

# The Newsletter

November 2012



## *Bishop's Vintage Tour in Clonenagh*

Willie Clegg, Bill Dann, and Lionel Gyves introduce Bishop Michael to his transport for the day

## **Clonenagh Group of Parishes**

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

# Rector's Letter

Following my sermon at the harvest festival service at Mountrath, I felt that a letter in support of the Biblical principles of fair pay and fair trade should be sent to the 'Irish Farmers' Journal' (and anyone else we can think of). The 'Journal' is not in the business of discussing verses from the Bible, but I hope that the following is something that might make sense to all its readers. There will be an opportunity for anyone else who might wish to sign it to do so at the harvest festival service at Roskelton:

"One hundred and thirty years ago the Land League spoke for farmers, presenting demands for three 'fs' - Fair Rent, Fixity of Tenure and Free Sale and its long term impact was to change the face of Ireland. The Land League, while having many faults, demonstrated the power of ordinary people to change the situation in which they were living.

In 2012, there are two 'fs' which could make a huge difference to farming communities.

The first 'f' is fair pay. What would fair pay mean in our farming community? Wouldn't it mean that people at least received the minimum wage for their work? If someone is guaranteed at least €8.65 an hour as an employee, shouldn't people who farm also reasonably expect that they might earn €8.65 an hour? It doesn't sound very much, but if one assumed that farming meant a working week of 48 hours (though many people work far more), then €8.65 an hour would be the equivalent of €415 a week or €21,590 a year for a working farmer.

A guaranteed income of €21,590 would be less than the Teagasc figure for average farm income in 2011 which at €24,861 was the highest ever, but much higher than the 2010 average of €18,789—and those were average figures, not guaranteed minimum figures.

When it comes to the government

administering the single farm payment, should it not ensure that full time farmers receive at least the minimum wage? How much different life might be for many members of our communities if they were guaranteed a level of income most working people would take for granted? Wouldn't that be the fair thing to do?

The second 'f' is fair trade. Many of us will have met the idea of fair trade. Tea, coffee, fruit, many other items: the fairtrade mark on them shows that the farmers receive fair prices, have decent working conditions, and are allowed to farm in sustainable ways. If the fair trade principles that have done so much to improve the lives of farmers overseas are the right way and the just way for the farmers in poor countries, then shouldn't they also apply to farmers here in Ireland? If the campaign to get fair terms for farmers in the developing world could be so successful, would not a campaign here in Ireland work as well? If there can be a fairtrade mark to encourage us to buy tea, coffee and fruit in the knowledge that the farmers have received a fair reward, could there not also be a fairtrade mark here? Couldn't we have Irish produce that is marked in a way that shows that the producers have received a fair price for their work? If we had fair trade in our own country, many of the current problems and fears about the future would disappear.

Fair pay and fair trade are not unachievable dreams. Fair pay can be achieved through the administration of the Single Farm Payment in a way that focuses upon working farmers. Fair trade can be achieved through educating people about the realities of the current situation and asking them to change things".

Perhaps letters do not achieve very much, but that is no reason not to speak.



# Church of Ireland News

## **Cashel and Ossory Diocesan Synod      Single Farm Payment Submission**

The Cashel and Ossory Diocesan Synod took place at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown Co Kilkenny on Wednesday, 17th October. The diocesan synod is the annual general meeting of the diocese, but as well as looking at diocesan business, there was the opportunity to look at wider issues.

Mr David Richardson and Mrs Phyllis Grothier from Fenagh Parish introduced a resolution to establish a group that would provide support and resources to people under pressure as a result of the economic situation, particularly to those in rural communities who do not have access to the advice and information available to people in towns and cities.

Mr Richard Codd from Tullow Parish expressed concern at the plans to merge the Church of Ireland College of Education, where generations of Church of Ireland teachers have trained, with teacher training colleges on the north side of Dublin. A resolution was passed expressing concern at possibility of the loss of a Church of Ireland ethos in the training of our teachers and at the loss of the historic link between the College of Education and Trinity College, Dublin.

