

The Newsletter

June 2013



Bluebells and Butterflies

Has summer finally arrived?
Let's hope so!

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

My health, or, more probably, the medication I am taking, has been a lesson in discipline; it's as though there is only so much fuel in the tank; if I try to go too far, I just come to a halt. On Saturday, 25th May, I knew there was a diocesan synod in Bunclody in the morning and that Leinster were playing rugby against Ulster in the league final in Dublin in the evening, but, although a Leinster season ticket holder, I didn't apply for a ticket for the match because driving there would have left me exhausted. I would much rather have just driven to Dublin and not worried about the synod, but discipline, as we were taught at school, is about doing things even when we don't feel like doing them.

average over a hundred, sometimes it was larger than the combined numbers at the three churches on an ordinary Sunday. It asked discipline of people, but that discipline built a very strong parish.

It has been interesting to watch the Kilkenny hurlers in these past weeks. These are not professional sportsmen doing something that is their job; these are amateurs playing for the love of the game and of their county. The absence through illness of Brian Cody, their coach, might have been expected to have had a negative impact upon their performance. There was no sign of any loss of discipline as they won the league title.

Discipline is a theme that Saint Paul returns to regularly in his writing, the word disciple is from the same word as discipline; it's about a process of learning. Discipline is something lacking in the life of our churches. What does it say about our belief in God when we go to church only on Sundays when it is convenient, or only when there is a service in 'our' church?

It's that sort of discipline we need. The discipline of being at church, whether it happens to be the Sunday when the Rector is there or not; the discipline of being at church, even when the service is not at our 'home' venue. If people can show that sort of discipline in sport, then we as Christians, concerned with eternal things, should show even greater discipline.

I spent seven years in a parish much smaller than this – just 250 people. There were three churches and on the first Sunday of each month we held a united service. The congregation at that service used to



Parish Notes

Baptisms

2nd March 2013, at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath, **Sophie Elizabeth Hacker** of Belleville, Mountrath.

14th April 2013, at Saint Jude's Church, Annatrim, **Harry David Joseph Hargroves** of Derrynaseera, Coolrain

Funerals

30th March 2013 at Lacca Church, **Ivor Chambers** of Killanure. A man with a deep love for the land and the livestock, Ivor was never more content than when on the farm. Spending his whole life at Killanure, he could not contemplate living somewhere where he could not have looked out across the fields. A lifelong member of the parish, Ivor attended Offerlane school and spent his adult life on the family farm. When his brother Bob moved to Mountmellick, Ivor was the last member of the family to live at Killanure and he would sit and recall former times; saving hay, selling lambs, the ordinary things of farming life that had meant so much to him. Ivor found his failing health difficult. Frustrated that he could no longer do the things he

had once taken for granted, he feared the loss of his independence. Always a man of strong views, Ivor was firmly attached to his religious beliefs and would receive Holy Communion at home each month. His final illness took him to Portlaoise Hospital for only a few days and he would have said that dying was a homecoming. After Ivor's funeral service on Easter Eve, the burial took place at Annatrim churchyard.

2nd May 2013 at Lacca Church, **May Chambers** of Bilboa, Co Carlow (formerly of Killanure and Mountrath). Within weeks of the death of her brother Ivor, May Chambers died at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny. Affected by Downs Syndrome, which in times past meant a very short life expectancy, May was not expected to live beyond her younger years, but reached the age of sixty-two. May was always appreciative for anything done and always co-operative with those who cared for her, and lived a very quiet life. Cared for by her mother, and then by her sisters, Gertie and Veronica, May passed her years contentedly, first at Killanure and then at her sisters' homes. At the

funeral service, the preacher was May's Rector, the Dean of Leighlin, who had ministered to her during her final illness. He spoke of May's capacity to bring out the best in others, a quality for which all Christians should strive, and of the dignity with which May lived, thanking those who through the years had made that life possible. After May's funeral service, the burial took place at Annatrim churchyard.

11th May 2013, at Seir Kieran Church, **Olive Colbourne** of Fortal, Birr. A native of Dundrum in Co Tipperary, Olive had been forced to leave school at fourteen to look after the family after the death of her mother. Always a determined lady, once the family were well established, Olive set out to make a life of her own, working in Dublin before becoming matron of Bandon Grammar School. Marrying John Colbourne of Fortal in 1964, Olive came to live on the farm at Fortal; a much loved wife and mother and a much valued member of the community. Widowed for more than a decade, and past the four score years, Olive nevertheless remained young at heart; a smile, a twinkle in the eye, and, if necessary, a direct word, were marks of someone still very much engaged

with life. The recent birth of Katie Ann, her youngest grandchild, added to the joy Olive found in her whole family. Olive was a person of very deep Christian faith with a great love for the church where she worshipped Sunday by Sunday. Always someone to be concerned for others before herself, Olive was very much the good and faithful servant of God. After Olive's funeral service, the burial took place at Clonoghil Cemetery at Birr.

Confirmation: The confirmation service this year is at Rathdowney on Sunday, 2nd June at 3.30 pm. We have just one candidate from our parishes who will be confirmed at the service in which the Bishop of Swaziland will participate.

