

The Newsletter

September 2013

Rector:

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Having fun at Space Academy

Leaders and participants enjoying themselves in the Parochial Hall

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The "Irish Farmers' Journal" calendar picture for August had about it a joy and a sadness. The dog leaping in delight among the ripened barley brought memories of August days when I was young: my uncle's spaniel following the harvester hoping for the sight of a rabbit, the scent of tractor exhaust, the feel of hessian sacks, the shouts and laughter of the men who came to help.

The harvest moon last Thursday called attention to the fact the summer ending, that in the cheer of the harvest days there was the gloom of the shortening days. The golden disc conjured memories of Somerset late summers in the 1970s.

The county derives its name from 'somersaete', supposedly meaning the summer lands. Centuries ago much of the county would have lain under water for much of the winter, only in the summertime when the waters retreated would the county assume its full dimensions.

Perhaps it was being taught such things in school that gave the harvest moon a melancholic tinge, more likely it was because the harvest moon marked the end of a season of outdoor and sociable activity. Walk down the road as a harvest moon rose and fields that a few weeks previously had been filled with grain awaiting harvest were now reduced to stubble; the last hay had been made; in places ploughs would have turned

the ground. There was a sense of an ending, of things being over, of moments gone for another year.

The harvest moon marked more than just the end of an agricultural season; it announced the arrival of dark evenings; of people who would have been seen every day during the weeks of summer being now rarely sighted, of the sense of community you felt with all those around on summer days being broken until spring.

The harvest moon conjured memories of those whose faces were familiar on those long summer days; gnarled hands, weathered features, strong arms, soft voices. A cheery wave as they passed going about the tasks that filled every waking moment in those summers. Not just making hay while the sun shone, but doing everything possible while the sun shone, for the days would soon arrive when the summer lands retreated. Like the passing of the seasons, the faces have gone, those whose youthful laughter and bicycles travelled the roads in those times are now those of the lined faces.

Only the harvest moon remains unchanged, that, and spaniels enjoying sunny days, and the God who promises us that while the Earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not fail.



Parish Notes

Baptisms

6th July 2013 at Seir Kieran Church, Katie Ann Colbourne of Portal, Birr

7th July 2013 at Mountrath Church, Crevan Joseph Lodge of Ringstown, Mountrath

7th July 2013 at Mountrath Church, Oliver Thomas Lodge of Ringstown, Mountrath

14th July 2013 at Annatrim Church, Tilly Valerie Harvey of Derrycarrow, Camross

Wedding

15th June 2013 at Roskelton Church, Heather Pratt of Shanahoe and Melvin Smith of Douglas, Cork

Funeral

17th July 2013 at Mountrath Church, Florrie Williams of Mountrath.

Growing up in the family home at Clonin, Florrie attended Offerlane National School and then followed the path of her sisters, Bella and Jane, to Dublin where she found work. Marriage to Henry in her late 20s brought Florrie back to Mountrath. While

her son Joe was still a teenager, and Florrie herself only forty-five years old, Henry's death left her widowed. Losing her husband was an event that might have left her years filled with a sense of sadness, with a melancholy feeling, but Florrie coped with it in her own way, carrying on finding something good in each day.

Florrie was blessed with the ability to find deep contentment in the things of everyday life—sitting in her own kitchen surrounded by her cats, the warmth of the range on a winter's day, the evening's television programmes, particularly the soaps, the anticipation of Joe returning from work. In more recent times, Florrie loved the staff of Villa Marie Nursing Home, loved the care she received there.

Florrie, in the closing years of her life, was filled with an irrepressible sense of cheerfulness, always delighted to receive calls and to share in the Holy Communion, encouraged by a gentle faith that God was with her. Florrie's funeral service in Mountrath Church was followed by interment in the churchyard.

Borris-in-Ossory Harvest: Our Harvest Festival season begins on Sunday, 8th September at 7 pm when we welcome the Revd Tim Irvine, vicar of Kilkenny, as our preacher, those who attended the GFS service in May will remember the Revd Tim's sermon on large pieces of cake and we look forward to a similarly memorable occasion.

Rector away: The Rector will be taking late summer holidays in France from Monday, 9th September until Friday, 27th September. Canon Patrick Harvey in Abbeyleix will take calls during the Rector's absence.

Ploughing Championships: The National Ploughing Championships take place at Ratheniska on 24th-26th September. The Church of Ireland will again have a presence and parishioners are encouraged to visit the Church's tent during their time at the event.

GFS Service: Our GFS Enrolment service takes place in Lacca Church on Sunday, 29th September at 11 am. Our GFS branch has grown strongly in recent years, from eleven members in 2010 to 23 in 2012 and we hope to continue to grow stronger in the coming year.

Seir Kieran Harvest: The Harvest Festival service at Seir Kieran will be at 7.30 pm on Sunday, 29th September. (Please note the time, which is half an hour later than normal, to allow the Rector to attend the centenary service at Myshall at 4 pm). Our speaker will be Brian Donohue from Virginia in the United States. Brian has become a familiar face in our community in recent years, worshipping with us when in Ireland. Brian is a pastor in an Evangelical Free Church in Virginia and also leads work among communities living in shanty accommodation on the border of Mexico and the United States. The life and the work of the Irish monks, who lived in small communities serving the people around, has become the inspiration for Brian's ministry, which is why he finds Seir Kieran, where he has family roots, a special place to be.