The Revd Patrick Bourke from Castlecomer Parish proposed the establishment of a group in the diocese to look at electronic communication and how churches might learn how to communicate with a younger generation used to Facebook, Twitter and blogs.

A year on from the issues surrounding the reform of the EU Single Farm payment being debated in our own diocese and five months after a Church of Ireland submission was produced, a Church of Ireland group led by the Archbishop of Dublin is to meet with agriculture minister Simon Coveney in early November to highlight concerns about the reforms.

### **Vintage Tour**

The total raised by the bishop's vintage tour of the diocese is hovering around €50,000, with a few parish collections still to be sent in. This is a huge achievement by the diocese and will help transform the lives of those educated and trained as a result of people's generosity.

### **Commissioning of Lay Readers**

Saint Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny will host the commissioning service on Sunday, 2nd December when the diocesan lay readers, without whom Sunday worship in many places would disappear, are commissioned for another five years and when eleven new lay readers will join their ranks. The diocesan lay reader training programme, which is validated by the National University of Ireland Maynooth, has been particularly successful.

# Parish Notes

**All Saints' Day:** There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Mountrath on Thursday, 1st November at 8 pm.

**A Remembrance of Loved Ones:** On Sunday 4th November, as part of All Saints' Tide, we shall hold our third annual service of remembrance of our loved ones in Mountrath at 7pm. Our service is one of hymns and readings that offer comfort in times of grief. We have a simple ceremony where people come forward to light a candle, reminding them of the light that the person brought into their life and of the Light of God that shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome. Everyone, from inside or outside the parishes, is welcome at this service.

**Remembrance Sunday:** Remembrance Day this year falls on a Sunday and we shall have our remembrance of the fallen at our service at Annatrim on Sunday, 11th November at 11 am. Poppies will be available for sale at the service.

**Third Sundays:** During the winter months, the Sunday service at Lacca on the third Sunday of each month moves from 10.30 am to 4 pm. This experiment worked well in the springtime, with tea and coffee served after the service, and we hope the good attendances we enjoyed in the spring will continue in the winter. The third Sunday service this month will be on Sunday, 18th November.

**Autumn series:** Our midweek services in Borris-in-Ossory resumed on 24th October. The theme for the series is talking about our faith: how do we talk

about what we believe in our everyday conversations?

Our talks have the title, 'What I believe is that . . .' and we began with the theme, 'What I believe is that there has to be a God'.

The series continues over the next four Wednesday evenings:

October 31st—What I believe is that God cares about me personally

November 7th—What I believe is that there is no such thing as fate

November 14th—What I believe is that my life makes a difference

November 14th—What I believe is that we don't all get to heaven

We had an average attendance of fourteen at the midweek series over the summer so will hope to exceed that number in our autumn series.

**GFS Enrolment Service:** The enrolment service for the Clonenagh Branch of the Girls' Friendly Society takes place in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am on Sunday, 25th November.

**Bishop's Vintage Tour:** Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Bishop Michael's vintage tour – particularly to Lionel Gyves for driving the bishop, and to Willie Clegg and Bill Dann for providing vintage attractions. The pilgrimage around the diocese will have raised a sum approaching €60,000 – a life transforming amount for the people in Swaziland and Rwanda who are benefiting from his efforts.

**Africa visit:** Ian Poulton is visiting Rwanda and Burundi to see Bishops' Appeal projects from Tuesday, 27th November until Thursday, 6th December. The particular focuses of the visit will be Ruyumba Training Farm in Rwanda – which is being supported with funds from Bishop Michael's tour, and the Mothers' Union literacy project in Burundi, which has been supported by Mothers' Union in Ireland. Please pray for his safety as he travels. Canon Patrick Harvey in Abbeyleix will be taking any emergency calls during the Rector's absence.

