

The Newsletter

December 2012



Rector's visit to Rwanda and Burundi

A number of people have asked about the visit so I thought I would give some details to explain what would be happening (and hopefully inspire a few prayers!)

~continued on Page 6

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The Christmas Eve tradition of leaving a lighted candle in the window of the house to show that the Holy Family is welcome is captured in Cathal O'Byrne's poem, Christmas Wayfarers:

*Redden the hearth and sweep the floor,
let the candle-light through the pane
be showing,
bring sweet well water, and leave
the door loose on the hasp, for who
would be knowing what poor soul,
lonely and travelled far,
walking the world on the naked
highway
might follow the gleam of the Candle
-Star ,and its welcome win in this
lonesome byeway.*

*So, for sake of two who went out
from the city
by bridle lanes down to Bethlehem
and who failed to find there, for love
or pity,
a kindly soul who would welcome
them,
redden the hearth, let the comfort-
sharing
glow of the peat-fire shine fair and
bright,
and may a tired, poor Man and a
Maiden wearing a mantle of blue, be
our guests to-night.*

Hospitality is at the heart of being a Christian. When Jesus is trying to

teach his followers about God, he uses examples of generous human hospitality. For us hospitality has come to mean welcoming friends at our own convenience. In Jesus' time it was altogether more demanding, it meant putting yourself out for others, without hesitation offering a welcome to those who came to the door.

Hospitality is about being neighbourly; it asks much more of us than coming to church, or putting money in a basket, or giving to charity, it asks that we get involved with people. Neighbourliness may be about welcoming someone who is a newcomer; it may mean extending the hand of friendship to someone to whom we haven't spoken for years - something much harder than welcoming a stranger. Being a friend to all whom we meet is not convenient, but, if the Holy Family were passing our door this Christmas, would they find a welcome? Saint John asks us how we can love God whom we cannot see if we do not love our neighbour whom we can see.

May the candle in the window this Christmas be a reminder to us about the friendship we are called to offer everyone - not just the people we like.



Church of Ireland News

New Canon

The Revd Susan Green, chaplain of Kilkenny College, has been appointed a member of the chapter of Saint Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny in succession to the Revd Charles McCollum who retired in the summer.

Election of bishops

The Church of Ireland will elect two new bishops in the New Year. On Monday, 28th January, the electoral college to elect a new bishop for the Diocese of Meath and Kildare will meet in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, while a week later the electoral college to elect a new bishop for the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh will meet at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Remembrance Day at the National Cathedral

President Michael D Higgins, joined hundreds of people, including many veterans, in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service on November 11.

The address was given by the Revd Nigel Crossey, Chaplain to St Columba's College, Dublin and a former army chaplain. He cautioned against forgetting. He said that in this age of information overload and instant media it was very easy to forget. "There is a real danger in such facile and fragile forgetfulness because in that we lose the most important things about us as people, as nations," he said. "We have the freedoms we enjoy, the liberties we share, the choices we make precisely because others served and suffered and laid down their lives so that we might have them."

Mr Crossey said remembering helped us to cherish the past and reach out to the future and to build on what we have gained at such a cost to find new ways of dealing with each other as human beings. He said that the President's attendance at the service in St Patrick's Cathedral and the presence of the Taoiseach and the Tainaiste at acts of remembrance in Northern Ireland were greatly appreciated and of the profoundest importance in building trust.

Thanksgiving for the Prayer Book

A Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the Restoration Book of Common Prayer, after its suppression during the days of Cromwell and the Puritans, was held in the Cathedral Church of St Macartin, Enniskillen on Sunday 18th November 2012.

The service celebrated the beauty of the tradition and language of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and combined excerpts from The Order for Evening Prayer, The Order for the Administration of The Lord's Supper and The Litany along with other much loved prayers. The Readings were from the Authorised Version. It drew on elements which have been much beloved by generations of faithful worshippers who have been comforted and inspired by words which, through regular use, deeply ingrain themselves in the heart and mind. Hymns of a similar period were also chosen for the service, including 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation'.

