

February Services 2012						
First Sunday (5th)	Isaiah 40: 21-31 Psalm 147: 1-12, 21c 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23 Mark 1: 29-39	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 (12th)	2 Kings 5: 1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27 Mark 1: 40-45	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday (19th)	2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9	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 Evening Prayer
Fourth Sunday (26th)	Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-9 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary - February

January 31st.....Clonenagh N.S. enrolment closing date
 4th Saturday.....One day junior Table Tennis tournament, Castletown
22nd Wednesday...Closing date for March 2012 Newsletter items!
 28th Tuesday.....Mothers' Union Ossory Area Meeting, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)

Items for inclusion in the March 2012 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY February 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the 4th Sunday, February 26th.

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 - February 2012

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

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From the Rector:

Fifth Sunday Services: 29th January is a fifth Sunday of the month. There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath at 9 am, celebrated by Canon Patrick Harvey from Abbeyleix. At 11 am there will be a group service in Borris-in-Ossory, at which the speaker will be Mr Sam Harper and a friend who will speak about the work of the Gideons. (Many of us will have encountered Gideon Bibles, presented to us at school or in hotel rooms). There will be a retiring collection in support of the Gideons. Do come along and bring a friend with you.

Revd Anthony Kelly: On Wednesday, 1st February the Reverend Anthony Kelly, who spent time in our parishes last summer, will be introduced as bishop's curate of Holmpatrick in North Co. Dublin. Parishioners wishing to go along to support Anthony at this special occasion in his ministry will be very welcome at the service.

The Presentation of Christ: There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath on Thursday, 2nd February to mark the final day of the Christmas season when the church recalls Mary and Joseph presenting the baby Jesus in the Temple.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Week: The Rector has one of his twice yearly weeks on duty at Saint Patrick's Cathedral from Sunday, 29th January until Friday, 3rd February. The current plan is to be in Dublin until the Wednesday evening and then to be back in Mountrath on Thursday, 2nd February for school, home Communion and the Holy Communion service in Mountrath to mark the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. He then has to be back in Dublin on Friday, 3rd February for a Bishops' Appeal Conference. Phone calls to the Rectory number will forward to his mobile as normal.

Midweek services: Our midweek services at Borris-in-Ossory will focus on the Gospel writers Luke and John at the services on February 8th and February 15th. We had an average attendance of 14 at our Wednesday evening services in Borris in 2011, so hope that we might manage a similar level of support this year.

Lacca Third Sunday Service: It was encouraging to have 25 people at our 4 pm service at Lacca on 15th January, where we enjoyed a cup of tea and chat afterwards. Having had attendances of 14, 11 and 12 on the third Sundays of October, November and December, the

number was a great improvement. We shall continue the experiment on Sundays 19th February and 18th March.

Lent Services: Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, 22nd February. Our Lent services will move around the six churches in our group. On Ash Wednesday, we will be in Mountrath at 8pm; then, on 29th February, in Annatrim; on 7th March, in Borris in Ossory; on 14th March, in Lacca; on 21st March, in Roskelton; and on 28th March, in Seir Kieran. We shall again be using the Lent Course provided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, which this year has the theme, 'The Way to Freedom'. If anyone would like to look at the course, it is available on the internet at: www.ctbi.org.uk/572

Christmas services: Our Christmas services were a great encouragement. Our school Nativity Service on Sunday, 18th December brought a congregation of over 200. With Christmas Eve/Day congregations of 53 at Seir Kieran, 64 at Borris in Ossory, 81 at Lacca, 48 at Roskelton, 77 at Annatrim and 63 at the sixth and final service at Mountrath, our aggregate attendance of 386 gave a net attendance of 367 when deductions are made for people attending more than once, a figure that exceeds our parish population of 353.

Plough Sunday: Sincere thanks to James Bennett, our speaker, for his wise and challenging words, and to Charlie Peavoy for providing the plough at our Plough Sunday service on Sunday, 8th January. This was the second year of the service and the attendance grew from 51 last year to 76 this year, we were especially pleased that Fr Pat Hennessy was able to be present with us.