Amos' Departure: Amos Nsengiyumva, whom many of us have met during his time in Ireland, returns to Rwanda on Monday, 3rd June. In a country where the average landholding is a quarter of a hectare, Amos will be running a demonstration farm where he will be running training programmes for local farmers to educate them in making the most of what they have. We shall bid farewell to Amos at a buffet supper at the home of James and Joan Bennett on Sunday, 2nd June at 6 pm. The

bishop and some of the clergy of the diocese will be present and anyone else who would like to join us will be welcome – please do let the Rector or Joan Bennett know if you plan to come.

Clonenagh National School holds its summer fete on Sunday, 9th June. The severity of Government cuts in education expenditure means that fundraising events are no longer a bonus but are important to the day to day running of the school. Our school is in a healthy state – we shall have 64 pupils in September – but needs generous supporters. We are still gathering funds to purchase the former mission hall for use as a general purpose room, for things like PE and drama, we need €5,000 more to reach our target and are asking if there are 50 people who would give €100 each.

Saint Barnabas' Day: There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath to remember the patron saint of encouragement on Tuesday, 11th June at 8 pm.

Traditional Day: This year's Traditional Day in Clareen takes place on Sunday, 16th June. Everyone is welcome.

School End of Year Service: Clonenagh National School hold their end of year service on Thursday, 27th June in Mountrath Church at 7.30 pm. Even if you are not involved directly, it is always encouraging when the wider parish community takes an interest in the school.

Saint Peter's Day: There will be Holy Communion to mark Saint Peter's Day in Mountrath Church at 10.30 am on Saturday, 29th June.

Group Service: Sunday, 30th June is a fifth Sunday of the month, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Mountrath at 9am and a group service in Borris-in-Ossory at 11 am

Summer club: Mervyn Tomb and a team from the Faith Mission are running holiday Bible club in Mountrath from 15th to 19th July in the Parochial Hall. Pupils at Clonenagh NS have received registration forms. If there are other National School aged children who would like to take part, please contact Ian Poulton as soon as possible as places are limited

Congratulations: Congratulations to Dr Stanley Monkhouse, Rector

of Portlaoise, whose Internet blog, 'A Rambling Rector', won the runners up prize at the Church of Ireland General Synod. The Rector entered the competition and came nowhere.

Summer Sermon Series

Our Wednesday evening teaching series in Borris-in-Ossory continues through the summer. We are looking at an A-Z of the church and have so far looked at angels, baptism and charismatics. We continue as follows:

29th May – The Devil
5th June – Evangelism
12th June – Faith
19th June – Grace
26th June – Heaven
3rd July – No service
10th July – Icons
17th July – Judgement
24th July – Liturgy
31st July – Martyrs
7th August – Nicene Creed
14th August – Penitence

21st August – Redemption
28th August – Sin
4th September - Tradition

Clonenagh Parish Barbecue / Fun Day will take place in the Rectory Grounds on Sunday June 16th commencing at 2pm. Tickets will be available from Emily 086 4039013, Mabel 057 8732331, Vicky 086 8889225, or any committee member. We are looking for some picnic tables and chairs for this event, which can be brought to the Rectory on the Saturday evening.

If you are planning to come, please do help us by buying 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.

Fundraising Committee Meeting on Tuesday night May 28th at 8:30pm in the parochial hall.

Items for the July 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY June 19th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, June 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

Smiles

A wee bit too pious

A Scottish lady invited a gentleman to dinner on a particular day, and he accepted with the dour reservation: "If I am spared."

"Weel, weel," she replied briskly, "If ye're deid I'll no'expect ye."

Christian love

The outgoing churchwarden was instructing his successor in his Sunday morning duties. "And remember," he said, "that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church – until you try to put someone else in their pew."

Please excuse . . .

Notes from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.

~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

~ John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.

~ Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.

~ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

~ Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

~ Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

Services & Readings

June 2013

First Sunday 2nd	1 Kings 18: 20-21, 30-39 Psalm 96 Galatians 1: 1-12 Luke 7: 1-10	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	1 Kings 17: 8-16 Psalm 146 Galatians 1: 11-24 Luke 7: 11-17	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 16th	1 Kings 21: 1-10, 11-14, 15-21a Psalm 5: 1-8 Galatians 2: 15-21 Luke 7: 36 - 8: 3	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday 23rd	1 Kings 19: 1-4, 5-7, 8-15a Psalms 42, 43 Galatians 3: 23-29 Luke 8: 26-39	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 30th	2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20 Galatians 5: 1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion			Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Group Service	

Parish Diary

- May 28.....Fundraising Committee meeting (*page 6*)
 2nd Sunday.....Confirmation Service, Rathdowney (*page 4*)
 2nd Sunday.....Farewell supper for Amos Nsengiyumva (*page 4*)
 9th Sunday.....Clononagh N.S. Summer Fete (*page 5*)
 11th Tuesday.....Saint Barnabas' Day service, Mountrath (*page 5*)
 16th Sunday.....Traditional Day, Clareen (*page 5*)
 16th Sunday.....Parish Barbecue / Fun Day, Mountrath (*page 6*)
22nd Wednesday...Closing date for May 2013 Newsletter items!
 27th Thursday.....Clononagh N.S. end of year service (*page 5*)
 29th Saturday.....Saint Peter's Day service, Mountrath (*page 5*)
 July 15-19.....Summer Bible Club, Mountrath (*page 5*)

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