Parish Notes

Christmas market: Clonenagh Parish holds its annual Christmas market in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath on Saturday, 1st December at 10.30 am. There will be a great line up of stalls and we look forward to welcoming a big number of people for some great Christmas bargains.

School Christmas Sale: Clonenagh National School holds its Christmas sale in the school car park on Saturday, 8th December. Government cutbacks mean school finances are very stretched this year, so do please come along and support the school's efforts.

Christmas Carols at Lacca: Friends and neighbours will be very welcome at Lacca Church at 3 pm on Sunday, 16th December as we gather at sunset to celebrate the coming of the Light of the World.

Nativity play: Clonenagh National School hold their Nativity Play in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 16th December at 7 pm. We welcomed a large congregation at the Nativity Service in the past two years and look forward to again welcoming parents, friends and the wider community.

Community carol services: We are holding a community carol services in Borris-in-Ossory Church on Wednesday, 19th December, in Mountrath on Thursday, 20th December and at Seir Kieran on Friday, 21st December at 8pm. Everyone will be very welcome.

Christmas services begin at 7pm on

Monday, 24th December with Holy Communion at Seir Kieran. This is followed by Borris-in-Ossory at 8.15 pm and Lacca at 9.30 pm. On Christmas morning, we begin with Roskelton at 9.30 am and then have services at Annatrim at 10.30 am and Mountrath at 11.30 am.

Fifth Sunday Service: Sunday, 30th December is a fifth Sunday of the month and there will be a group service in Mountrath at 11 am. No-one can claim there is much else happening that day, so we hope there will be a good congregation.

Covenant Service: There will be covenant services, committing the coming year into God's hands in each church of the five churches in which there is worship on the first Sunday of the New Year, Sunday, 6th January 2013. We hope people will start the year as they mean to continue and will be present to make New Year spiritual resolutions.

Plough Sunday: Two years ago, we revived the 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). Over seventy people came along to the service last year and we shall be holding our Plough Sunday service in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 13th January at 7 pm and look forward to a similarly large congregation.

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

Mothers' Union & Young Wives held a Coffee evening /Bring & Buy Sale on 12th November. Many thanks to everyone for their support on the night.

The branch was represented at Diocesan Council on 13th November by Mrs Jean Treacy, when Maureen Langian was announced as the Diocesan president elect. Best wishes to her as she takes up the post in January 2013.

Many thanks to Canon Poulton for his support throughout the year and we wish him well on his trip to Rwanda & Swaziland.

Best wishes to all members, their families and the parishioners for the festive season.

The branch would also like to thank Ivor for all his help with their notes over the past year.

Funeral - on Wednesday, 21st November, Bill McCormick of Clonin, Mountrath

The son of a soldier of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who survived the Great War, Bill had a hard but happy upbringing in Phibsborough where football and swimming were his great passions. Bill's working life included factory work, but he was at his happiest when in company and conversation with others—he enjoyed his time in Mercer's Hospital and Saint James' Hospital.

Bill was always a Dub. No matter how hard his childhood years had been, no matter how tough city life was, he

loved Dublin. He went to England for a time, but returned to a city that was very much going through the days no recalled as the 'rare aul' times'. Bill's parish was All Saints', Grangegorman where the legendary Archdeacon Raymond Jenkins was vicar from 1939 until 1976. The vicar, known as 'Jenky' had as his housekeeper Jane Chambers, from Mountrath, and Bill and Jane met at church and were married by the Archbishop of Dublin.

Bill's attitude to life in the country continued as it had been in city days, out and about and active. He enjoyed the simple things of life and remained a man of few words. He liked his routine: driving to the town each day for his newspaper, meeting the same faces, sharing a word and a joke and a smile before he went on his way. Bill enjoyed being busy, and hated anything that prevented him doing the things he planned.

While being of few words, Bill did enjoy having people around him. He was a man of great independence and dignity. He was sustained by a very firm Christian faith, from the days of attending Sunday worship in Grangegorman to driving to Mountrath and then Laccacree churches on a Sunday, to receiving Holy Communion in his own home in recent times, his faith was important to him.

Bill's funeral in Annatrim Church was followed by burial in the churchyard.

