

December Services

Date/Day	Readings	Time/Place			
3rd 1st Sunday of Advent	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i> <i>Psalms 25:1-9</i> <i>Romans 13:11-14</i> <i>St Matthew 24:36-44</i>	Sunday 10.00am Lacca Eucharist	Sunday 11.30am Mountrath Morning Prayer	Sunday 8.00pm Borris-in-Ossory Advent Carol Service	
9th/10th 2nd Sunday of Advent	<i>Malachi 3:1-14</i> <i>Canticle: Benedictus</i> <i>Romans 15:4-13</i> <i>St Luke 3:1-6</i>	Saturday 8.00pm Seir Kieran Evening Prayer	Sunday 9.00am Mountrath Eucharist	Sunday 10.00am Annatrim Eucharist and Baptism	Sunday 11.30am Roskelton Eucharist
16th/17th 3rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i> <i>Canticle 24 Song of Wisdom</i> <i>Philippians 4:4-7</i> <i>St Luke 3:7-18</i>	Saturday 8.00pm Lacca Evening Prayer	Sunday 10.00am Borris-in-Ossory Eucharist	Sunday 7.00pm Mountrath Clonenagh National School Christmas Service	
24th 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i> <i>Psalms 96</i> <i>Titus 2:11-14</i> <i>St Luke 2:1-14</i>	Sunday 4.00pm Lacca Eucharist	Sunday 7.00pm Seir Kieran Eucharist	Sunday 9.00pm Borris-in-Ossory Eucharist	Sunday 11.30pm Mountrath Eucharist
25th Monday Christmas Day	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i> <i>Psalms 96</i> <i>Titus 2:11-14</i> <i>St Luke 2:1-14</i>	Monday 9.30am Annatrim Eucharist		Monday 11.30am Roskelton Eucharist	
26th Tuesday St Stephen's Day	<i>2 Chronicles 24:20-22</i> <i>Psalms 119:161-168</i> <i>Acts 7:51-60</i> <i>St Matthew 10:17-22</i>	Tuesday 10.00am Mountrath Eucharist			
27th Wednesday Feast of St John	<i>Exodus 33:7-11a</i> <i>Psalms 117</i> <i>1 John 1:1-9</i> <i>St John 21:19b-25</i>	Wednesday 10.00am Annatrim Eucharist			
28th Thursday Feast of the Holy Innocents	<i>Jeremiah 31:15-17</i> <i>Psalms 124</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1:26-29</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-18</i>	Thursday 10.00am Borris-in-Ossory Eucharist			
31st 1st Sunday of Christmas	<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i> <i>Psalms 148</i> <i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i> <i>St Matthew 2:13-23</i>	Sunday 9.30am Annatrim Eucharist		Sunday 11.30am Roskelton Eucharist	
<p>Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer: all three readings are read by a lector or lectors. Eucharist: the Old Testament and the Epistle are read by a lector or lectors. Note for Children – A lector is someone who reads the lesson in Church.</p>					

Parish Diary - December

November 26th.....M.U. & Y.W. Annual Auction, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)
 1st Friday.....Seasonal Music Concert, Durrow Church (8.00pm)
 2nd Saturday.....School Fundraising Christmas Fayre, School Car Park (10.00am-5.00pm)
 2nd Saturday.....Ossory League Table Tennis, Rathdowney (7.30pm)
 3rd Sunday.....Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner, Parochial Hall (12.30pm)
 8th Friday.....G.F.S., Parochial Hall (7.00-8.30pm)
 9th Saturday.....School Fundraising Christmas Fayre, School Car Park (10.00am-5.00pm)
 13th Wednesday.....Preparation for Parish Christmas Fair, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)
 14th Thursday.....Parish Christmas Fair, Parochial Hall (7.30pm)
 16th Saturday.....Kids Club (10.00am-12.00pm)
 20th Wednesday.....**Closing date for January 2007 Newsletter items!**
Sunday School for Juniors & Seniors, St. Peter's Church, Mountrath (during Sunday service, except United and Family services).



Clonenagh Group of Parishes - December 2006

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

Rector:

Rev. Stella Jones Mikhail, The Rectory, Mountrath.
 Phone. 057-8735127
 E-Mail. clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org

Parish Assistant (Youth):

Linda Wharton, Dromoyle House, Birr, Co. Offaly.
 Phone. 057-9131077 Mobile. 086-1966166
 E-Mail. rectory@clonenagh.com

Rector's Notes

"Home at last!"