Confirmation: Candidates from our parishes and Rathdowney parish will be confirmed in Mountrath on Sunday, 10th June at 3.30 pm. Those wishing to join the confirmation preparation group should contact the Rector.

Select vestry meetings: All three select vestries need to meet this month to revise vestry registers and to deal with any other business that might need attention. Clonenagh Select Vestry will meet on Tuesday, 7th February at 8pm. Dates will be fixed for meetings of Offerlane and Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran.

Christmas Livestock: Thank you to everyone who contributed to raising funds for poor families in Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda to buy livestock. A total of €1821 was raised, €521 from collections at our two Christmas carol services and €1300 from people's gifts. This was an excellent response. €1300 has already been sent to the Rural Development office in the diocese and the other €521 is being sent.

~Ian Poulton

Parish Notes:

A Barbecue/Fun Day will be held in the Rectory grounds on Sunday May 27th. Watch this space for more details nearer to time.

Clonenagh National School Enrolments for September 2012: please contact the school on 057-8732516 requesting a 'Notification of Intention To Apply' form. This form should be returned to the school on or before Tuesday 31st January 2012.

Laois junior table tennis players have really got to grips with the mighty Dublin contingent of talented wizards of ping pong in their own back yard. At the most recent Leinster ranking event in Clontarf, many young players from around the county produced stunning displays of table tennis and came away with much enthusiasm and silverware over the weekend.

Amylou Hayes (Mountrath) and Kate Whelan (Ballyroan) both reached the U14 Girls final and following a superb game of wits, tactics and sweat, Amylou took the title 3-1. In the U12 Girls Final it was again an all Laois final with Kate Whelan and Jessie Hayes reaching the summit with Kate taking the final on a 3-0 score line.

Kate recently won the Irish U12 title and Jessie the U10 title. At the same U12 Leinster event, superb performances were given by Katie Hayes 4th, Leanne Delaney 5th, and Eimile McWey 6th. Amylou Hayes also took 3rd in U17 Girls.

In the boys events Scott Jestin U12 continues to establish himself as one of the top 4 in Leinster in a very competitive group with Rathdowney's Dylon Grace hot on his heels to join in the big-time. George Goodson stepped up a notch also to win Division 2 U14 event.

At U10 Boys, Paddy Vaughan (Crosspatrick TTC) was Runner Up, Ballyroan's Brian Whelan 3rd, while Eoghan Flanagan (Rathdowney) took the winners prize in U10 Division 2.

In Girls U10, Jessie Hayes and Sophie Kenny-Cleare were 2nd and 3rd.

Next Leinster ranking event is March 18/19 in Carlow, with Round 3 of the Irish Open taking place 24/26th of March in Brieffly House, Castlebar, Mayo.

In The Starball League, Portlaoise continue their excellent form in the Premier Division only dropping 1 point to Mountrath to date. Ballyroan lead the way in Division 1 and are unbeaten to date and look good to top the table at the end of the season. Ballyroan are also leaders in Division 2.

In Laois Junior League, Carlow lead from Mountrath in Division 1, in Division 2 Mountrath lead the way while, a close battle remains between Ballyroan, Killermogh and Rathdowney in Division 3.

Next local one day junior tournament is February 4th in Castletown Community Hall. This event is open to all young table tennis players U17 with Divisions to suit all levels from beginners up to national champions.

Entries to jimmyhayes1@hotmail.com or text 086-8684693. Closing date Wednesday 1st February.

Mountrath Mothers' Union & Young Wives will host the Ossory Area Meeting on Tuesday February 28th in the Parochial Hall at 8pm. The topic of the evening is MU literacy programme in Burundi, and the Rector Rev Ian Poulton along with a special guest will address the meeting. Contributions towards the supper please,

ALL WELCOME.