

March Services 2012						
First Sunday (4th)	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 8.00pm Festival Service
Second Sunday (11th)	Exodus 20: 1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday (18th)	Numbers 21: 4-9 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21	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 (25th)	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-13 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary - March

February 28th.....Mothers' Union Ossory Area Meeting, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)
 February 29th.....Offerlane Select Vestry, Annatrim Church (after Lent service)
 7th Wednesday.....Clonenagh N.S. Cookery Demo, Parochial Hall (8.00pm)
21st Wednesday...Closing date for April 2012 Newsletter items!

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

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 - March 2012

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

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 Phone: 057-8732146

Diocesan Reader:
 Mabel Peavoy,
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 Vicky Knowles,
 Clonin School,
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 Phone: 057-8732846

From the Rector:

Mothers' Union Area Meeting:

The Ossory area meeting takes place in Mountrath on Tuesday, 28th February at 8 pm when Lydia Monds, the Bishops' Appeal Education Adviser who spoke at the harvest festival services in Borris-in-Ossory and Seir Kieran, will speak on the Mothers' Union literacy project in Burundi which she and the Rector visited at the end of October 2011. Everyone is welcome at the meeting and we hope for a large turnout.

Wednesday evening format of Holy Communion with hymns and an address based on the theme and readings for the week. If anyone would like to look at the course, it is available on the internet at: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/572/>, and those who listen to the daily or the Sunday services on BBC Radio 4 will find that those broadcasts are focused on the course. On Wednesday, 28th March, we are going to do something completely different in Seir Kieran. Our Catholic neighbours in that little island of Ossory diocese in the See of Killaloe are having a parish mission led by the Redemptorists who some of us would have met at the recent mission at Camross. As members of the community in Seir Kieran, we are going to host the Wednesday evening liturgy in that week of mission and look forward to a packed church that night. (To reassure those present on Ash Wednesday, in Borris in Ossory; on 14th March, the Rector will not be wearing brown shoes at any more of the Lent services).

Lent 2012: We began our series of Lent services based on 'The Way to Freedom', the 2012 Lent course prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, on Ash Wednesday in Mountrath and continue in Annatrim on Wednesday, 29th February at 8 pm. Lent services in March will be on 7th March in Borris in Ossory; on 14th March, the Rector will not be wearing brown shoes at any more of the Lent services).

Lent collections: Our retiring collections this Lent are for equipping and stocking Ruyumba Demonstration Farm in Rwanda, part of the Bishops' Appeal Project in the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory in 2012. Ruyumba farm was visited by the Rector in November. It is a farm, with classrooms and dormitories, where livestock are kept and fruit and vegetables are grown and where groups of people from the villages come to learn about animal husbandry and the cultivation of crops. Every donation, however small, counts.

Offerlane Select Vestry: There will be a meeting of Offerlane Select Vestry on Wednesday, 29th February in Annatrim Church directly after the Lent service - the main item of business is the revision of the register of vestry people.

Second Anniversary: 1st March marks the second anniversary of the Rector's appointment as incumbent of the Clonenagh group of parishes. He would like to thank the people of the parishes for their patience and kindness over the past two years.

World Day of Prayer: The 2012 World Day of prayer is on Friday, 2nd March. This year's liturgy was prepared by the women of Malay-

sia and has the theme 'Let Justice Prevail'. At 10.30 am Clonenagh National School will gather to celebrate the children's liturgy, which is part of the celebration of the day, and at 8 pm there will be traditional inter-denominational service at Saint Fintan's Church. Everyone is, of course welcome at either, (or indeed both!), of the services.

Saint Kieran's Day: Seir Kieran will celebrate its patronal festival this year on the eve of Saint Kieran's Day Sunday, 4th March at 8 pm. Our Fifth Century patron has much to teach us about how to be Christ's Church in a world where the church is on the edge of society and where it is judged on the life it lives and not on any worldly authority it might attempt to command. We welcome as our speaker at the service Bishop Seamus Freeman, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Ossory.

Saint Patrick's Day: The national saint's day will be marked by Holy Communion in Mountrath at 10.30 am on Saturday, 17th March. Last year we mustered a congregation of 20 or so, and were able to sing some hymns. Do come along and join us for half an hour that Saturday morning.

Confirmation classes: Preparation for our confirmation service on

Sunday, 10th June 2012 is beginning. We are holding our classes from 1.30 until 2.00 on Fridays at Clonenagh National School.

Thank you: We thank those who officiated at services on Sunday, 29th January, when the Rector was on duty at Saint Patrick's Cathedral: Canon Patrick Harvey from Abbeyleix who celebrated Holy Communion at the nine o'clock service in Mountrath and our Gideon visitors who led the worship at the group service at Borris-in-Ossory. The retiring collection for the work of the Gideons raised €173.

~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.

Belated congratulations to Jenna Holmes and Nathan Dancey who recently announced their engagement.

Congratulations to Alison Holmes who was awarded a Macra na Feirme National Leadership Award at a reception at the Bank of Ireland Headquarters in Dublin on the 24th of January.

Clonenagh National School are arranging a fundraiser for the School: a **Cookery Demonstration**, with author, broadcaster and Chef Instructor, Frank Moynihan; in the Parochial Hall, Mountrath, on Wednesday, 7th March 2012, commencing at 8pm sharp.

Admission €10
Please be early and bring a friend or two.

Contact Simone Cooper (0860665398) or Evelyn Bennett (0868950502).

Mountrath Mothers' Union & Young Wives will host the Ossory Area Meeting on Tuesday February 28th in the Parochial Hall at 8pm. The Guest Speaker is Lydia Monds from the Bishop's Appeal, on the topic of the MU literacy programme in Burundi.

Contributions towards the supper please, ALL WELCOME.

Mountrath Parent & Toddler Group held a Pancake Party at the Parochial Hall, Mountrath on Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to all those who supported the morning and to the ladies who cooked pancakes. A donation of €200 was made to Ronald McDonald House, Crumlin, which provides accommodation for families whose children are seriously ill at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.