



Clonenagh Group of Parishes - February 2011

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

January Services 2011			
Fifth Sunday (30th)	<i>Micah 6: 1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion	Lacca 11.00am Group Service

February Services 2011						
First Sunday (6th)	<i>Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 3.00pm Holy Baptism & Holy Communion
Second Sunday (13th)	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5: 21-37</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Baptism & Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday (20th)	<i>Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday (27th)	<i>Genesis 1:2-3 Psalm 136 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:24-34</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion

Parish Diary - February

January 24th.....Mothers' Union & Young Wives, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)

23rd Wednesday...Closing date for March 2011 Newsletter items!

28th Monday.....Mothers' Union & Young Wives, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)

Items for inclusion in the March 2011 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY February 23rd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the **4th Sunday, February 27th**. **PLEASE** make a reasonable effort to make your item as ready for publication as possible, particularly with regard to punctuation, paragraphs, spelling, and the **NON**-use of contractions and 'text-speak'. Most importantly, please ensure that you spell names correctly. **Ideally, items should be submitted by e-mail** to- newsletter@clonenagh.com Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 057-8621277/087-2522162 This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from www.clonenagh.com

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:

Christmas services: The severe weather did not thwart the determination of many people to be present at church at Christmas, we managed an aggregate attendance of 159 on Christmas Eve and 158 on Christmas morning, despite the very severe conditions.

The Rector was very grateful to Lionel Gyves for driving him to the Christmas Eve services, without Lionel, the church services at Seir Kieran and Lacca would not have been reached. The temperature of minus 14 outside Roskelton church on Christmas morning must have been a record.

Hopefully, the worst of the weather is now past and we shall reach the spring having had to cancel only two Sunday services back at the beginning of December.

Plough Sunday: Our Plough Sunday service took place on a very frosty January evening. Joining the centuries long tradition of praying for the farming year on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we blessed a beautifully restored horse drawn plough, provided by Charlie Peavoy, and listened to Sam Harper's wise words on the need for our spiritual and our workday lives to be integrated.

The prayers for the year ahead seemed especially appropriate against a

background of bad weather, uncertain economic conditions and the prospect of major changes in European farming policy in the next few years. Thank you to the fifty people who came along on a cold night.

Our next service in our farming year will be an open air occasion on Rogation Sunday, which will be in late May.

Midweek services: Our midweek services at Borris-in-Ossory began again on 5th January. We are spending some time between now and Lent looking at words such as 'faith', 'grace', 'holiness' and other words used in church and preaching. We began with predestination - using the thinking of Hermann Minkowski, Albert Einstein's mathematics professor to see that it was possible to live in a world where there was both predestination and freewill, then moved onto 'grace' and 'faith'.

On Wednesday, 2nd February, the Rev'd Ann Wallace will be leading the service, which will recall the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Saint Kieran's Day: Seir Kieran will celebrate its patronal festival on Saturday, 5th March. We hope to welcome our bishop to the founding place of Ossory diocese to celebrate the ministry of Kieran and to celebrate the great heritage that stems

from our little corner of Co Offaly. 2011 marks the 900th anniversary of the creation of the modern diocese of Ossory and of the seat of the diocese being transferred from Seir Kieran to Aghaboe, following the Synod of Rathbreasil.

Later in the 12th Century, the bishop's seat would again be shifted southwards to its present location in Kilkenny, where the seat of Kieran is set into the wall of the north transept of the cathedral.

Funerals:

It was with joy and sadness that we marked the passing of the life of Evelyn Phyllis Telford at the end of the old year.

Prepared for Christmas, Phyllis became ill and died at Portlaoise Hospital on 29th December.

A native of Birr, Phyllis spent most of her life in Mountrath after marrying Billy Telford. A quiet but very strong personality, Phyllis coped with the challenges of successive personal tragedies while building up the family business in economic times more difficult than the present.

The death of baby John Edward, then the loss of Billy in 1959 when he was only 41 and of their son David in 1973, when he was just 21, were each moments of deep personal loss, yet Phyllis persevered, raising her family while continuing to deal with the day to day realities of commercial life.

