

The Newsletter

July/August 2013



Silage lined up near Clareen

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

Taking the final school assembly of the year on 20th June, I thought about my last day at primary school, about walking out of the doors for the last time. It had been a moment of sadness as well as excitement; a moment that still lingers in the memory.

My teacher was Mr Britten, he had been the headmaster of our two teacher primary school for the last term I was there. He was very different from his predecessor, he drove a bright orange 'K' registered car, the most up to date English car registration possible in the spring of 1972. He played the piano with one finger and much humour and he was very fond of reading. At the end of the day he would read to the whole class, the book still remains clear in the memory, 'Bran of the Moor', the story of a collie dog on Dartmoor. I still love to listen to people reading stories. Mr Britten wore his hair closely cropped and was probably not so many years older than those he taught.

Some of the things we talked about during that term still remain in the memory. He once asked, maybe in the context of some English comprehension exercise, what was meant when it said that someone was middle aged.

"They are in their thirties", I answered.

It seemed a reasonable answer. When I was young in 1972, people died in their sixties, to reach 70 made you an old person. Thirty was halfway to sixty, so it was the middle; to be thirty years old seemed fairly middle-aged to me.

Mr Britten smiled at my answer. "I hope not", he said.

Years later a philosophy lecturer looked at our class of young students. "Your outlook on life changes once you pass forty", he said, "then you realize that you really are going to die."

So middle age was reached at forty, not thirty, I was ten years out.

There are moments when those blissful, hopeful days with Mr Britten seem infinitely attractive. Days when the world seemed young and life seemed to stretch out forever, days when even being thirty was something so far away that it could be pushed out of your mind.

Yet, for Christians, shouldn't there be a looking forward as well as backwards?

Peggy, my mother-in-law, who died in 2006, had a hymn at her funeral that sees the passing days not as time lost, but as steps on a journey homewards.

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Parish Notes

School Fete: The wonderful weather in early June provided us with an excellent afternoon for the school fete on 8th June. We are very grateful to those who made the day a great success.

Mission Hall: We are making great progress with our attempts to raise the remaining funds necessary to buy the former Mission Hall so that we can convert it to a general purpose room for the school. As of 21st June we had a quarter of what we needed and required €3,800 more. Hopefully, that target will come much nearer in the coming weeks.

Holiday Bible Club: We have a holiday Bible club in Mountrath from Monday, 15th July until Friday, 19th July, 10.30-1.00 each morning. We are very grateful to Mervyn Tomb and his team from the Faith Mission for organizing and leading the club and look forward to some lively times.

Saint James' Day: There will be Holy Communion for Saint James' Day on Thursday, 25th July in Mountrath at 8 pm.

Transfiguration: There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath on Tuesday, 6th August at 8 pm to

remember the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Residence: The Rector is on canon's duties in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in the week beginning Sunday, 18th August. He will have his phone with him, as usual, and will be back in the parish not later than Wednesday, 21st August.

Summer Sermon Series: Our teaching series on the church continues as follows through the months of July and August at Borris-in-Ossory each Wednesday evening at 8 pm. Some of the ground we cover may be familiar, other might be completely new to us. Everyone is welcome.

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

Harvest Festivals: The planned dates for our harvest festival services are as follows:

Borris-in-Ossory, 8th September at 7 pm;
Seir Kieran, 29th September at 7 pm;

Roskelton, 6th October at 4 pm;
Annatrim, 13th October at 11 am;
Mountrath, 20th October at 11.30 am;
Lacca, 20th October at 4 pm.

Amos Nsengiyumva: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the great success of Amos' time among us. Amos returned to Rwanda having learned much during his time at Gurteen and his time among the farms and parishes of our diocese. He takes over management of Mbayaya Training Farm at Ruyumba, for which our diocese raised so much money during the bishop's vintage tour, at the beginning of July and faces a very difficult task. In the past weeks, disease has claimed the lives of the handful of cattle and goats that were at the farm, so Amos must begin his work with buildings and no livestock.

Clonenagh Parish Barbecue / Fun Day is rescheduled to take place on Sunday August 25th in the Rectory Grounds commencing at 2pm, weather permitting.

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.

Laois Church of Ireland Youth Council

AGM: This year our AGM takes place on Friday 5th July, in Portlaoise Parochial Hall at 8pm. We would love to see new faces join us. All are welcome to attend.

Mid-Summer Hop: Our “Mid-Summer Hop” is on Saturday 29th June, 2013 in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise at 8pm. Over 18's event. DJ. Smart-casual dress. Finger food will be served.