It is absolutely marvellous to be in Clonenagh Rectory at long last! Over the years, I've heard a lot about what it's like to live in a rectory, but this is the first time I've ever lived in one. So every day brings me new experiences. I love the Aga, it's so nice to come down to a warm kitchen in the morning! Any hints on Aga type cooking would be greatly appreciated.

It's also very handy to be in the centre of the parish, if you'll forgive the pun. I'm living in town, next to one of the churches and across the road from the parochial hall and Clonenagh National School.

I'd like to thank all the glebewardens who took any part in getting the rectory to the state in which it is now. I'd also like to thank the parishioners who drove up to Coolrain House and helped me move all my accoutrements into town. Without them, I would still be moving my things in bit by bit. Thank you also to those who brought flowers, chocolates and bubbly to make me feel welcome when I moved in.

The rectory is becoming more and more like home every day, especially now that my furniture has arrived. It was like a "lucky dip" opening boxes that held things I'd not seen for so long. Up to the time I moved in, the rectory was just a house, a mere collection of bricks and mortar, but in time, I look forward to turning it into a home, from which this rector can go about her daily work in the parishes.

Harvest Collection for Bishop's Appeal

Annatrim: €225.80
 Borris-in-Ossory: €308.50
 Lacca: €506.50
 Mountrath: €261.00
 Roskelton: €254.88
 Seir Kieran: €289.00
 Total: €1845.68
A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DUG DEEP IN THEIR POCKETS!

Birthday Cards for Jesus

Have you ever noticed how we all get birthday cards on our birthdays, but poor Jesus never seems to get any at all? Well, let's turn that around and make sure he gets them from now on. Children (and adults if you'd like) get out your paper and colouring pencils, or paint or whatever is your preference and make a birthday card for Jesus.

Leave the cards into the church by **Sunday the 17th** of December, so that they can be hung on the walls of the church in time for Jesus' birthday on Christmas Day. I look forward to seeing all your beautiful cards as I go from church to church for the Christmas services.

Advent Carol Service

We are having our Advent Carol Service in Borris-in-Ossory on Sunday the 3rd of December. This is a service of light and therefore will be celebrated in candle light in the evening. You are all invited to join us on that evening and if you could lend us some candles, white for preference, as well as the necessary candle sticks, this would be greatly appreciated.

If you can do so, please ring Susan



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Mountrath - 0502-32208 **Athy** - 0507-31462 **Portlaoise** - 0502-20952

Jestin on 0505 4126 and arrange for the candles to be in St Mark's Church in good time for the service. Thank you.

Christmas Services

This year, we are having four services on Christmas Eve and two on Christmas Day. I have listened to everyone's desires for the season's services and I have thought how best to make these desires come true, but when all is said and done, I am still only one person and therefore cannot be in two places at one time.

There are services from dusk on Christmas Eve to just before lunch on Christmas Day, so I hope that one of them is a good time for you and your family. It remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas! Enjoy a time of family togetherness and celebrate the birth of Our Lord with joy and happiness. God love you all!

~Rev'd Stella

Thank you to everyone who contributed or helped in any way with the surprise presentation of a beautiful framed picture of the six churches and a very generous cheque and flowers, given to me at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Lacca Church on Sunday October 15th. Thank you all very much.

It was a real pleasure to have shared in the hospitality provided by the ladies following the service and to have spoken with so many people who attended the service.

Thank you to everyone who helped me during my fifteen years of service in the parish, it was a privilege to have shared in so many joyful occasions and to have assisted in so many sad times too.

The presentation was very much unexpected, but gratefully received. Many thanks to the Rev'd Stella (who is still able to keep surprises) for all her kindness shown to me. Once again, many thanks to all concerned.

~Jennifer Masterson

Congratulations to Joe Hargroves and Yvonne Carter who announced their Engagement recently; and to James Bennett who recently received the RDS National Forestry award from the minister of state, Mary Wallace, at Farmleigh House.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives held their monthly meeting on October 29th when a member of the Irish Red Cross attended. This was a very interesting evening and enjoyed by all present.

