

Newsletter

Clonenagh Group of Parishes - December 2007

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

Rector: Rev. Stella Jones, The Rectory, Mountrath.

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Services for December 2007					
Day / Date	Lectionary	Time and Place			
1 st & 2 nd 1 st Sunday of Advent Violet	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 St Matthew 24:36-44	Saturday Borris-in-Ossory Evening Prayer 8p.m.	Sunday Lacca Eucharist 10a.m.	Sunday Mountrath Eucharist 11a.m.	Sunday St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny Commissioning of Diocesan Readers 4p.m.
Monday 3 rd Violet	Mountrath Advent Carol Service 8p.m.				
8 th & 9 th 2 nd Sunday of Advent Violet	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18 & 19 Romans 15:4-13 St Matthew 3:1-12	Saturday Seir Kieran Evening Prayer 8p.m.	Sunday Mountrath Eucharist 9a.m.	Sunday Annatrim Eucharist 10a.m.	Sunday Roskelton Morning Prayer 11.30a.m.
15 th & 16 th 3 rd Sunday of Advent Pink or Violet	Isaiah 35:1-10 The Canticle Magnificat James 5:7-10 St Matthew 11:2-11	Saturday Borris-in-Ossory Eucharist 10a.m.	Sunday Lacca Morning Prayer 8p.m.	Sunday Mountrath Clonenagh National School Christmas Service All are welcome! 7.30p.m.	
Sunday 23 rd 4 th Sunday of Advent Violet	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-8 Romans 1:1-7 St Matthew 1:8-25	Mountrath Morning Prayer 9a.m.	Borris-in-Ossory Morning Prayer 11a.m.		
Monday 24 th Christmas Eve White	All Eucharist Services Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 St Luke 2:1-20	Lacca 7p.m.	Roskelton 9.30p.m.	Seir Kieran 11.30p.m.	
Tuesday 25 th Christmas Day White		Annatrim 8.30a.m.	Borris-in-Ossory 10a.m.	Mountrath 12.00 (noon)	
Sunday 30 th 1 st Sunday of Christmas White	Mountrath United Service of Christmas Carols and Readings 11a.m.				
Tuesday January 1 st Naming and Circumcision of Jesus White	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 St Luke 2:15-21	Mountrath Eucharist 9a.m.	Annatrim Eucharist 11.30a.m.		
<p>Morning/Evening Prayer: All three readings are read by a lector or lectors None of the MP/EP readings finish with the words "This is the Word of the Lord." Eucharist: The Old Testament and Epistle are read by a lector or lectors. From Friday 21st of December to Tuesday the 8th of January there will be no Mid-week Services Apart from those days, midweek services will be at 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Eucharist: Wednesdays and Saint's Days</p>					

Please note: in order to facilitate as many Parishioners as possible, many of the above Service times and dates differ significantly from those published in the Diocesan Magazine.

Rector's Notes

Happy New Year!

No, your rector has not taken leave of her senses, but let me explain why. Advent comes from a Latin word, "Adventus", which means "Coming", i.e. the coming of Christ. In the Western World, Advent Sunday is the Sunday nearest to the feast of St Andrew, which falls on the 30th of November, so in this part of the world, we always have four Sundays in Advent. However, in the East, Advent is a much longer season, beginning in the middle of November.

Advent Sunday is traditionally the day on which the Church year begins, hence, **Happy New Year!**

The Advent season is traditionally a penitential season and in days of yore, people fasted from animal products for the entire duration. They still do in the East. However, we have kept the solemn character of the season and for this reason we will

use the colour purple, much as we do in Lent. That is with the exception of the third Sunday, which is known as Gaudate Sunday, when the colour pink is used. This is a day on which we mark a break from fasting and solemnity. You will notice that that during Advent, we will not use "The Gloria" at The Eucharist, as this prayer reflects happiness and celebration.