**Mission Hall:** The trustees of the Faith Mission Hall in Mountrath have given us the opportunity to buy the hall for Clonenagh National School. The building would provide the school with a large general purpose room which might be used for many purposes and which is a facility the school currently lacks. The building has been offered to us for €35,000 and the school board of management applied to the diocesan board of education for assistance. The diocesan board have made the suggestion that they might find €15,000 if the parishes can find the balance. We are going to ask if it is possible that figure might be raised; if they provided €20,000, can we find €15,000? A number of parishes in the diocese contribute annually to school funds through their select vestries accepting responsibility for things like the school insurance. We have been blessed with a fine school and, in recent years, have had no bills to bear. Perhaps the select vestries of the parishes from which the Clonenagh pupils come might consider a contribution to the future of the school. Perhaps there are individuals who might like to make a donation.

**Confirmation 2013:** We shall be having a joint confirmation service with Rathdowney on Sunday, 2nd June next year in Rathdowney at 3.30 pm (we would not have enough candidates to have a service alone). People who would like to be confirmed should contact the Rector.

**Baptism:** At Annatrim Church on Sunday, 14th October, we welcomed Laughlin Cooper into the fellowship of the Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

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

**Mothers' Union & Young Wives** held their opening service on Monday last 22nd October. Many thanks to everyone for their help with arranging and participation, and especially to Canon Poulton for taking the service.

We will host a coffee evening & bring/buy sale on Monday 12th November from 7.30 pm to 9 pm with a donation from the night going to Protestant Aid and the local branch of the St Vincent de Paul.

All are welcome and the support of parishioners would be gratefully appreciated.

Diocesan Council Meeting on Tuesday 13th November at 10.30, in Kilkenny College.

**Gardening Evenings in Borris-in-Ossory:** on the 3rd Thursday of every month, Mr. Fergal Fitzpatrick gives advice and demonstrates what to do in the garden. These evenings are open to everyone and are great fun! €2/person.

# Smiles

The doctor sat his patient down: "I have some good news and some bad news." The patient said, "Give me the good news." The doctor said, "They're going to name a disease after you."

\* \* \*

I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was 'Always'

\* \* \*

A woman went to visit a fortune teller. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news. "There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt - prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken, the woman stares at the fortune teller's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked her question: "Will I get away with it?"

\* \* \*

Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time.

\* \* \*

A wizard is a person who can keep up with the neighbours and the monthly instalments, too.

The history teacher was trying to impress upon her class the advantages of peace and disarmament. "How many of you boys object to war?" she asked. Up went several hands. "And why is that, Charles?" she went on. "Cause wars make history," Charles responded soberly.

\* \* \*

How much petrol does the tank in your car hold? I don't know. I've never had enough money to get it filled yet.

\* \* \*

Question: Is there anything the matter with the car? Answer: Well, there's only one part of it that doesn't make a noise, and that is the horn.

\* \* \*

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

\* \* \*

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem", explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."

# **CLONENAGH PARISH PRE-CHRISTMAS MARKET**



**Saturday 1st December 2012  
in The Parochial Hall,  
Portlaoise Road, Mountrath  
10.30am - 12.30pm**



# Services & Readings

## November 2012

First Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth 1: 1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9: 11-14 Mark 12: 28-34	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
		Mountrath 7.00pm Remembrance of Loved Ones				
Second Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9: 24-28 Mark 12: 38-44	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1 Samuel 1: 4-20 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10: 11-14, 15-18, 19-25 Mark 13: 1-8	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 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 Samuel 23: 1-7 Psalm 132: 1-12 Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	

## Parish Diary

- 12th Monday.....Mothers' Union Coffee Evening & Bring/Buy sale (*Page 5*)  
 13th Tuesday.....Mothers' Union Diocesan Council Meeting (*Page 5*)  
 15th Thursday.....Gardening Evening, Borris-in-Ossory (*Page 5*)  
**21st Wednesday....Closing date for December 2012 Newsletter items!**  
 December 1st.....Clonenagh Parish Pre-Christmas Market (*Page 7*)  
 December 5th.....Closing date for return of Leprosy Mission boxes (*Page 7*)

**Items for the December 2012 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY November 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, November 25th.**

**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](mailto: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](http://www.clonenagh.com)

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