. Francois Murenzi**, former Rector of Athy took place on the first two Sunday in December, and a total of €687.12 was collected from the parishes and a donation from the Mother's Union.

Adults going bowling and for a meal out. On Saturday 31st of January we have booked bowling and a Chinese. Bowling starts at 8pm in Portlaoise, and then going to the Royal Tycoon in Kilminchy, Portlaoise. If you want to book a place, please contact Jennifer Lalor (0502-35962) by Sunday 25th of January at the latest.

Clonenagh Parish Bazaar was held in the Parochial Hall, Mountrath on the 11th of December. There was a good turnout with many new faces coming along. Total funds raised on the night was €2484. Well done to all who helped and supported the bazaar.

Vision 20/20 meetings with the Bishop around the diocese are now complete, and we await his response and conclusions from the information that he has gathered. The bishop has planned a get-together on Saturday morning 17th of January, when representatives from the parishes in the diocese will meet together to discuss one of the main issues of Vision 20/20, 'the children and youth', and

how the diocese and parishes can respond to this most important issue. If you would be interested in going along on this date, please talk to Rev. Cliff.

We convey our **sincere sympathy** Bill Dann on the death of Nance on the 12th of November. Following years of pain & suffering, of which she complained very little, she is now at rest and in peace.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner was held in the ICA Hall in Castletown, on Tuesday 16th of December. A record fifty senior citizens turned out for a most enjoyable afternoon. Christmas Dinner, Chat, Singing of Christmas Carols, a Puzzle Sheet, Guess the Carol, all followed by a short Holy Communion Service. Ten Church of Ireland Students from the Vocational School in Mountrath assisted on the day, by preparing the spuds and vegetables, setting up, serving the food, clearing up and washing up. Their involvement was greatly appreciated by the senior citizens. As the most mature lady and gentleman present, Sue Cooper and Walter Finnamore cut the Christmas Cake. A big thankyou to Jennifer Masterson, Sandra Condell and Emily Jackson who did much of the preparation and to all who made deserts, and to Mabel Peavoy for providing the music. Well done all.

Baptism in Borris-in-Ossory. Amy Jestin, daughter of Ivan and Susan Jestin is to be Baptised in Borris-in-Ossory Church on Sunday 1st of February at 2pm. There will be no morning service on this day, and we hope that




Ruth Hipwell & Marina Clegg at the Bazaar.



Children from Clonenagh NS at the Family Service in St. Peter's Church on the 14th of December.



Sue Cooper & Walter Finnamore the most mature Senior Citizens cutting the cake with Tony Ryan (youngest!) and Rev. Cliff.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|  | • Gillian Murphy - Mission Partner | • Those who are sick, in hospital or in care. |
| | • Parish Assistant - Linda Wharton | • Children's work in the parish. |
| | • Development of Worship in the Group. | • Bishop Peter |
| | | |

many will come to support them on the day.

Clonenagh National School.

Building work has started. The students after the Christmas Holidays will not be able to use the school, as the builder has now taken over the site. School will take place in the Parochial Hall and the Mission Hall (by kind permission) next door.

The school were involved in the parish family service on the 14th of December, with the students and teachers putting in a great deal of preparation for the service. The feedback has been very encouraging, it was good to see so many people out on the day.

School Christmas Party took place on Monday 22nd of December in the Parochial Hall. Many thanks to those parents who came to help, the teachers and special needs assistants, and not least of all to Santa for making an appearance!

New Prayer Book. During the first half of next year there is going to be a new Prayer Book introduced in the Church of Ireland. It promises not to be as heavy as the new Hymnal !! All the details you need are on the order form enclosed, which must be returned to your treasurer by the 25th of January.

Mother's Union & Young Wives.

Our MU & Young Wives Christmas Dinner took place on Monday 15th of December, with twenty two people dining together. Our Charity Auction took place on the 1st of December, and we raised over €400. This fund will be divided between Mountmellick Hospital and the Murenzi family fund. On the 26th of January, Linda Wharton will be coming along to demonstrate the making of pottery, and will have an opportunity to give it a go. Please bring suitable clothing !!

Clonenagh Housing Association.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone in the parish, local community or beyond who might be interested in sheltered housing for the elderly (over 60's) or the disabled in Mountrath area. Please contact Rev. Cliff for more information.

