



November Services 2010				
Fourth Sunday (28 th)	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion

December Services 2010						
First Sunday (5 th)	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Second Sunday (12 th)	Isaiah 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 5-10 or Magnificat James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday (19 th)	Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 4.00pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve (24 th)	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-20	Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory 8.15pm Holy Communion	Lacca 9.30pm Holy Communion	
Christmas Day (25 th)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1: 1-14	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 10.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Saint Stephen's Day (26 th)	2 Chronicles 24: 20-22 Psalm 119: 161-168 Acts 7: 51-60 Matthew 10: 17-22	Annatrim 10.30am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion		

Parish Diary - December

- November 22nd....Mothers' Union & Young Wives, Auction Night, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)
- November 26th.....G.F.S. Meeting (7:15-8:45pm)
- November 30th.....**Fundraising Meeting, Parochial Hall (8:00pm)**
- 3rd Friday.....G.F.S. Christmas Outing**
- 1st Wednesday....Mothers' Union & Young Wives, Pre-Christmas Lunch, Castlecomer (12.30pm)
- 4th Saturday.....Official opening of Aghancon Hall (3:00pm)
- 5th Sunday.....Final date for return of Leprosy Mission boxes
- 9th Thursday.....Parish Christmas Market, Parochial Hall (7:00pm)
- 10th Friday.....;G.F.S. Meeting (7:15-8:45pm)
- 22nd Wednesday...Closing date for January 2011 Newsletter items!**

Clonenagh Group of Parishes - December 2010

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

Rector:
The Rev'd Ian Poulton,
Clonenagh Rectory,
Portlaoise Road,
Mountrath.
Phone: 057-8732146

Diocesan Reader:
Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.
Phone:057-8732331

Parish Archivist:
Vicky Knowles,
Clonin School,
Mountrath.
Phone: 057-8732846

From the Rector:

Roll up for our Christmas market: Clonenagh Parish holds its annual Christmas market in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath on Thursday, 9th December at 7 pm. There will be a great line up of stalls and we look forward to welcoming a big number of people for some great Christmas bargains. If you have time, come along and lend a hand. Practical help is a way of helping our parish with its running costs at a time when many of us haven't much money to spare.

Carol service: We are holding a carol service at Seir Kieran on Sunday, 19th December at 4 pm. We hope members of the local community around Clareen will join us for the occasion and that other parishes in our group will be represented at the service.

Nativity play: Clonenagh National School hold their Nativity Play in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 19th December at 7 pm. We had a very good attendance from the wider parish at the school harvest thanksgiving and encourage lots of support again at the carol service. The congregation for the school harvest service was 145 - let's see if we can beat that total.

Midweek series: Our midweek service at Borris-in-Ossory on Wednesdays at 8 pm will be looking at favourite carols on Wednesdays, 24th November and 1st, 8th and 15th December.

Community carol service: We are

holding a community carol service in Mountrath Church on Wednesday, 22nd December at 8 pm. Everyone will be very welcome. Bring along your friends and neighbours.

Christmas services begin at 7pm on Friday, 24th December with Holy Communion at Seir Kieran. This is followed by Borris-in-Ossory at 8.15 pm and Lacca at 9.30 pm. On Christmas morning, we begin with Roskelton at 9.30 am and then have services at Annatrim at 10.30 am and Mountrath at 11.30 am.

Plough Sunday: There is an old tradition of the Sunday after the Epiphany being observed as Plough Sunday, the day on which there were prayers for the farming year. (Plough Sunday took its name from Plough Monday, the day when people traditionally returned to work after the Epiphany). We will be having a service in Mountrath Church at 7 pm (with a suitable preacher!). If someone has a plough they can bring along for the service, please contact Ian Poulton.

Western Front visit: Ian Poulton is taking a group to visit Flanders and the Somme next June. Our plan would be to fly from Dublin to Charleroi on the evening of Sunday, 5th June: visit the Somme on Monday, 6th June and to be at the Island of Ireland Peace Park and at the Menin Gate for the remembrance ceremonies on Tuesday, 7th June and visit Flanders on Wednesday, 8th June before flying home. The group would be led by Major Ian Gumm, an expe-

rienced battlefield guide and historian. We have already a number of people interested and if anyone outside the parish would be interested in joining us, please contact Ian Poulton. The cost would be around €400 for bed and breakfast accommodation and transport and the guide; the additional cost would be the Ryanair fare and lunch and evening meals.

Holy Communion for all the family: Our first two Sundays on which we tried having a Holy Communion service with teaching for people of all ages were in Lacca and Annatrim and we had congregations of 51 in Lacca and 45 in Annatrim - an encouraging start. Our first loyalty is to Jesus and by worshipping together we strengthen all our churches. A peaceful and blessed Christmas to everyone.

