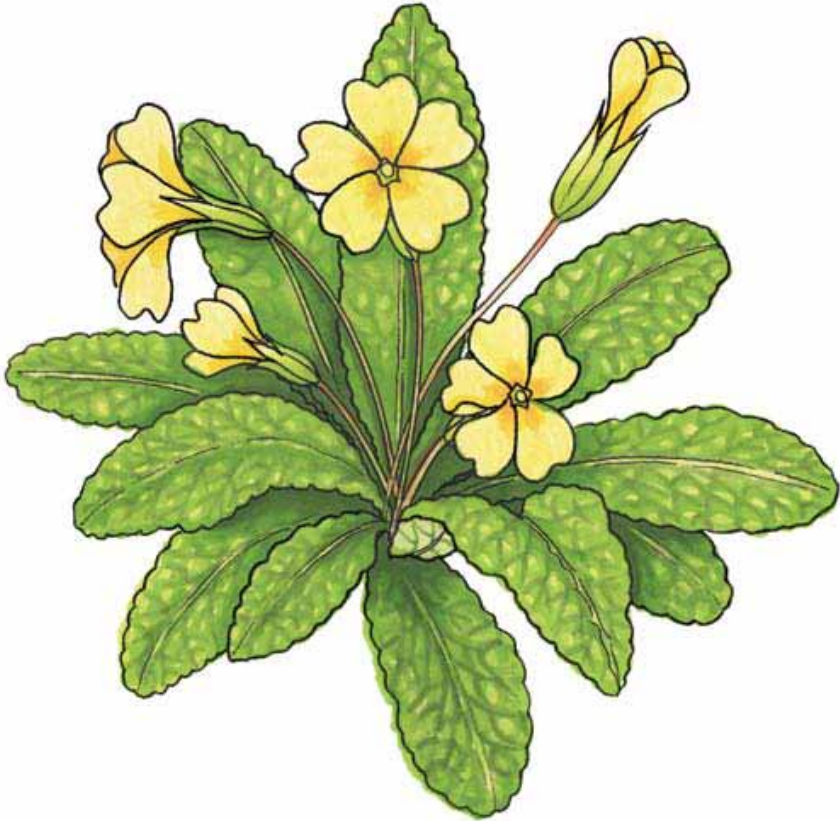


The Newsletter

May 2013



Wild Primrose

(Primula vulgaris)

"April showers bring May flowers" they say; we've had an unseasonably cold April this year, but the wild flowers have finally appeared, so let's hope that the pastures and crops follow suit and that we have a good Summer!

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

There's not much sense of the first occurred when I was divine in most of our ordinary, waiting at a bus stop on a wet everyday lives: going about afternoon. It was opposite the our daily work, driving the Odeon cinema, outside the roads, standing in the station, and I was surrounded supermarket, sitting at traffic by people, shops, cars. A lights, there really isn't much friend was with me. All of a sense of God being present. sudden, for no apparent Yet, if we're Christians, we reason, everything looked believe we live our lives in different. Everything I could God's presence, in prayers we see shone, vibrated, throbbed speak of God as the one in with joy and with meaning. I whom "we live and move and knew that it had done this all have our being". If God is along, and would go on doing omnipresent, with us at all it, but that usually I couldn't times and in all places, see it. It was all over in a shouldn't there be a sense that minute or two. I climbed on to every moment is special? the bus, saying nothing to my friend - it seemed impossible

Searching for inspiration one evening when the business of the day seemed to have had very little to do with anything transcendent, when there had been no sense of anything at all spiritual, I found a passage by Monica Furlong from a book called Travelling In.

The second experience occurred some months later. I left my office at lunch-time, stopped at a small Greek cafe in Fleet Street to buy some rolls and fruit, and walked up Chancery Lane. It was an August day, quite warm but cloudy, with the sun glaringly, painfully bright, behind the clouds. I had a strong sense

"During the two years just before and after I was twenty, I had two experiences which led to religious conversion. The

that something was about to happen. I sat on a seat in the garden of Lincoln's Inn waiting for whatever it was to occur. The sun behind the clouds grew brighter and brighter, the clouds assumed a shape which fascinated me, and between one moment and the next, although no word had been uttered, I felt myself spoken to. I was aware of being regarded by love, of being wholly accepted, accused, forgiven all at once. The joy of it was the greatest I had ever known in my life. I felt I had been born for this moment and had marked time till it occurred".