Pottery Classes for Adults. Following requests from a few people, Linda Wharton is going to do some pottery classes for Adults in the new year. This will probably start after the Mother's Union Pottery Evening on the 26th of January . . . if you are interested, you could give your name to Linda over the next few weeks.

Mountrath Community Carol Service took place on Sunday 21st of December at 8pm in St. Peter's Church Mountrath. There was a great turnout and the singing was excellent. Mulled wine, tea, and mince pies will be served in the hall after the service. Retiring collection will be in aid of St. Vincent de Paul (Mountrath Branch) raised €90 for those in need in the local community. Many thanks to Jennifer Masterson who organised the readers, to those who did the readings, and to all who were involved in organising the mince pies and mulled wine. Many thanks to Centra and Costcutters in Mountrath for supplying the ingredients for the Mulled Wine.

Congratulations to **David Peavoy** on his engagement to Sile Lynch from Clare, which was made public last Saturday 20th. They are planning to get married on the 21st of May in Clare.

Congratulations also to **Trevor & Trudy Gee** on the birth of Samuel who was born in England on the 20th December, a brother for Hannah.

We received a Christmas card from **Gillian Murphy, our Parish Mission Partner** in Uganda.

"To Rev Cliff and Parishes of Clonenagh Group. Many thanks for your support for the project. It is so much appreciated. We wish you a special and blessed Christmas and may God be with you in all your celebrations. With much love from, Bambejja. From Gill."

On Monday the 8th of December there was a meeting in Clonenagh Group of Parishes to look at the way we **worship**, and to consider different approaches that we might make. Rev. Cliff presented the idea of All-Age worship, being a mix between what we have been

doing in Borris-in-Ossory on a Saturday Night and the Family Services. There was plenty of discussion, but most felt that they did not really want major change. We will continue to develop the family services, and move the Saturday Night services around to the other churches so that others may experience contemporary forms of worship. Those who attended were encouraged to keep thinking about what was discussed, and to talk to Rev. Cliff over the next few months.

Borris-in-Ossory Parish had a good turn-out for their Cabaret, although numbers were down slightly on last year. Well done to those who organised the cabaret this year. The event raised a very good contribution for parish

funds, and they wish to thank everyone who supported them.

In 2004, Clonenagh Group are joining with Portlaoise for **Confirmation**. Classes will begin in January. Anyone considering confirmation this year should let Rev. Cliff know by the middle of January. Date for Confirmation is the 20th of June, in St. Peter's Church, Portlaoise.

If anyone want to order **Bible reading notes** (form in last month's newsletter) and has not returned it to Rev. Cliff, please do so by Sunday 28th December.

Many thanks to **Dean Cecil Faull** for agreeing to take services in Borris-in-Ossory and Moun-

help with these clubs.

Parent & toddler group. We are not sure where they are going meet as the school may be using the main part of the parochial hall. We have been offered the use of St. Fintan's Hall. We will contact those involved in Toddlers when arrangements are finalised. Toddler Group meets again on Tuesday 13th of January.

Kids Club (4-11's) meets on the 24th of January. We are continuing with Storykeepers TV series which the children are enjoying. From January, we are moving back to our own hall, mainly for the benefit of the leaders who have to bring the equipment to and fro each time.

Kool Club (5th Class -16) is going well. This group is growing, with about 12 - 15 coming along. On the 20th of December we had Tony Dower, Christine Newman's father talk to us about Mission, which he is involved with in his home church in Australia. Kool club meets again on the 17th of January, after Junior Badminton, until 10pm.

Junior Badminton & Table Tennis
Badminton Sat. Eve. (7-8.30pm) Table Tennis Fri. evening (7.30-9pm). Thank you to leaders and parents who have volunteered to

Sólás-Solas Puppet Team News.

The team have been involved in many Christmas Services, first the Laois CIYC Carol Service, then Kids Club on the 20th, then Seir Kieran, Lacca and Mountrath on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day . . . they are very dedicated, and to acknowledge their commitment, they were presented with certificates at the Youth Service in Lacca on Christmas Eve.

Twenteens (16-20) are planning to go paintballing during the Holidays, and hope that a large number will be able to go along. Linda will contact you when a date has been arranged.

Laois CIYC events:

- Day trip to Dublin** (12+) takes place on Sunday 28th of December, booking essential.
- Over 18's Disco** - Gandon Inn, Wednesday 31st December (New Year's Eve).
- Junior Disco (12+)** Friday 2nd January, location to be confirmed.

More information on the above from Linda Wharton (086-1966166).