~Ian Poulton

Parish Notes

Parish Fundraising: Our Christmas Market will be held in the Parochial Hall on Thursday December 9th at 7pm, which will include Christmas fare, floral arrangements, holly wreaths, etc. It is hoped everyone will participate to make this event a success.

Next fundraising meeting at 8:00pm in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday November 30th.

Seir Kieran: The official opening of Aghancon Hall will take place on the 4th of December at 3 pm. All very welcome!

Congratulations to Davy & Linda Wharton on the birth of baby Joshua, a little brother for Grace.

Congratulations to Robert Harvey who graduated with first class honours in a Masters in Music at the Conservatory of Music and Drama D.I.T.; Robert also received the Student Academic Excellence

Award 2010 for high academic achievement.

Leprosy Mission boxes should be returned to Olga Telford by December 5th.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives next meeting will be on Monday November 22nd in the Parochial hall at 8pm for the annual auction night, when a donation from the proceeds will be made to a charity.

Subscriptions are now due and the treasurer would appreciate them on or before 31st November. Mrs Mabel Peavoy, Mrs Emily Jackson & Mrs Margaret McKay will be in charge of the supper.

Go for Life Pre-Christmas lunch is in Wandesforde Hall Castlecomer on Wednesday 1st December at 12.30pm. ALL ARE WELCOME, contact Hazel Sherlock on 056-4441677 for more details.

Wishing everyone a Happy **Christmas** from all the Young Wives & Mothers' Union members, remembering especially all those who can't be with their families during the festival season.

G.F.S.: Many thanks to all who supported our Coffee Afternoon/Evening and 'Bring and Buy' in aid of G.F.S World Council which will be held in Ireland next June.

Thank you for providing home bakes, items to sell, raffle prizes and to all those who sent a subscription because they couldn't attend. A total of 759.10 euro was collected, and 100 euro for G.F.S Cookery books.

The **School Christmas Bazaar** will take place on Saturday 11th December from 10am-4pm. This year it will be 1 day only. All proceeds will go to the school.

There will be a selection of Christmas cakes, puddings, bakes, Christmas trees and decorations including Christmas wreaths and logs.

Santa will be there from 10am-12pm and from 2pm-4pm (€5 per child). He will also accept and take all the Christmas wish lists and letters back with him to the North Pole.

Table Tennis: The new season kicked off recently with 3 teams taking part in the Starball League. In the premier Division, Team 1 of Edgars, Ray & Amylou, got off to a winning start with a 6-4 win away to Tullamore and followed up with a 5-5 draw at home to Portlaoise; next match is away to Killermogh.

Division 1, Team 2, Gary McKay, Jack Dempsey and Dave Scanlan met up with very stiff opposition from Portlaoise 2 in their opening match away and on a 4-6 result had to give ground. They followed that with a 5-5 home result against Carlow T.T.C..

Team 3 will be starting their campaign in the coming week.

SCHOOLS: In Starball primary schools, league champions Clonenagh got the defence of their title underway with a winning start over Scoil Bhríde. This Division sees 6 school teams from around the county competing; there are also 5 teams in Division 2.

TOP EVENTS: Provincial and National junior competition got under way recently. In Leinster U10 ranking we had a superb outing in UCD with 1st, 2nd & 4th positions where Nadia Krawczun, Jessie Hayes and Leanne Delaney all were at the top of their game. This trio of girls have real potential for even greater things as indeed they showed in Belfast at the

weekend where they competed at the top level Irish national event.

7 players from the club travelled to this event. Current Irish ranking has Nadia (3) Jessie (6) and Leanne (8). No other club in Ireland has 2 in the top 10. Also at the recent Leinster Open Katie Hayes captured the U12 title while Amylou finished 4th in both U17 & U14.

LEVEL 2 IRISH EVENT: At the recent Irish Challenger series in Lucan to which 53 junior players from the midlands (15 Mountrath T.T.C., 15 Ballyroan T.T.C., 20 Carlow T.T.C. and 3 Rathdowney T.T.C.) travelled, Scott Jestin (Rathdowney) put in a blistering performance on the day to capture Division 3 of the event, while Cara Brady (Mountrath) was 3rd in Division 4. Over 160 boys and girls competed at the event.

FUNDRAISING: Following the collapse of many sports grants the club are currently fundraising to meet the cost of 2 new tables, this is in the form of cards and lines with a target of 600 Euro needed to meet costs, Thanks in anticipation of all support.

AWARD: Mountrath Table Tennis Club recently received a Community Sports Award from Laois Community Forum in recognition of their contribution to the local community. These awards were presented in the Kelleshin Hotel recently.

Junior training and fun every Wednesday 7-8.30 with advanced sessions on Saturday mornings when time permits.

Items for inclusion in the January 2011 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY December 22nd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for **Christmas Day**. 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