The **Annual Auction** evening will be on Monday 26th November at 8.00pm in the Parochial Hall. Please remember, a donation from the proceeds will go to local charities. Your support for this night is greatly appreciated. Mrs Laura Fairbrother and Mrs Ann Gee will be in charge of the supper on the night.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner will be on Sunday 3rd December at 12.30pm in the Parochial Hall, after service in St. Peter's, Mountrath. (Please note the change in day!) Invitations are circulated, but if you have not received one and would like to come along, please contact Sandra Condell at 057 8735067.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee

Christmas Fair sale will be held in the Parochial Hall on Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm.

There will be numerous stalls on the night:

Sweets Stall

G.F.S. Soft Toys Stall

Bottle Stall

Cake, Mince Pie, Sausage Roll Stall

General Raffle, Teas, painting Display, Board Quiz, etc.

...and most important of all, Mr. Santa Claus will appear on the night to collect letters from children, and give them some sweets.

Contributions for the sale would be much appreciated, and preparation for the sale will take place on Wednesday night, December 13th at 8.00pm.

Clonenagh National School

The school will take part in a Christmas Service on Sunday 17th December at 7.00 p.m. in St Peter's Church, Mountrath. All are welcome and as usual the collection will go towards the Children's Christmas Party.

Clonenagh National School Fundraising Committee

We ask your support, for our latest fundraising project. We are holding a sale of Christmas Fayre in the school car park on Saturday the 2nd and 9th December from 10 to 5 each day. We have sourced a supply of top quality Christmas trees for the sale. There will be various sizes available and three different varieties. We can also take orders for specials i.e. extra large trees. We will also have tree stands, handmade wreaths and door hangs and loose holly for sale together with bags of blocks and turf, all at bargain prices. Special orders should be placed in advance through Emily at the school. Thank you

Girls Friendly Society

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox or made a donation towards **Operation Christmas Child**, a total of 68 boxes were delivered to Rose Williams the local coordinator.

Girls are busy completing work for the **G.F.S. Knowledge; First Aid and Safety badges** as well as Bible Study and Handcraft entries for Diocesan competitions. We continue to appeal for more leaders/helpers even if only available on an occasional basis; if interested contact Jennifer Lalor, Kathleen Bennett or Emily Jackson for further information.

On Friday 1st December, David Milne is coming to **Durrow Church** with a chamber choir and orchestra made up of pupils from Kilkenny College for some seasonal music (Advent & inevitably ... Christmas) with some audience singing too. Mulled wine & mince pies will be served. Concert begins at 8.00 pm.

Table Tennis News

Leinster Table Tennis

Amylou Hayes from Mountrath Table Tennis Club reached Number One spot in Leinster following her victory in the recent

Leinster ranking tournament at the I.W.A. in Dublin.

The event produced many fine exhilarating games, close encounters, and spectacular rallies over the two days in which the top young talent in Leinster took part.

Her rise to Number One followed steady progress through ranking tournaments in Dublin, Tyrone, Cork, and Meath with a visit to Enniskillen (Fermanagh Open) on Saturday 25th November also on the cards. Samantha and Linda also took part in these outings.

Starball League Table Tennis

Mountrath have two senior teams and two U16 teams competing in this year's league:

Team 1 - Stuart Treacy, Philip Thompson, & Philip McKay

Team 2 - Jimmy Hayes, Lorraine Hayes, & Brendan Birney

U16 (Junior A) - James Harvey, Philip McKay, & Gary McKay.

U16 (Junior B) - Amylou, Samantha, & Linda Hayes

Subs - Bobby Laird & Ronan Cahill

The Club have had many more young people attending junior practice, all of whom are making steady progress.

A special word of thanks to Louise Carter who has been giving great assistance in coaching and practice sessions; we really appreciate your help.

On Wednesday evening Philip and Gary had a superb victory over CPO (Kilkenny), as the girls did also.

Ossory League Table Tennis

The Ossory League kicks off with a home match versus Kilcooley this coming week in the C Division. In the Junior Division, Mountrath play Rathdowney away on Saturday evening 2nd December at 7.30pm. The team also entertain Athy in the coming weeks.

Items for inclusion in the January 2007 Newsletter need to be with the editor by the Wednesday (**20th December**) before the **fourth Sunday AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the fourth Sunday (**24th December**). Ideally, items should be submitted by e-mail to- newsletter@clonenagh.com Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 057-8621277 or 087-2522162 This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from www.clonenagh.com