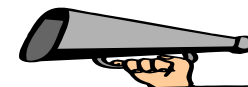


Newsletter



Clonenagh Group of Parishes - December 2011

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

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From the Rector:

An apology: Due to a bad communication on the part of the Rector, no-one arrived to take the morning service at Lacca on 20th November. Thank you to Linda Lalor for leading prayers and to Mabel Peavoy, who officiated in Mountrath at 30 minutes' notice. On the third Sundays of January, February and March, that is 15th January, 19th February and 18th March, the service in Lacca will be at 4 pm, this will allow the Rector to take the service on those Sundays.

Christmas market: Clonenagh Parish holds its annual Christmas market in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath on Saturday, 3rd December at 2 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.

Midweek series: Our midweek services at Borris-in-Ossory on Wednesday, 30th November and Wednesdays, 7th and 14th December will be looking at favourite carols. We had planned to do this last year, but the Arctic weather then descended at the end of November. We begin with 'Once in Royal David's city', and then look at 'Silent Night' and 'O come, all ye faithful'.

Seir Kieran Carol Service: We hold our Christmas carol service at Seir Kieran on Sunday, 18th December at 4 pm. Last year, despite the snow and ice we mustered a congregation of around forty, so we look forward to welcoming a goodly number this year.

Nativity play: Clonenagh National School hold their Nativity Play in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 18th December at 7 pm. There was a large congregation at the Nativity Service last year and look forward to again welcoming parents, friends and the wider community. There will be no morning service in Mountrath that day.

Community carol service: We are holding a community carol service in Mountrath Church on Wednesday, 21st December at 8 pm. Everyone will be very welcome.

Christmas services begin at 7pm on Saturday, 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 Mountrath at 11.30 am.

December Services 2011

First Sunday (4th)	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	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 (11th)	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Magnificat 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday (18th)	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 4.00pm Carol Service	Mountrath 19.00pm Clonenagh NS Nativity Service
Christmas Eve (24th)	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, 15-20	Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory 8.15pm Holy Communion		Lacca 9.30pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day (25th)	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	

Parish Diary - December

2nd Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting, Parochial Hall (7.15-8.45pm)
3rd Saturday.....Pre-Christmas Market, Parochial Hall (2.00-4.30pm)
16th Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting, Parochial Hall (7.15-8.45pm)

21st Wednesday...Closing date for January 2012 Newsletter items!

Items for inclusion in the January 2012 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY December 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the 4th Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day.

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

Covenant Service: Services on Sunday, 1st January 2012 will be at the usual times - the Lord does not change because the calendar does! The 11.30 service at Mountrath will be a covenant service at which we commit the coming twelve months into God's hands.

Holy Baptism: Harry Samuel Birney of Redcastle was baptised at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Sunday, 6th November.

Harvest thanks: We extend thanks to the harvest preachers who joined us for our festival services in October, Canon Aisling Shine who preached at Mountrath and Roskelton, and Bishop Michael who joined us at Annatrim and Lacca. Special thanks to the members of Lacca church who served tea from a marquee in pouring rain and gale force winds.

General Synod Election: Congratulations to our three parishioners, Joe Peavoy, Ivan Jestin and Jean Treacy, elected as members of the Church of Ireland General Synod at the diocesan elections in October.

Africa trip: Ian Poulton would like to thank everyone who prayed for his safety during his ten day visit to Burundi and Rwanda. The travels went smoothly and the eight development projects visited were impressive; particularly impressive was the work of the Mothers' Union in Burundi who have organised 700 literacy and development groups involving 30,000 women and men. Mothers' Union in

Ireland is 125 years old in 2012 and one of the anniversary projects is to support that Mothers' Union project in Burundi and one in Sudan which is based on the Burundian pattern. It was very encouraging that our own Mothers' Union raised €500 at their recent coffee evening.

Plough Sunday: Last year we revived the 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 shall be holding our Plough Sunday service in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 8th January at 7 pm and welcome James Bennett as our speaker.

A gift that lasts: If anyone would like to give a gift that lasts this Christmas, the Rector has vouchers for hens for €5 each and goats for €20 each (or a cow for €100!). The money is sent directly to Shyowge Diocese in Rwanda who use it in buying animals for poor families. The first female kid or calf from the goats or the cattle is passed on to another poor family. During the service at which the Rector preached in Shyogwe at the end of October, a poor woman from the neighbourhood brought a container full of milk up at the offering, it symbolised her thanks for the help she had received. Ordinary lives are being changed by ordinary people in Ireland.

-Ian Poulton

Congratulations and best wishes to George & Ciara Danne on the birth of their son Tiernán George, born November 22nd 2011, a brother for his sister Cheóla.

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

Pre-Christmas Market will be held in the Parochial Hall on Saturday December 3rd from 2pm- 4:30pm. Stalls are cakes, floral arrangements and wreaths, sweets, bottle stall bric-a-brac, costume jewellery, and more .

Contributions for stalls, help, and most of all your support much appreciated.

Big **THANK YOU** to everybody who helped get work done on the Parochial Hall, in particular our strong Parishioners who used wheel-barrows and shovels to get filling and concrete into the area where it was needed also to those who cleared the yard. The Hall is back in full use with all activities again.

Congratulations to Brian Handcock on winning Laois GAA Junior B Hurler Of The Year 2011.

Table Tennis: This weekend will see many players from the club head to Dublin for round 2 of the Leinster Championship. There the main focus is that of U10, U12, U14 & U17 Boys and Girls events. Scott Jestin will be determined to continue the form which saw him reach the semi-finals in both U12 & U14 on his last visit to Clontarf, playing consistently with a vary of speed, spin and direction of strokes and an eye to spot an opponent's weakness and work on it, plus the ability to apply pressure at speed, has seen him as one of the most

improved players in the province this season.

Amylou Hayes will start favourite to retain her U14 position at number 1 where she was in superb form at her last event. Jessie Hayes turned the tables on the current Irish number 1 at U10 to take control of her age group and will no doubt be gunning to retain the top spot again.

U12 hot shots Leanne Delaney and Katie Hayes will be applying their usual pressure in the top 6 where Kate took 3rd last time out. Many other players from the club will also be competing.

Next weekend will see many of the above mentioned head to the annual jamboree of table tennis in Killarney, hosted in the INEC centre close to the Glen Eagle hotel. This top Irish event will see the finest young players in Ireland assemble at all age groups in what for most is their dream event on the Irish table tennis calendar.

At team competition a number of teams are currently competing in Starball Senior and Junior League.

Junior training on Wednesday evenings has moved to Castletown Community Centre where the club have increased the number of tables from 5 up to 12. High level competition demands greater training and more table time.

League matches continue to be played on Monday and Friday nights in the Parochial Hall.

The Club which is run by Jimmy and Ivan (Jestin) welcome all new members from the parish to the club on Wednesday nights in Castletown 7-8.30.

Club coach Jimmy Hayes has recently been elected as treasurer of the Leinster Branch of the Irish Table Tennis Association. and is also currently working with a number of clubs within the midlands on behalf of the ITTA WIS programme.