

The Newsletter

November 2013

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Wedding Bells

Gillian Grant, daughter of George & Margaret, celebrated her wedding to Peter Doyle in Seir Kieran Church, Clareen, on Friday 4th of October.

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

We remembered Ms Darcy at our school harvest thanksgiving service. It was a sad moment on an occasion Ms Darcy would have enjoyed; Ms Darcy loved

the natural world and had a profound sense of God's grace, his presence in our daily lives.

Listening to speakers at our diocesan synod in Enniscorthy on 23rd October, it was hard to connect what they were saying with the good and steadfast faith

of those who gathered at the school harvest thanksgiving service, and at each of our harvest services. Perhaps there is a deeper sense of God's grace in farming communities than there is among those live lives that are removed from the daily cycle of nature and the seasons, but it was hard to listen to one speaker who told us that we lived in "a post-Christian society" where people's only interest in church was being "hatched, matched and dispatched" and another who told us that "the church must die".

Ms Darcy was always an encouragement that one could be fully a member of 21st Century society and also have a

deep faith in God and a confidence that he would build his church and that the gates of hell would never prevail against it.

In the face of those whose vision of the future is only declining numbers and the closure of church buildings, it is our task to say that we are here and that we are here to stay, and that we really do believe the words we say.

The coming month offers us various opportunities to demonstrate our commitment. On the first three Sundays in November, our parishes, along with every other parish in the Church of Ireland, will be conducting a church census, on which basis plans for the future of the church will be made. The importance of being in church on those Sundays does not need to be stressed.

On 3rd November in Mountrath, we have our remembrance of loved ones; a chance to remember those whom we miss and to declare our belief in a life to come.



Seasonal decorations at Lacca Harvest Service

On 10th November, there will be services in Annatrim and in Mountrath to remember all who have died in wars. In Mountrath, we shall remember all from the town who died, those recorded on the war memorial and those from the wider community. It is in remembering a shared past that we take steps towards reconciliation.

On Wednesday evenings in November in Borris-in-Ossory, we have a four week sermon series on the theme "We turn to Christ anew"

On 14th and 28th November in the parochial hall in Mountrath, we have our Bible Club. In parishes where we have no Sunday School and where most of our churches are open only once a fortnight, the Bible Club is especially important.

If our faith is strong, and if we can face our society and our times with confidence, then let's show it.

Jan Poulton

Parish Notes

Funeral: Sunday, 29th September 2013 at Roskelton Church, Joe Martyn of Boley. Born in 1920, Joe grew up on the family farm and went to school in Shanahoe until he reached an age where he could cycle to the South School in Abbeyleix. He grew up with a love of an outdoor and an active life. For Joe there was no place better than his own fields, no work better than caring for his livestock: no better way of passing an hour than talking to those who might pass up or down the lane.

Even after the vicious attack he suffered in his home some twenty years ago, Joe recovered his former contentment, his former delight in his farm and in the natural world that surrounded him. The thing that most mystified Joe was that other people might not have time to enjoy the things that so contented him. Simplicity of life brought Joe much happiness, not worrying about all the things that so complicate life for the rest of us. Eight decades at Boley were followed by the last dozen or so years under the eye of those who cared for him, living with Olive and Lionel at Ireys and then, as his health declined, for the past three years, in Abbeyleix hospital.

Joe's funeral service at Roskelton was followed by interment in the adjoining churchyard.

Census: The whole of the Church of Ireland is conducting a census on the first three Sundays in November. Plans for the future of dioceses and of parishes will be based on the numbers attending church on those Sundays. To safeguard the future of our own parish, it is naturally important that we have as

many people as possible in our churches!

A Remembrance of Loved Ones: On Sunday 3rd November, as part of All Saints' Tide, we shall hold our fourth annual service of remembrance of our loved ones in Mountrath at 7pm. Our service is one of hymns and readings that offer comfort in times of grief. We have a simple ceremony where people come forward to light a candle, reminding them of the light that the person brought into their life and of the Light of God that shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome. Everyone, from inside or outside the parishes, is welcome at this service.

Autumn series: There will be a short series of Wednesday evening services in Borris-in-Ossory at 8 pm on Wednesdays, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November. The theme of the series is, "We turn to Christ anew". The first verse of the hymn of the same name says, "We turn to Christ anew who hear his call today, his way to walk, his will pursue, his word obey", and we shall look at the words "turn", "hear", "walk" and "obey". Everyone is welcome.

Ladies' Dinner: There is a parish Ladies' Dinner planned for Thursday, 7th November at 7.30 pm at McEvoy's in Abbeyleix. The likely cost is €25-€35. Contact Jean Treacy, 085 707 4805, or Mabel Peavoy, 086 203 3720, if you would like to go.

PLEASE NOTE: Jean & Mabel need numbers by Friday 1st if possible.



Enjoying the 'Afters' at Lacca Harvest Service

All Saints' Day: There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Mountrath on Friday, 1st November at 8 pm to remember all of God's good and faithful servants and to remember our own calling to be holy.

Thursday Bible Club: Our Thursday Bible Club began on Thursday, 3rd October with fifteen young people. This is a follow on to our very successful holiday Bible club and is open to all people of National School age. The plan is to meet once a fortnight, and in November our meeting will be on Thursdays, 14th and 28th November. We are very grateful to Mervyn Tomb, evangelist with the Faith Mission based in Durrow, who is running the club and for the local people who are assisting him.