Having a deep love for her family and having keen interests, including being an enthusiastic sports fan of rugby and snooker, Phyllis remained an active person until her final days.

Phyllis' faith and her membership of the church were key things in her life; the tragedies she experienced never obscured the deep beliefs she held.

A community-wide congregation gathered to bid Phyllis farewell on New Year's Eve in Mountrath; the readings and the hymns had been selected by her, with obvious deep reflection on the words of each; and the final resting place was at Roskelton.

After enduring long illness, Maud Furney of Ballyroan passed way on Monday, 17th January.

A native of Annatrim parish, Maud's wish was that she be buried alongside other members of the Thompson family in Annatrim churchyard.

Maud had moved from her Church of Ireland roots and joined the Laois Bible Fellowship in more recent years and Pastor Mike Tardive was preacher at the funeral service on 19th January where the music was led by members of the fellowship.

Pastor Tardive recalled the commitment with which Maud had lived her life; her cycling to Lacca, Annatrim and Aghaboe churches to play the organ had been a mark of the determined attitude with which she approached things, including her determined faith which had sustained her during her illness.

A traditionalist, Maud had asked that the Scripture readings at her funeral be from the King James Version of the Bible and that the prayers be those from the old Book of Common Prayer funeral service.

On a frosty afternoon, Maud's mortal remains were laid to rest at the north side of Annatrim churchyard with the words she would have known from childhood days.

Absent: The Rector is away from Saturday, 29th January until Saturday, 5th February. Canon Patrick Harvey is taking calls, 057 873 1243.

~Ian Poulton

Parish Notes

Clonenagh National School Enrolments for September 2011.

Anyone intending to enrol their child in Clonenagh N.S. for September 2011, please contact the school for a "Notification of Intention to Apply" form. Phone No: 057-8732516.

Fundraising: This is just a gentle reminder to say our next fundraising event is our Golf Classic on May 27th in Mountrath Golf Club.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives will meet on Monday January 24th in the Parochial Hall at 8pm to plan the forthcoming Festival Service in May 2011, and also completing the marking of the branch's 100 years. Mrs Annie Clegg, Mrs Jean Treacy and Mrs Kathleen Bennett will be in charge of the supper.

The February meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th February at 8pm in Parochial Hall. Mrs Margaret Jestin, Mrs Laura Fairbrother & Mrs Sandra Condell will be in charge of the supper.

Go for Life lunch that was to take place in December is now rescheduled for April 6th in Castlecomer. Please mark this date in your diaries as all (over 60) are welcome to attend.

Table Tennis: Starball Premier Division: Mountrath 6, Kilcooley 4. Mountrath 4, Moate 6. Matches this week v Portlaoise and Tullamore.

Starball Division 1: Mountrath 5, Nenagh 5. Mountrath 5, Tullamore 5. Play Carlow IT this week.

Starball Division 2: Mountrath 4, Ballyroan 6. Mountrath 5, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) 5. Upcoming matches v Carlow IT and Carlow Town.

Bumper interclub junior tournament held on Wednesday night.

Division 1: 1st Katie Hayes, 2nd Jessie Hayes, 3rd Nadia Krawczun.

Division 2: 1st Robyn Towell, 2nd Sebastian Beyer, 3rd Evan Power.

Division 3: 1st Rory Power 2nd Hailey Hayes, 3rd Danielle Towell.

Division 4 (beginner): 1st Corinna Hayes, 2nd Tadgh Burke, 3rd Rachel Delaney.

Junior table tennis every Wednesday 7-8.30 unless announced. New members always welcome.

This weekend many club juniors will travel to top Irish event in Killarney which starts on Friday evening and continues up to Sunday evening at 6.30. Players from Mountrath (10), Ballyroan (8) and Carlow (5) travel.

On January 29/30 there is Round 3 Leinster Open UCD, February Challenge (Level 2 Irish) in Carlow Saturday February 12th Camp training for Mountrath, Ballyroan, Carlow (top 8 in each club come together), and on February 26/27 all travel to Castlebar Co. Mayo for Connacht Junior Open.