On Gaudate Sunday, which is Sunday the 16th, we will have a celebratory feeling to the day, as this is the day on which our young students from Clonenagh National School will have their Nativity Play in St Peter's Church, Mountrath. The service begins at 7.30p.m. All are welcome!

Monday 3rd 8p.m. Mountrath

On Monday night, we are having our Advent Carol Service. This is the service of light that you have experienced before. We start off in darkness and progressively the church is illumi-



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nated as the service continues. It is a lovely way to start Advent, and get us all into the spirit of things.

New Bishop

Our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Ossory are to have a new bishop soon. Monsignor Séamus Freeman, who has been working in Rome for some time, has come home to be ordained Bishop of Ossory on Sunday the 2nd of December next. He wishes to prepare for his big day with a pilgrimage to Seir Kieran. It is a great honour to be asked to help someone prepare for such an event in their lives and Fr Peter Muldowney, my Roman Catholic colleague and myself will facilitate the monsignor's wishes for the eve of his ordination. The parishioners of Seir Kieran have been invited and all the other churches in the group will be represented by the rector's churchwardens.

Christmas Services

Please note the times of services for Christmas. Unfortunately, I cannot keep everyone happy with a time of their choice. I have tried where possible, but a 10.30 service on Christmas morning in all churches is quite simply unachievable.

~Rev'd Stella

Deepest sympathy to Annie Lalor and family on the death of her sister in law Cherry Pratt.

Our thoughts and prayers are with David Alexander, Sue Cooper, and William Young who are currently unwell.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives will meet on Tuesday 27th November in the Parochial hall Mountrath at 8pm, for their annual auction night. A donation from the proceeds will go to the Bishop's Appeal and the Cuisle Centre Portlaoise. Your support for this evening would be greatly appreciated. Please note the change of date!

We in the Mother's Union would like to wish all the Parishioners and their families a Happy & Peaceful Christmas.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee

A Coffee Evening, Bring-and-Buy Sale, and visit from Santa will take place in the Parochial Hall on Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm; help with the preparation of the Hall on Wednesday 12th at 8.00pm would be most appreciated.

Looking forward to everyone's support.

Borris in Ossory parishioners would like to thank George Roe and family for the music system installed in St. Mark's Church in remembrance of the late Ann Roe.

Leprosy Mission Boxes (and any other donations) should be returned to Olga Telford as soon as possible.

Clonenagh National School Fundraising Committee

The Committee wish to thank all who supported the Floral Demonstration in Castletown Hall which was a great success as our last fundraising event. A special word of thanks to Eva Holmes for her spectacular displays, and to three ladies for their baking: Sylvia Stotesbury, Iris O'Donovan, and Mary Vanston. A final figure of €1,670 was raised on the night.

We would also like to thank everyone who supported us over the last three years. We have raised in excess of €29,000 and managed to keep the bank man from the door and purchase much needed paint, furniture, and cleaning equipment for the school. We hope that for our efforts the school will be a much brighter and more comfortable place in which to teach and learn.

I wish to thank the hard working Committee: Emily Dunne, Vera Caldbeck, Linda Lalor, Jimmy Hayes, and Clive Bennett for their total dedication to every event; they made my job very easy.

I wish the incoming Parents Association all the best and my continued help and support in the future.

~Harry Vanston (Chairperson)

Parish Diary - December

27th November.....MU & Young Wives Annual Auction, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)

7th Friday.....G.F.S. meeting, Parochial Hall (7.00-8.30pm)

13th Thursday.....Coffee Evening/Bring-and-Buy/Santa, Parochial Hall (7.30pm)

19th Wednesday.....**Closing date for January 2008 Newsletter items!**

Sunday School for Juniors & Seniors, St. Peter's Church, Mountrath (during Sunday service, except United and Family services).

Items for inclusion in the January 2008 Newsletter need to be with the editor by the Wednesday (**19th December**) before the **fourth** Sunday (**23rd December**) **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the fourth Sunday.

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

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