

The Newsletter

October 2013

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Practicing for The Ploughing

John McBryde & Laura Grant from Seir Kieran parish prepare for the National Ploughing Championships

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

Standing in church, singing hymns, 'Nun danket alle Gott', sung in English as 'Now thank we all our God', one of the best known thanksgiving hymns. Do we ever give thought to those who wrote the words? Do we ever think what things might have caused the writers to think as they did? Do we ever feel the emotions they must have felt?

Martin Rinkart lived through horrific times in Europe. Three decades of war and slaughter, of religious hatred and conflict, of famine and plague, from 1618 to 1648, left Europe shattered and exhausted.

Rinkart himself had been pastor in the Saxony city of Eilenburg that was besieged by the invading Swedish army. Fighting and disease wiped out much of the population, pastors were no more immune to sickness and death than anyone else and their numbers were so reduced that at the darkest moment Rinkart was taking fifty funerals a day.

Rinkart left the city to plea for terms with the Swedish forces and they were so impressed by his integrity that they treated the city with greater mercy.

Rinkart was not to live to see much better times, he died in 1649; the year after the Peace of Westphalia marked the end of Europe fighting itself to a standstill, but he led a great celebration amongst the ruins in 1649, for which he wrote a hymn,

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven;
the one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

In the midst of death and desolation, Rinkart was able to raise a great song of thanksgiving. Looking at all we have, all that our bounteous God has given us, may we stand in church and raise our own voices in thanksgiving.



Parish Notes

Ms Finola Darcy

News of the death of Ms Darcy has come as a great shock to all who knew and loved her. We pray for her family in this very painful and difficult time and for all to whom she was very dear. Ms Darcy was very important in the life of Clonenagh National School and we hope, when it is appropriate, to have a service of memorial and thanksgiving to allow members of our school community to express their own thoughts and to thank God for a person who gave so much to us.

Marriage

24th August 2013 at Lacca Church, Sonya Roe of Ballykelly, Borris-in-Ossory and Edward Everard of Templetuohy, Co Tipperary.

GFS: Mountrath branch of the Girls' Friendly Society began its new year on Friday, 13th September and holds its enrolment service on Sunday, 29th September - the GFS World Day of Prayer. We had twenty-three girls in the branch last year and hope to build on that strength this year. GFS meets from 7.15-8.45 on alternate Friday evenings.

Seir Kieran Harvest Festival: The harvest service in Seir Kieran takes place on Sunday, 29th September at 7.30 pm. (Please note the later time, it is to allow the Rector to attend the Centenary Service at Myshall, Co Carlow at 4 pm). Our preacher is Brian Donohue, who has become a regular visitor and friend to our church. Brian

has family roots in Clareen and is a pastor in an Evangelical Free Church in Virginia in the United States. Inspired by the life of the ancient Irish monasteries, Brian and members of his church have founded a community called Cuirim in a shanty town on the Mexican border with the US, where church members go to proclaim the Gospel by serving the local community. Do come along to Seir Kieran and hear Brian.

Mothers' Union: Clonenagh Mothers' Union begins a new season with their opening service on Monday, 30th September. Mothers' Union members are particularly encouraged to attend the rural affairs conference at Horse and Jockey on Saturday, 12th October (please advise the Rector if you hope to attend). Mothers' Union has a particular responsibility within the life of the church for supporting home and family and the conference will be an opportunity for members to learn of ways in which members can help support the objects of Mothers' Union.

Roskelton Harvest: Our harvest thanksgiving season continues through October. On Sunday, 6th October we are in Roskelton at four o'clock when we shall welcome Dean Katharine as our preacher. We had over sixty at the harvest festival service in Roskelton last year - after a most difficult of summers, so, after an excellent summer this year, we look forward to a large congregation.

Annatrim Harvest: The harvest thanksgiving service at Annatrim takes place on Sunday, 13th October at 11 am when we welcome as our preacher Mr Charlie Wallace, a diocesan lay reader and good friend of our parishes.

Clergy conference: The annual diocesan clergy conference takes place in Clonea, Co Waterford from Monday, 13th October until Wednesday, 16th October. The conference is an opportunity for clergy to reflect on the concerns and challenges of parish ministry as well as to discuss plans for events in the diocese.

