

The Newsletter

October 2012



“God spede the plow”*

Seir Kieran parishioners John McBryde and Laura Grant prepare to represent County Offaly in this year's National Ploughing Championship in Wexford

**14th century poem*

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The letter I wrote to the Farmers' Journal prompted more comment than any sermon I have ever preached! I wrote because I think there are serious Christian issues at stake; issues of what is right and what is just. Here is the text of the letter:

"On Monday, 13th August, the 'Irish Times, ran a column by Jim Clarken of Oxfam Ireland in which Mr Clarken commented, "Thankfully, in Ireland just 7 per cent of household incomes goes on the weekly shop". Nowhere in the column did he ask why the weekly shopping bill was so low.

Ministering in a farming community, where the past summer has created huge difficulties, it seemed to me extraordinary that anyone would write so unthinkingly, so I wrote to the 'Irish Times'

'Mr Clarken does not pause to ponder what this means for farmers in Ireland. That the cost of the weekly shopping is a small percentage of household incomes is a reflection of the fact that many Irish farmers are having to produce at below cost levels, prices being imposed upon many of them by companies with monopsony powers. At present, the only income for many farms is the EU Single Farm Payment.

Mr Clarken's wish for justice in the world would presumably include a desire that all people would receive a reasonable return for their labours - it is something necessary at home as well as overseas'.

The 'Irish Times' did not print the letter, nor did they print any other comment on the piece.

There seems a mindset in some quarters that the farming community is wealthy, (and can, presumably, afford such situations as that where people only spend 7% of their income on their weekly shopping). Any suggestion that this is not the case seems to be ignored. Minister Quinn's proposals that assets be included in assessments for third level education grants seemed just a part of a mindset which makes no attempt to understand the realities of rural Ireland".

Of course, writing letters to the Farmers' Journal is not enough to change things. Churches need to support farming communities in striving for two principles, fair pay and fair trade, both of which are grounded in Scripture and both of which are vital to the wellbeing of rural communities and rural churches.



Items for the November 2012 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY October 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, October 28th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and 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

Church of Ireland News

Bishop's Visit

On Sunday, 7th October Bishop Michael will be visiting Clonenagh Parish, celebrating Holy Communion and preaching at Roskelton at 9.30 am and at Mountrath at 11.30 am.

New Rector

The diocese welcomes another new incumbent on Sunday, 7th October at 7 pm when the Revd Ruth Elmes, daughter of the late Archdeacon Donald Keegan, is instituted as rector of Carnew and Crosspatrick.

Clergy Conference

The diocesan clergy conference takes place from Monday, 8th to Wednesday 10th October at Clonea in Co Waterford. The annual conference will deal with the usual lengthy agenda and will welcome Dominic Walker, bishop of Monmouth as its speaker.

The next Archbishop of Canterbury?

The 'Church of England Newspaper', the evangelical newspaper in the Church of England is tipping the Archbishop of Dublin as a possible candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury, it comments:

"Archbishop Michael Jackson, 57. If the Crown Nomination Commission looks outside the Church of England they would be well advised to consider the Archbishop of Dublin. Michael Jackson has intellectual ability (two first

class degrees from Trinity College, Dublin, and Cambridge and a PhD from Cambridge), a British passport (he comes from Northern Ireland) and has worked in the C of E as chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford. He has a good track record as a bishop and has been involved in Anglican Communion affairs. Although a liberal in theology he has shown a readiness to reconcile different sections of the church in the debate over sexuality".

Joint Meeting Of Roman Catholic And Church Of Ireland Bishops

A second meeting of representatives of the Irish Episcopal Conference and of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland took place in Dublin on 13 September last. In the context of most amicable and creative discussion, presentations were offered on:

- The ecumenical and evangelistic possibilities provided by the recent International Eucharistic Congress
- The perspectives of the churches as partners in Irish education on current issues in that area

These joint meetings are held in the spirit of the recommendation of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission that Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops in individual countries should meet from time to time for prayer, fellowship and discussion of common concerns.

Parish Notes

Harvest Festival at Lacca

Our Harvest Festival season continues with the service at Lacca Church on Sunday, 7th October at 4 pm. We shall welcome as our preacher Mr Mervyn Tomb from the Faith Mission. Mervyn spoke at the Mothering Sunday service at Lacca back in March when his acrostic on the word 'Mother' helped us think about women in the Bible and the ways in which they served God, and we look forward to his return. The harvest festival service at Lacca is always one of the best attended services of the year in our group of parishes and we look forward to a very large congregation this year.