Tickets €10, available from:
Charlie Sands - 0863526078
James Wilkinson - 0857458176
Jennifer Carter - 0860750504
Philip Thompson - 0857866005
Rowena Hastings - 0861601365
Sharon Cobbe - 0877833740
Shane Reynolds - 0852060941
Susan Dennehy - 0879581600
Wesley Thompson - 0857856901
William Carter - 0871218740
William Kerr - 0877926292

Crossroads Social Club Summer Programme

Details of Crossroads are available through the **Crossroads Social**

Club Facebook page. The summer programme includes:

Afternoon tea and time to explore all at Newbridge Silver in Newbridge, Co Kildare on Sunday 30th JUNE at 2.30pm. Contact Georgina on 087 6716745 (Primetime)

When were you last **at the Zoo**? Well now's your chance on Sunday 7th July, with two options: Meet at entrance gate for 11.30 am Sunday morning to avail of a group access (subject to numbers interested and pre advise given to Valerie) or meet outside Haughton House at 3 pm which is inside the zoo for a get together / catch up. Contact Desiree 087 6985276 or Valerie by Facebook if interested.

The **Summer Gathering** event at Clonmacnoise on Sunday, 28th July. A gathering of people who supported Crossroads and Club 25 over the years is planned for Sunday, 28th July 2013 at an Open Air Service in Clonmacnoise. Bring a picnic & meet up at the entrance at 1 pm. Service at 4 pm. A great chance to catch up with old faces & for the kids to meet & have some fun. Send them a message on Facebook or Contact Shirley on 087 2816845 / Valerie on 087 2276868.

At our **Space Academy Holiday Club**, we will be making space

rockets from old containers and bottles. We need the following: Pringles tubes, kitchen roll cardboard tubes, Yoghurt pots, soft drinks bottles, aerosol can lids, shampoo/ lotion bottles and lids. These should be clean or washed, and not crushed. They should be left in the garage at the Rectory, Mountrath from now until the club starts (15 July). Many thanks.

We would like those with a flair for art to join us for a **"Paint Party"** on Thursday 11 July at 7.30pm in Mountrath Parochial Hall. We will be painting some visuals for the Space Academy Holiday Club. Contact Mervyn Tomb at 0860575462 if you plan to come.



There will be a **car Treasure Hunt** in Aghancon on Sunday 14th July, starting at 6pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

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“Forever with the Lord!”

Amen, so let it be!

Life from His death is in that word
'Tis immortality.

Here in the body pent,
Absent from Him I roam,
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent A
day's march nearer home

Assured of going home, it is easy to
look back upon the past and to
smile.

May God be with us in the summer
days and give us much to remember
with a smile, and may those who
leave school this summer look back
in forty-one years time and
remember the time with happiness.
PS I am leading a group visiting the
Western Front from 1st-4th July.
Canon Harvey will take calls, but I
shall have my phone with me as
usual.



Parish Diary

JULY

- June 29th.....Laois CIYC Mid-Summer Hop (*page 5*)
June 30th.....Crossroads Social Club Afternoon Tea (*page 5*)
5th Friday.....Laois CIYC AGM (*page 5*)
7th Sunday.....Crossroads Social Club Zoo visit (*page 5*)
11th Tuesday.....Space Academy Holiday Club Paint Party (*page 5*)
14th Sunday.....Treasure Hunt, Aghancon (*page 5*)
15-19 Mon-Fri.....Summer Bible Club, Mountrath (*page 3*)
25th Thursday.....Saint James' Day service, Mountrath (*page 3*)
28th Sunday.....Crossroads Social Club Summer Gathering (*page 5*)

AUGUST

- 6th Monday.....Transfiguration service, Mountrath (*page 3*)
21st Wednesday...Closing date for September 2013 Newsletter items!
25th Sunday.....Parish Barbecue / Fun Day, Mountrath (*page 4*)

Items for the September 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY August 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, August 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

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

Some call centre conversations

* * *

'I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?'

'Where did you get that number from, sir?'

'It's there on the door to your Travel Centre'.

'Sir, they are our opening hours'

* * *

'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about'.

'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

'I think you mean the telephone point on the wall'.

* * *

Caller to RAC Motoring Services: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?'

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Caller to Directory Enquiries: 'I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff.'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?'

Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off'.

Signs

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At a breakdown company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On a house's fence: "Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive."

In a vet's waiting room: "Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a funeral home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

* * *

A man rushed into the pub. "I need a pint – I've just had another fight with my wife."

"Oh, yes?" asked his friend at the bar. "And how did this one end?"

"Well, when it was over, she was on her hands and knees, pleading with me" admitted the man.

"Goodness! Was she very upset?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," said the man,

"She kept crying: 'come out from under that bed, you big chicken, and let me get my hands on you...!'"

Services & Readings

July 2013

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|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| First Sunday 7th | 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 | 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 14th | Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37 | Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion | Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion | | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer | |
| Third Sunday 21st | Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42 | 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 28th | Hosea 1:2-10 Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 11:1-13 | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer | | Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion | |

August 2013

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|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| First Sunday 4th | Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21 | 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 11th | Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40 | Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion | Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion | | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer | |
| Third Sunday 18th | Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2 Luke 12:49-56 | 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 25th | Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17 | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer | | Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion | |

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