Thursday Bible Club: Following on the success of our Holiday Bible Club in July, we are very pleased that Mervyn Tomb, from the Faith Mission in Durrow, has agreed to run a fortnightly club based on a similar format of games, craft activities and Bible teaching. As we have no Sunday School in our parishes, the Thursday Bible Club is an important development and we hope that there will be as enthusiastic a response to it as there was to our Holiday Bible Club. It is planned that it will run in alternate weeks to the GFS.

Clonenagh National School Harvest Festival: Our National School holds its harvest festival service on Friday, 18th October at 7 pm in Mountrath Church. We hope all parents and friends will join us for the occasion.

Mountrath and Lacca Harvest Thanksgiving Services: Our season of harvest thanksgiving concludes on Sunday, 20th October when we give thanks in Mountrath at 11.30 am and at Lacca at 4 pm. The preacher planned for these services is unable to join us, so a replacement will be announced. Please note that the Borris-in-Ossory service will be half an hour earlier that morning to allow the Rector to take the Holy Communion services in Roskelton at 9.30 and then at Borris at 10.30 before going to Mountrath for 11.30.

Diocesan Synod: The synod of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory diocese meets on Wednesday, 23rd October and, as in the past two synods, will include discussion of agricultural and rural issues. Our parishes will be represented by Joyce Wharton from Seir Kieran, Ivan Justin from Borris-in-Ossory, Jean Treacy from Offerlane, and Emily Jackson and Joe Peavoy from Clonenagh.

Remembrance of Loved Ones: Our annual service of remembrance of those whom loved but see no longer takes place in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 3rd November at 7 pm.

Mothers' Union & Young Wives will hold an opening service on Monday 30th September at 8pm in St Peters Church, Mountrath following by a short meeting. Mrs Mabel Peavoy, Mrs Emily Jackson And Mrs Margaret McKay in charge of the supper. ALL WELCOME AS WELL AS NEW MEMBERS.

SOW AND GROW, the young women's getaway will be held on 11th & 12th October in Julianstown. This weekend has been arranged for young women to learn more about the MU. For more details contact Jean Treacy 057 8735116.

Next meeting of the Branch is on Monday November 4th at 8 pm in the Parochial Hall, when Mrs Maureen Lanigan DP will address the members.

Don't forget, help is requested by the diocesan Mothers' Union at the 2013 **National Ploughing**

Championships Ratheniska, Co. Laois 24th-26th September with the MOTHER & BABY facilities. Contact Sandra Condell 087 8107084 if you can spare a few hours any day.

Mountrath Discovery Club will commence in the Parochial Hall on Thursday 3 October, 6.30-7.45pm. This is a follow on from our successful Space Academy Holiday Club. Children at National School are welcome to attend. There is no charge for this, but parents will have to complete a sign up sheet upon the first day that their child attends the club. The club will meet again on Thursday 24 October. For more information contact Mervyn Tomb 0860575462, email: midlandsarea@faithmission.org

B.B.Q/ Fun Day: Thank you to everybody who supported this function and made it a good success. It was lovely to see so many children present enjoying themselves with all toys and bouncing castles.

Fundraising Committee Meeting: Tuesday night October 8th at 8pm in the parochial hall. All committee members please attend as there is a decision to be made.

I.C.A. meet on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm in the I.C.A. Hall in Castletown. New members are always welcome! At the moment there is a knitting/craft class in the hall on Tuesday nights commencing at 7.30pm

Clonenagh National School: Our current school enrolment is 62 pupils; this year we welcome into Junior Infants Daniel Bennett, Billy Cooper, Oscar Husak, Amy Lalor, Jamie Brophy Oxley, Leanne Shirley and Samuel Simmons. We also welcome Florian Moise into fifth class.

As the time approaches to elect a **new parent association** for the 2013/2014 school year, on behalf of the staff and pupils I wish to acknowledge the work of the last years parent association. Sincere gratitude to Sile Peavoy (Chairperson), Simone Cooper (Secretary), Lynn Clegg (Treasurer), Catherine Russell Jacob, Margaret Parkinson, Joe Shirley and Nicola Walsh for your hard work and commitment throughout the past year. The work of the parent association is vital in meeting educational needs and overall school development.