Harvest Festival at Annatrim

The Harvest Festival service in Annatrim Church takes place on Sunday, 14th October at 11 am when we welcome the Revd Andrew McCroskery, vicar of Saint Bartholomew's Church in Dublin as our preacher. The service will include the sacrament of holy baptism, a very special way of giving thanks to God.

Harvest Festival in Clonenagh

The Clonenagh Harvest Festival begins on Friday evening, 19th October when members of Clonenagh National School gather to give thanks in Saint Peter's Church at 7.30 pm. Services continue in Mountrath at 11.30 am when we hope to welcome as our speaker Mr Amos Nsengiyumva, from Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda, who is studying in Ireland as the first of the Bishops' Appeal's Harman scholars.

Harvest Festival in Roskelton

Our Harvest season concludes on Sunday, 28th October at 4 pm.

Diocesan Synod

The Diocesan Synod, when we have the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to our rural church communities, takes place in Piltown this year. Our parishes will be represented by Mr Joe Peavoy, Mrs Emily Jackson, Mrs Jean Treacy, Mr Ivan Jestin and Mrs Joyce Wharton.

Bishop's Vintage Run

Bishop Michael continues his vintage tour of the diocese. One half of the funds raised will be going to Ruyumba Demonstration Farm in Rwanda to assist the work of training farmers there. The Rector visited Ruyumba farm last year and the training it can provide can change the lives of thousands of people. Our harvest collections are going towards the total raised.

Holy Baptisms

On Sunday, 26th August at Mountrath Church, we welcomed Andrew Senior, son of Robert and Serena into the fellowship of Christ's Church and on Sunday, 9th September we welcomed Noah Clear, son of Colm and Gail, at Annatrim Church.

Autumn series

We are having a short autumn midweek series in Borris-in-Ossory on talking about our faith. With the title, 'What I believe is . . .', the series is intended to help us think about what Christians

might say in situations we might meet. The services will, as usual, be at 8 pm and will take place on Wednesdays 24th and 31st October and 7th, 14th and 21st November.

School building

The building of the new classroom at Clonenagh National School is making good progress and we are grateful to all involved in the project.

Remembrance of loved ones

Our annual remembrance of our loved ones now with the Lord takes place on the first Sunday in November, Sunday 4th November at 7 pm in Mountrath. The service is very simple and everyone is welcome.

Christmas sale

Advance notice of Clonenagh Parish's Christmas sale which takes place in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath on Saturday, 1st December at 2 pm.

Thank you

The Rector would like to express thanks to Canon Patrick Harvey for looking after things during the Rector's holidays.

Cashel & Ossory Diocesan Prayer Walk

Saturday 20th October at 11.30 in St. John the Baptist's Cathedral, Cashel. Prayers will be held at various places of interest. Lunch provided. Please bring a dessert.

Numbers to Revd Margaret Sykes Tel. 053 94 21958 by 13th October, please.

Congratulations

to Alison Honnor who won a Gold Medal in doubles bowling, Silver in single bowling and Bronze in badminton, at the 7th European Transplant & Dialysis Games in Croatia!

Congratulations

to James Harvey who was conferred with a first class honours degree in Irish Music and Dance from The University of Limerick. James has returned to The University of Limerick to continue his studies for a H.Dip in Music Education.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives

will hold an opening service on Monday 22nd October at 8pm in St Peters Church, Mountrath, followed by a short meeting when Mrs Phyllis Foot, co-ordinator of the knitting project and member of the prison visitor committee, will address the branch on the work she carries out. Mrs Mabel Peavoy, Mrs Emily Jackson And Mrs Margaret McKay in charge of the supper. ALL WELCOME.

Young Members' conference

will take place on October 12th /13th in the City North Hotel, Juliantown. The theme of this year's conference is **Discover and Celebrate**, and as no one from the branch attended last year we would love Mountrath to be represented this year. Enquires to Jean Treacy 057 8735116 or Sandra Condell 057 8735067.

Smiles

The past summer saw the ordination of a string of new curates around the country. None of whom would be like any of the following :

A curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicar-age bell and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter.

"Is the vicar in?" the curate managed to whisper very quietly.

"No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

* * *

The curate went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

* * *

A hospital patient's comment about the new curate: "He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week."

