

January Services 2012						
First Sunday (1st)	Numbers 6: 22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	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 (8th)	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 7.00pm Plough Service
Third Sunday (15th)	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 11-20 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Service Of The Word
Fourth Sunday (22nd)	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday (29th)	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Group Service		

Parish Diary - January

18th Wednesday...Closing date for January 2012 Newsletter items!

Items for inclusion in the February 2012 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY January 18th **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the 4th Sunday, January 22nd.

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



Clonenagh Group of Parishes - January 2012

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

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Vicky Knowles,
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Phone: 057-8732846

From the Rector:

Thank you: We are grateful to God for bringing us safely to the beginning of another New Year and thank those who assisted us in our Sunday worship during 2011, particular thanks to those who lead services month by month, John Bailey, Mabel Peavoy, Charlie Wallace and Maureen Lanigan.

Farmers' service: 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 held a Plough Sunday Service on this Sunday last year, welcoming Mr Sam Harper as our preacher, and had a congregation of fifty.

Covenant Service: We mark the beginning of the New Year with a covenant service (a tradition from the Methodist Church), in which we commit ourselves to the Lord for the coming year, at Mountrath Church on Sunday, 1st January at 11:30.

We will be having the service in Mountrath Church at 7 pm on Sunday, 8th January when Mr James Bennett will be our speaker. All farmers (and others!), whatever their parish or denomination, are invited.

The Epiphany: There will be Holy Communion for the Feast of the Epiphany in Mountrath at 8 pm on Friday, 6th January.

Rector away: The Rector is visiting his family in England from Monday 9th January until Saturday 10th January.

day, 14th January. Contact telephone numbers for pastoral calls will be available on the Rector's telephone.

Third Sunday: Laccac Church has been getting poor value out of the Rector, who on the first Sunday of the month rushes through the door for the 10.30 service with no more than seconds to spare and the rushes out the door at the end to be in Mountrath for 11.30, with hardly a moment to speak to anyone. On the third Sunday of each month for January, February and March, i.e. January 15th, February 19th and March 18th, the usual 10.30 service is being shifted to 4 pm to allow a chance for the Rector to be present and not rushing from, or to, anywhere.

Midweek series: A five week series of midweek services at Borris-in-Ossory begins on Wednesday, 18th January and continues on 25th January, 1st February, 8th February and 15th February, after which we begin our Lent journey around our six churches. A short se-

ries allows us the opportunity of a particular focus and we shall look at Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Paul over the five evenings.

Funeral: On Wednesday, 7th December George Birney of Cappagh South, Mountrath. A native of the parish, George had a deep sense of belonging to his land and his family. Working on the family farm over the years, George was a well known and respected member of the community. Farming was not a job for him, but a vocation, a calling, away from which he would not have been content. George enjoyed the open air standing amidst his fields, looking at livestock. When not outside, home life was important to him, sat beside the warmth of the kitchen range, with his family around him. George was supported through his illness over these past months by the love of his wife Carmel and his family, Robert, Brendan, Una and Stephen, and in his final weeks by the kindness of the staff of Portlaoise Hospital. George's

funeral service at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath was followed by burial in the churchyard.

Nativity Service: Our thanks go to Ms Michelle Stone and her staff at Clonenagh National School for the excellent nativity service on Sunday, 18th December. Two hundred people gathered for an evening that took much hard work to prepare and which was enjoyed by all present.

~Ian Poulton



Parish Notes:

Sustentation: Thanks to all who have paid their Sustentation, and a gentle reminder to anyone who hasn't! Please get it to Florence Peavoy as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Pre-Christmas Market** and made it a success, also to the helpers for looking after the stall; without you it would not be possible. €1480 was raised on the day.

Leprosy Mission boxes collection for 2011 was €141.81. Thanks to everybody who made a donation and it is much appreciated. We wish everybody a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

~Olga