Best Wishes to 6th Class 2013 as they settle into their new secondary school- Ben Allen, Hope Allen, Hailey Hayes, Jessie Hayes, Elizabeth Parkinson and Raitis Stafekis.

~Ms Stone (Principal)

The Ploughing

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Ratheniska, Co. Laois

24th – 26th September 2013

“TOGETHER IN CHRIST”

Welcome and Prayer at the Ploughing

- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin & The Church of Ireland Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory will jointly host a stand at this year's National Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois.
 - STAND No: T326
 - Bishops Michael Burrows and Denis Nulty have said they're *“looking forward to meeting people at the Championships and enjoying the special atmosphere of the few days”*.
 - Personnel on the stand will meet and greet all visitors and provide a spiritual /pastoral presence during the three days of the Championships while also highlighting the work of both Dioceses.
 - Visitors to the Championships
- are invited to gather with us each day at 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm for some minutes of shared prayer.
- During this time we will include the prayer requests for particular needs or intentions which visitors can place in the sacred space at the stand throughout the event.
 - Both bishops will be present at various times throughout the three days.
 - Both Dioceses will have a clerical presence at the stand at all times during the event.
 - Other activities will include the making of St Brigid's Crosses.
 - There will be other activities for children and the distribution of “Together In Christ” wristbands.
 - Do drop in to say hello when you are at the Championships – we will be delighted to greet you.
 - Both Dioceses will be represented at the official opening.
 - The Church of Ireland Mothers' Union will have a separate Stand to welcome mothers and their small children and where a baby-changing service will be provided.

Table Tennis

Mountrath Table Tennis players excel in DCU current national junior champions and nine Leinster players at Mountrath table tennis club. DCU

With Ireland's national table tennis season getting underway in DCU recently, it marked the start of another exciting new challenge for the elite young stars like Scott Jestin, Amylou and Jessie Hayes, Dylan Grace, Tadhg Downey, Claire Handcock, Kate Whelan, Leanne Delaney, Paddy Vaughan and Tiegan O'Connor, along with many younger players hoping to follow through to the higher reaches of provincial and national success in time, with Amy Jestin, Richard Thompson, Colin Conroy and Corinna Hayes leading the way.

Club training takes place on Wednesday evenings in Trumera hall 7-8.30 where 12 tables, a robot, and coaching are available to club members.

New members from 8 years old are welcome to join and give it a try so why not have your little ones give it a go.

Friday evenings see the Midland Table Tennis Academy for leading U10- U17s in action with international coaches and advanced adult players in attendance.

Further details on club activities from club members. Chairman Ivan Jestin, Secretary Marion Grace, Treasurer Nicole O'Connor, Finance Director Monica Percy, Health & Safety Officer Brenda Duffield or Coach Jimmy Hayes 0868684693.

Commitment leads to excellence as is proven by the three

Services & Readings

October 2013

First Sunday 6st	Lamentations 1: 1-6 Psalm 137: 1-6 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Roskelton 4.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Second Sunday 13th	Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 Psalm 66: 1-11 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 20th	Jeremiah 31: 27-34 Psalm 119: 97-104 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5 Luke 18: 1-8	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 10.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Harvest Thanksgiving	Lacca 4.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Fourth Sunday 27th	Joel 2: 23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Would readers please note that the readings for the Harvest Thanksgiving services will be as they appear on the order of service for each occasion.

Parish Diary

SEPTEMBER

9th-27th.....Rector away
24th-26th.....COI & MU stands at Ploughing Championships (*pages 5&6*)
30th Monday.....MU Service & meeting (*page 4*)

OCTOBER

3rd Thursday.....Mountrath Discovery Club (*page 5*)
8th Tuesday.....Fundraising Committee Meeting (*page 5*)
11th-12th Fri/Sat.....MU Sow & Grow getaway (*page 5*)
12th Saturday.....Rural Ireland Conference, Horse & Jockey (*see Sept. Newsletter*)
13th Monday.....Diocesan Clergy Conference (*page 4*)
23rd Wednesday.....Diocesan Synod (*page 4*)
23rd Wednesday...Closing date for November 2013 Newsletter items!

Items for the November 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY October 23rd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, October 27th .

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