Looking back on those fading memories of summer:

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money.

Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays. . .

* * *

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded forcefully.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the minister gently. "I'm in sales, not management."



Presentation to Seir Kieran church of money raised at the Traditional Day held in Clareen GAA clubhouse on Saturday 25th of August

Left to right - Pat Mahon (Chairperson of Traditional Day), William Whitten (Treasurer of Traditional Day), Joyce Wharton, Margaret Grant, Thelma Whitten & Rev'd Ian Poulton

Table Tennis News

Mountrath Table Tennis Club had an exciting first All-Ireland event of the new season in DCU Dublin recently with many players moving up age levels from last season and hitting the top 10 in their category.

Leading the way was Dylan Grace who took 3rd in U12 while Jessie Hayes marked the scale at number 6 for U12 and 7th for U14, while Nadia Krawczun finished at number 7 in U12.

Excellent performances were also produced by Scott Jestin U14 & U17, Amylou Hayes U17, Tadhg Downey U12. Many other players collected good results also over the weekend.

UPCOMING EVENT - Leinster Junior Ranking Round 1 takes place in Clontarf on the weekend of September 29/30. The following players from the club will be pitting their wits at the tables against the best in the Province; Amylou Hayes, Benjamin Duffield, Corinna Hayes, Dylan Grace, George Goodson, Jessie Hayes, Katie Hayes, Kuba Krawczun, Leanne Delaney, Linda Hayes, Nadia Krawczun, Paddy Vaughan, Sarah O'Connor, Scott Jestin, Sebastian Beyer, Tadhg Downey and Tiegan O'Connor. Many more young players within the club are training hard to reach this level also.

Mountrath Table Tennis Club have **MOVED VENUE** and are now training in TRUMERA Youth Centre where TWELVE tables are currently in use. This move and increase in tables was

necessary for training purposes due to the club's growth and involvement at top provincial and national competition. Club members are from many parts of Leinster with some travelling 40/50 miles 2 nights a week to train.

Competition will see many of these very committed players travelling to Belfast, Castlebar, Killarney, Cork and Dublin on numerous occasions for Table Tennis tournaments at Irish and Provincial level where the social side of the sport also holds great importance for players and families alike.

Regular club training takes place on WEDNESDAY evenings in Trumera 7-8.30pm, and on Friday's 6-9 pm.

Many advanced players attend The **Midlands Table Tennis Academy** in the same venue for elite training with top international coach and current national champion John Murphy, along with local coaches Jimmy Hayes and Margaret Moynan.

PARENTS who would like to have their child/children (8-12 yrs) try their hand at table tennis for an evening may do so and then decide if they wish to continue and join the club to train and have fun with leading players on Wednesday evenings 7-8.30, and while spaces are limited we will do our best to accommodate all either on the evening or when spaces become available.

Club mobile contact - 0868684693

Services & Readings

September 2012

Fifth Sunday 30th	<i>Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22 Psalm 124 James 5: 13-20 Mark 9: 38-50</i>	Mountrath 9.00 am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am United Service
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October 2012

First Sunday 7th	<i>Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12 Mark 10: 2-16</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 4.00pm Harvest Festival
Second Sunday 14th	<i>Job 23: 1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22: 1-15 Hebrews 4: 12-16 Mark 10: 17-31</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Harvest Festival & Holy Baptism	Mountrath 11.30 am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 21st	<i>Job 38: 1-7 Psalm 104: 1-10, 26, 37c Hebrews 5: 1-10 Mark 10: 35-45</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30 am Harvest Festival
Fourth Sunday 28th	<i>Job 42: 1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34: 1-8, 19-22 Hebrews 7: 23-28 Mark 10: 46-52</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Roskelton 4.00pm Harvest Festival

Parish Diary

September 29/30....Table Tennis: Leinster Junior Ranking Round (*Page 7*)
 12th/13th Fri/Sat.....Mothers' Union Young Members' conference (*Page 5*)
 19th Friday.....Clonenagh Harvest Festival begins (*Page 4*)
 20th Saturday.....Cashel & Ossory Diocesan Prayer Walk (*Page 5*)
 22nd Monday.....Mothers' Union service & meeting (*Page 5*)
 24th Wednesday....Autumn Series (*Page 4-5*)
24th Wednesday....Closing date for November 2012 Newsletter items! (*Page 5*)
 31st Wednesday.....Autumn Series (*Page 4-5*)

Rector:

Canon 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