I'm not sure many of us could identify strongly with Monica Furlong's experiences, for many Church of Ireland



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*Vicky Knowles,
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Mountrath.
Phone: 057-8732846*

Parish Notes

Summer series: Our summer series of Wednesday evening services at Borris-in-Ossory will be a church A-Z and begins on Wednesday, 1st May when we look at angels, then, on Wednesday 8th May, the subject will be baptism. On Wednesday, 15th May, there will be no service as the diocesan Mothers' Union festival service takes place in Inistioge. We continue with charismatics on Wednesday, 22nd May and think about the devil on Wednesday, 29th May.

Rogationtide: Rogation Sunday this year falls on Sunday, 5th May. The long winter has borne down heavily upon our farming community and we hope by the time Rogation Sunday is reached our prayers for a fine spring will have been answered. Our service in Mountrath will be at Seales' farm at Clonenagh at 7 pm and will be led by the Rector and Fr Joe Brophy. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Treasure Hunt: The Seir Kieran Traditional Day Committee are holding a treasure hunt on Sunday, 5th May, so there will not be a rogation service this year.

General Synod: The Church of Ireland General Synod takes place in Armagh from Thursday, 9th May until Saturday, 11th May. Four members of our parishes are members of General Synod, along with the Rector there will be Mr Joe Peavoy, Mrs Jean Treacy and Mr Ivan Jestin.

Summer club: Mervyn Tomb is planning a holiday Bible club in Mountrath from 15th to 19th July in the Parochial Hall. Pupils at Clonenagh NS have received a flyer about the dates. There will be a meeting in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday, 7th May at 8 pm for anyone interested in helping with the club.



GFS Service: The annual diocesan service for the GFS takes place in Saint Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny on Sunday, 26th May. Our branch has had a good year – remaining strong in numbers – and we look forward to a good attendance in Kilkenny.

Confirmation: We have only one candidate for whom an interest in confirmation has been expressed, so the usual classes will not be taking place. Our next confirmation service will be in Mountrath church in June 2014.

Lent and Holy Week Services:

Thank you to everyone who supported the series of Lent services this year - we averaged an attendance of 35 people each evening over the five services, something that was very encouraging. Holy Week attendances grew from 24 at the evening service on Palm Sunday to 68 at the evening service on Good Friday, it was good to see people making an effort to attend each evening.

The Clonenagh Parish Barbecue/Fun Day

will take place in the Rectory Grounds on Sunday June 16th. . If you are planning to come, please do buy a ticket in advance – it is very hard to plan for catering if there are too many people who come and pay at the gate. More details next month.

Borris-in-Ossory parishioners

wish to thank all who supported their recent quiz which was very

successful, also thanks to our main sponsor Cuddy Kitchens. The winners were Jane Bailey (Birr), Joan Bennett (Lacca), and Amy Jestin.



Mothers' Union & Young Wives

are invited to join Rathdowney MU on Monday night next to hear Mrs Maureen Langian, Diocesan President Elect, speak. Meeting is at 8pm in Parochial Hall, Rathdowney. All Welcome.

Diocesan Festival Service in St Mary' s Church, Isistioge, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th May. Preacher is the RT Revd John Neill. It would be lovely to see as many branch members as possible at this service to support the Diocesan President as she will be commissioned at this service.

The National Ploughing Champions will be held in Laois this year from Sept 24th to 26th. Help will be required for the Mothers Union Stand. Contact Sandra Condell for more details.

Church of Ireland News

Cashel And Ossory Becomes First Church Of Ireland Diocese To Win An Eco Award!

The Diocese of Cashel and Ossory has become the first Church of Ireland diocese to receive an eco award. The Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) diocesan award, which was presented at a roadshow in Kilkenny on Saturday 20th April, was made in recognition of the many eco-friendly initiatives that have been undertaken by the diocese.