Remembrance Sunday: We shall have our remembrance of the fallen at our services at Annatrim at 11 am and at Mountrath at 11.30 am. Mrs Mabel Peavoy will lead the Mountrath service at which it is planned to remember all

from Mountrath who fell in the Great War, those members of the parish whose name are remembered on the war memorial and those from the wider community. Poppies will be available for sale at the services.

Stewardship meetings: The diocese is holding meetings for treasurers and vestry members on 31st October and on 11th November. Our need is to move from words like "sustentation", where people pay something regarded as an annual subscription, to "stewardship", where our giving is part of our weekly worship of God and is based, not any calculation of accounts, but on our gratitude to God for all that he has done for us. Christian commitment and generous giving go together.

Third Sundays: During the months of October to March, the Sunday service at Lacca on the third Sunday of each month moves from 10.30 am to 4 pm with tea and coffee served after the service. Last spring, we averaged over forty

at the Sunday afternoon services and we hope the good attendances we enjoyed in the spring will continue in the winter. The third Sunday service this month will be on Sunday, 17th November.

Christmas Sale: Clonenagh Parish hold their Christmas Sale in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath on Wednesday, 11th December at 7.30 pm. Good company and great bargains - come along and join us.

Mothers' Union Diocesan Council Meeting in Kilkenny College on Tues 19th November at 10am. Could Reps from the branch please attend?

Mountrath Mothers' Union will meet on Monday 25th November at 8pm for their annual auction evening in the Parochial Hall. Your support with this would be appreciated by all who benefit from the proceeds.

Leprosy Mission boxes should be returned to Olga Telford by December 5th.

LOST PROPERTY: Following the Harvest Thanksgiving in Borris-in-Ossory church, a ladies coat was found in the church car park. Please contact the church warden to make enquiries.

Borris-in-Ossory I.C.A. members are busy collecting and filling shoe boxes for Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Items such as pencils, copy books, toothbrushes and paste, small clothing items, small toys, soft balls and sweets. The boxes are distributed to victims of war, disease or poverty in some of the worlds most under developed countries. They will bring a little hope, some of God's love and a lot of joy, smiles and laughter to these innocent children. Any donations would be very welcome.

I.C.A. knitting class continues in the I.C.A. Hall Castletown each Thursday night from 7.30-9.30pm. New members are always welcome in the cosy surroundings of a nice fire.



Enjoying the 'Afters' at Lacca Harvest Service

Smiles

Are you taking a Halloween break? and found a brand new bathroom scale.

Sometimes what is said and what is intended aren't quite the same. The following are signs quoted in 'Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad' by Charlie Croker.

* * *

Romania: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

There was a church where the new minister and the organist were not getting along. As time went by this began to spill over into the worship service.

Russia: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

One week the minister preached on commitment and how we all should dedicate ourselves to the service of God. The organist played: 'We Shall not be Moved'.

Italy: If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

The next week the minister preached on tithing and how we all should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The organist responded with: 'Jesus Paid it All'.

Spain: Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark: In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

The third week the minister preached on gossiping and how we should all watch our tongues. The organist played all verses of : 'I Love to Tell the Story'.

Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

By now the minister had become very discouraged with the situation, and the following Sunday told his congregation that he was considering resigning. The organist closed the service with: 'O Why Not Tonight?'

* * *

A young husband was in big trouble when he forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife told him, "Tomorrow there better be something in the driveway for me that goes from zero to 200 in two seconds flat".

As it came to pass, the minister did indeed resign. The following Sunday he informed the church that it was Jesus who had led him there and it was Jesus who was taking him away. The organist then outdid himself with: 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'

The next morning the wife found a small package in the driveway. She opened it

Services & Readings

November 2013

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| First Sunday 3rd | <i>Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4</i> <i>Psalms 119: 137-144</i> <i>2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12</i> <i>Luke 19: 1-10</i> | 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 7.00pm A Remembrance of Loved Ones |
| Second Sunday 10th | <i>Haggai 1: 15b - 2: 9</i> <i>Psalms 98</i> <i>2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17</i> <i>Luke 20: 27-38</i> | Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion | Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance | | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance | |
| Third Sunday 17th | <i>Isaiah 65: 17-25</i> <i>Canticle: Song of Isaiah</i> <i>2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13</i> <i>Luke 21: 5-19</i> | Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer | Lacca 4.00pm Evening Prayer |
| Fourth Sunday 24th | <i>Jeremiah 23: 1-6</i> <i>Canticle: Benedictus</i> <i>Colossians 1: 11-20</i> <i>Luke 23: 33-43</i> | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer | | Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion | |

Parish Diary

- October 31st.....Stewardship meeting (*page 5*)
 7th Thursday.....Parish Ladies Dinner (*page 4*)
 11th Monday.....Stewardship meeting (*page 5*)
 14th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)
 19th Tuesday.....Mothers' Union Diocesan Council Meeting (*page 6*)
 25th Monday.....Mothers' Union Annual Auction (*page 6*)
 28th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)
20th Wednesday...Closing date for December 2013 Newsletter items!
 December 5th.....Closing date for return of Leprosy Mission boxes (*page 6*)
 December 11th.....Parish Christmas Sale (*page 6*)

Items for the December 2013 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY November 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, November 24th .

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