October Harvests: Please note the dates of the remaining Harvest Festival services, which will be Roskelton on Sunday 6th October at 4pm; Annatrim on Sunday 13th October at 11 am; Clonenagh National School on Friday, 18th October; Mountrath on Sunday, 20th October at 11.30 am; and Lacca on Sunday 20th October at 4 pm.

Holiday Bible Club: Thank you to Mervyn Tomb from the Faith Mission, to his excellent team of Canadian young people, and to our local volunteers, for our holiday club in Mountrath in July. We welcomed thirty-five National School aged young people for five mornings of games, crafts and Bible teaching. Each morning everyone would arrive back with enthusiasm for another day, a sure sign of success. The response to the holiday club has prompted thoughts about having a midweek club in the parish hall, where we could have a ninety minute gathering based on the holiday club format. It would be a great opportunity to make up for having no Sunday School in our parishes. We need to think prayerfully about the way forward.

Don't forget the **Clonenagh Parish Barbecue / Fun Day** is on Sunday August 25th in the Rectory Grounds commencing at 2pm.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives will hold an opening service on Monday 30th September at 8pm in St Peters Church, Mountrath, followed by a short meeting. Mrs Mabel Peavoy, Mrs Emily Jackson and Mrs Margaret

McKay are in charge of the supper. ALL WELCOME AS WELL AS NEW MEMBERS.

HELP, HELP, HELP, is required by the diocesan Mothers' Union at the 2013 **National Ploughing Championships** Ratheniska, Co. Laois 24th – 25th – 26th September. As one of the branches nearest to the site we would be grateful if some members could offer to assist with the MOTHER & BABY facilities, in the role of welcoming parents and explaining the work of the MU. Many members of the MU will be travelling from the other end of the diocese for these days. Contact Sandra Condell 087 8107084 if you can spare a few hours any day.

Clonenagh National School

Hi Folks. Thank you all very much for your generous donations towards the purchase of the Mission Hall for our School. We still need €2130.00, so for those of you who are still considering supporting our cause we would be delighted if you choose to do so.

~Board of Management

Rural Ireland Day Conference

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Committee for Social Affairs invite clergy and people concerned for rural Ireland to a day conference. 12.20 Bernie Carroll/Louise Ryan - National Office for Suicide Prevention
1300 Lunch

"Caring for Rural Communities in Times of Change: A Church of Ireland Response" takes place on Saturday, 12th October 2013 at Horse and Jockey, Co Tipperary. A very strong line up of speakers will, it is hoped, inform and enable those who attend, and send them away with ideas for their own parishes. It is particularly hoped that Mothers' Union branches, who have a special concern for families, homes, and communities, will be strongly represented.

Afternoon session: Rural Responses
13.45 Kathleen Lynch TD - Minister of State for Disability, Equality and Mental Health
14.25 Charles Smith, Chief Executive, Farming Community Network UK
15.05 John McEvoy, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Men's Sheds Association
15.45 Closing reflections

The conference timetable is:

10.30 Coffee

Morning Session: Rural Challenges

10.50 Opening reflection

11.00 Matt Dempsey - Irish Farmers' Journal

11.40 Kieran Stafford - National Vice-President, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The conference is free for anyone who wishes to attend, but places must be booked to facilitate catering. Please contact Ian Poulton at:

ianpoulton@gmail.com

or at The Rectory, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co Laois, not later than Saturday, 5th October, if you hope to attend.

Smiles

Say it with hymns

Happy marriage

One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a €1,000 cheque in the offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three handsomest men in the building and said, "I'll take him, him, and him."

An elderly couple were asked the secret of their long and happy marriage, and the wife explained: "In our house, my husband makes all the major decisions and I make all the minor ones. For example, he decides such things as what we should do about the economic recession, world trade, crime in the streets, and government policies. I take care of the minor things such as to which house we buy, what kind of car we drive, how much money we spend, and how we raise the children.

* * * *

Husband: "What are you doing standing there, staring into the fridge?"

Wife: "Fighting temptation, dear."

Bank account

Mother decided that 10-year-old Cathy should get something 'practical' for her birthday. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" mother suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application."

Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

Services & Readings

September 2013

First Sunday 1st	Jeremiah 2: 4-13 Psalm 81: 1, 10-16 Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16 Luke 14: 1, 7-14	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 8th	Jeremiah 18: 1-11 Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14: 25-33	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 7.00pm Harvest Festival	
Third Sunday 15th	Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Luke 15: 1-10	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 22nd	Jeremiah 8: 18 - 9: 1 Psalm 79: 1-9 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Luke 16: 1-13	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 29th	Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 Luke 16: 19-31	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion	Lacca 11.00am GFS Enrolment Service		Seir Kieran 7.00pm Harvest Festival	

Parish Diary

AUGUST

25th Sunday.....Parish Barbecue / Fun Day, Mountrath (*page 5*)

SEPTEMBER

9th-27th.....Rector away (*page 4*)

18th Wednesday...Closing date for October 2013 Newsletter items!

24th-26th.....COI & MU stands at Ploughing Championships (*pages 4&5*)

OCTOBER

12th Saturday.....Rural Ireland Conference, Horse & Jockey (*page 6*)

Items for the October 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY September 18th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, September 22nd .

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

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www.clonenagh.com