A Green Charter was adopted in 2008, which all 33 parishes in the diocese have signed up to and display on their premises. The diocesan eco committee organises environmental seminars and an annual eco awards event as well as competitions for young people.

Many parishes in the diocese hold harvest festivals, animal blessing services, Plough Sundays and Walk-to-Church Sundays and have created wildflower meadows. Other eco initiatives have included beehive demonstrations, the children in Kilkenny growing pumpkins from seed for harvest, St John's children creating a butterfly-friendly area in the graveyard and Grange Sylvae parishioners collecting cowslip seeds and distributing them to other parishes. Carlow Parish has planted trees and shrubs and installed bird boxes and held confirmation classes outdoors.

Restoration of St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, has been undertaken in an environmentally-sound manner, including the installation of solar-heated water pipes into a central wall to combat damp. Solar-powered heating has been installed in St Lachtain's, Freshford, and solar panels in Stradbally Rectory.

Clergyman Launches CD

A Church of Ireland Rector will launch his very own album this weekend at The Waterside Theatre in Londonderry. Revd David McBeth is the Church of Ireland rector in Dungiven and Bovevagh. He is also well known as a talented musician and performer.

The CD is entitled The Impossible Mile and is a compilation of gospel music. Asked about the inspiration for the album title Mr McBeth said, "The title is from a song about the 'impossible mile' that Jesus journeyed to his death on the cross and is a reminder of the cost of that journey for him". Talking of the title he also said "The title also reminds me of how our journey in ordinary life can sometimes feel like the 'impossible mile', but there is strength from knowing that Jesus knows what it means to make that sort of a journey".

Money raised from album sales will help towards a Mission trip

to Kenya that David and a number of his parishioners will be joining this summer. As part of the trip they will be helping to build a library as well as working in slums around Nairobi.

Revd David McBeth was well known as a country gospel singer and musician prior to his ordination.

In recent times he has begun to perform again. Talking about his musical roots he said "I began singing and playing with a country gospel band and have been giving more concerts recently. For me it brings the gospel outside the walls of the church".

Smiles

Young mother: Nurse, what is the most difficult thing for a young mother to learn?

Nurse: That other women have perfect children too.

* * * * *

She: I'm afraid your dinner is a little burned tonight, darling.

He: What's the matter? Did they have a fire at the delicatessen?

* * * * *

Yesterday my son came home and said, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is I got 18 out of 20 on my driver's test."

I said, "Great! Now what's the bad news?"

He said, "They were pedestrians."

* * * * *

The father was reading the school report which had just been handed to

him by his hopeful son. He frowned as he read: 'English, poor; French, weak; Maths, dismal.'

He gave a glance of disgust at his son.

"Well, Dad," the son ventured: "It isn't as good as it might be, but have you seen that?"

And he pointed to the next line, which read: "Health, excellent."

* * * * *

Census Taker: "How many children do you have?"

Woman: "Four."

Census Taker: "May I have their names, please?"

Woman: "Eenee, Meenee, Minee and George."

Census Taker: "Okay, that's fine. But may I ask why you named your fourth child George?"

Woman: "Because we didn't want any mo'."

Services & Readings

May 2013

First Sunday 5th	Acts 16: 9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22: 5 John 14: 23-29	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	Acts 16: 16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 19th	Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b Romans 8: 14-17 John 14: 8-17	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 11.00am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday 26th	Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary

- April 29th.....M.U.&Y.W. meeting Rathdowney (*page 5*)
 5th Sunday.....Seir Kieran Traditional Day Treasure Hunt (*page 4*)
 7th Tuesday.....Summer Club meeting (*page 4*)
 9th-11th.....Church of Ireland General Synod (*page 4*)
 15th Wednesday.....M.U.&Y.W. Diocesan Festival Service (*page 5*)
22nd Wednesday...Closing date for May 2013 Newsletter items!
 26th Sunday.....G.F.S. annual diocesan service (*page 4*)

Items for the June 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY May 22nd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, May 26th.

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