Rector's visit to Rwanda & Burundi

Continued from Page 1:

Tuesday, 27th November - Fly to Frankfurt in Germany to catch an Ethiopian Airlines flight to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia

Wednesday, 28th November - Fly from Addis Ababa to Kigali, capital of Rwanda. Travel to Shyogwe diocese for afternoon meetings

Thursday, 29th November - Visit work in Gahogo Parish and Gitarama Parish

Friday, 30th November - Visit Ruyumba Demonstration Farm and Training Centre (for which the bishop did his vintage tour of the diocese) and to Rugabagoba Parish (home of Amos Nsengiyumva, who is studying at Gurteen College)

Saturday, 1st December - Travel to the Rwanda-Burundi border to be met by the Revd Clement Ninziza (who studied in Dublin in 2007-2008) to travel to Bujumbura

Sunday, 2nd December - Preach in the Revd Clement's parish outside of Bujumbura

Monday, 3rd December - Meet with members of the Mothers' Union in Burundi (whose literacy project has been supported by the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal) and the YWCA in Bujumbura (whose work with women has been supported by Bishops' Appeal). Return to Rwanda

Tuesday, 4th December - Visit Nyamagana Health Centre (supported by Bishops' Appeal) and Cyeru Pineapple Project (which will benefit from the Ruyumba Farm training).

Wednesday, 5th December - Visit Vunga Vocational Training Centre (where a building programme was funded by Bishops' Appeal)

Thursday, 6th December - 0225 flight from Kigali - arrive back in Dublin at 2305

CLONENAGH PARISH PRE-CHRISTMAS MARKET



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

Smiles

First colleague: "I made a fool of myself last night at the office Christmas party."

Second colleague: "Did you? I noticed nothing unusual."

* * *

The minister had been rushed into hospital, just before the rush of Christmas services, for an emergency operation. Things turned out better than hoped, and the minister asked his secretary to let the congregation know he'd soon be back to work.

On the Sunday, the people were startled to find this notice in their pew-sheet: 'God is good. The minister is better.'

* * *

The bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney was irritated by the way one of his clergy had addressed a letter to him. "I know it was the festive season but I can assure you that I wasn't that bad when I visited your church at Christmas."

And he returned the letter addressed to: The Tight Rev F Darwent

(Church Times, 20.1.89)

With the extended family about to descend on you over Christmas, bear in mind the following observations....

1. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.
2. Her vocabulary is small, but the turn-over is terrific.
3. When a man is wrong and won't admit it, he always gets angry.
4. Some people are easily entertained. All you have to do is sit down and listen to them.
5. Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you diet!
6. No woman ever shot her husband while he was doing the dishes.
7. My sister is living way beyond her seams.
9. I've had a wonderful time – but this wasn't it.

* * *

With New Year celebrations on the way: I find that distance lends enchantment to bagpipes. William Blezard

If there is music in hell it will be bagpipes. Joe Tomelty

Items for the Christmas 2012/January 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY December 19th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, December 23rd.

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

Services & Readings

December 2012						
First Sunday 2nd	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21:25-36	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 9th	Malachi 3: 1-4 Benedictus Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday 16th	Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Psalm 146:5-10 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Lacca 3.00pm Carol Service	Mountrath 7.00pm Clononagh NS Nativity Service
Fourth Sunday 23rd	Micah 5: 2-5a Psalm 80: 1-8 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45,46-55	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Carol Service		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Christmas Eve 24th	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20	Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory 8.15pm Holy Communion		Lacca 9.30pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day 25th	Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2:1-7, 8-20	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 10.30am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday 30th	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 41-52	Mountrath 11.00am Holy Baptism & Holy Communion				

Parish Diary

- 1st Saturday.....Clononagh Parish Pre-Christmas Market (*Pages 4 & 6*)
 5th Wednesday.....Closing date for return of Leprosy Mission boxes (*Page 5*)
 8th Saturday.....Clononagh National School Christmas Sale (*Page 4*)
19th Wednesday....Closing date for Christmas 2012/January 2013 Newsletter items!

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