

The Newsletter

July/August 2014

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Winners All

Clonenagh National School Sports Day

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The solstice marked the beginning of summer in the scheme of things taught at High Ham Church of England Primary School; where I learned most of the things that were worth learning. The world was a very orderly place and the seasons broke down into four neat quarters – winter ran from the solstice until the spring equinox; spring from the equinox until the summer solstice; summer from the solstice until the vernal equinox; and autumn from the equinox until the winter solstice.

I liked the way the year was knocked into such an orderly shape. The bit about solstices moving from one day to another was troublesome – if you couldn't rely on the earth and the sun to be in the right place at the right time, what could you rely on? Generally, though, the idea of seasons bounded by precise astronomical moments was pleasing. The main problem with our year was the weather – it could be blazing sunshine in early June when it was meant to be still spring; and returning to school at the beginning of September when the leaves were turning and there was a chill in the air created no sense of there still being three weeks of summer left.

Discovering the idea of a Celtic year caused a blurring of the seasons' boundaries. Everything moved forward. The year ended at Halloween, a custom that still persists with the payment of land rents in some places (in the North I always received the rent for the glebe land at

the beginning of November, the bonfires on 31st October were supposed to drive away the evil spirits in the coming year. Spring began on 1st February with Saint Brigid's Day; summer came at May Day; and autumn came with Lughnasa. Being Celtic, it wouldn't be as precise as that – hot August days don't seem very autumnal and the beginning of November was also a harvest festival.

Met Eireann, the Irish weather service, have another system using the calendar months: winter is December to February, spring from March to May, summer June to August; and autumn September to November. Children in National Schools can find themselves being taught about Saint Brigid and spring beginning on 1st February, only to have the weatherman say it's a month later.

The seasons don't conform to human boundaries; snowdrop shoots can break the ground in November while snow is not unknown in early May. Seasons themselves are a human attempt to classify the movement and forces of nature. As in the Lord's conversations with Job, there are things beyond our comprehension and control – long may it remain so.

Have a good summer.



Parish Notes

From the registers

Funeral: Monday, 26th May 2014 at Borris-in-Ossory Church, **Albert Garrett** of Springhill, Borris-in-Ossory.

Born in Coolrain, where his father owned the mill, Albert initially attended Offerlane school before going to Kyle school when the family moved to the farm at Springhill.

Albert had great sense of history and a great sense of place; he was proud the Garretts had for so long been part of the local community and a great love for the neighbours who had helped make Springhill a good place to be.

He was blessed with a real vocation to farming and even when unwell took a very active interest in all that was happening.

Albert had a keen memory for family history, recalling tales passed down to him and tales of his brothers, and was most happy when in the company of those he loved; his wife, Bella, and children, Cecil, Lorna and Peter.

A man of great integrity, he would comment with disappointment on stories he had heard on the news, expecting those in public life to observe the strict standards he applied to himself.

A man of deep faith, he valued church and receiving Holy Communion at home when he could no longer attend services.

Albert reached his 90th birthday at the end of April and when in hospital declared that he had had a "good life".

In the absence of the Rector, Albert's funeral service was conducted

by Canon Patrick Harvey of Abbeyleix, assisted by the Revd James Mulhall, from Lismore Union of Parishes.

After the funeral service, burial took place at Kyle Cemetery.

Saint John the Baptist: There will be Holy Communion to mark Saint John the Baptist's Day in Mountrath Church on Tuesday 24th June at 8 pm.

Summer series: Our fifth annual summer sermon series began in June and continues through July and August. The series is based on the Church of Ireland catechism (which still appears in the Prayer Book - look at Page 766 and following!) is asking what it is we believe today. We continue as follows: 25th June: I believe in God the Father; 2nd July: No service; 9th July: And in Jesus Christ; 16th July: I believe in the Holy Spirit; 23rd July: You should keep God's commandments; 30th July: What is thy duty towards God? 6th August: What is thy duty towards thy neighbour? 13th August: The Lord's Prayer; 20th August: Baptism; 27th August: The Supper of the Lord. Services are in Borris-in-Ossory church each Wednesday evening at 8 pm.

Clonenagh National School: We hold our end of year service in Mountrath Church on Thursday, 26th June and Monday, 30th June will mark the end of our school year, a year that was overshadowed by the tragic death of Ms Finola D'Arcy last September and we are grateful to the staff for taking the school through a very difficult time. At the end of the school

year, we shall bid farewell to the four members of Sixth Class and wish them every blessing as they move on to secondary education. In September, we welcome nine (or more) pupils as members of the Junior Infant class. Our projected total number of students on the school roll in September is over 70, an increase of 50% on 48, the number on roll in September 2010 - just four years ago. We have a proudly Christian and inclusive ethos in the school, with very strong links to the parish that include a weekly assembly in the school and services in Mountrath church on five occasions each year. A word of thanks must go to Mrs Sylvia Stotesbury, the chair of the school board of management, for her enthusiasm and commitment toward making the school a place and a community of which we can be proud.

Golf Classic: There are still places available for the Mountrath parish golf classic on Friday, 27th June. Entry is €100 for a team of four and there are great prizes to be won. Contact Mabel Peavoy, 873 2331.

Confirmation: We welcome the bishop who will confirm nine candidates, eight from our own parishes and one from Rathdowney, at a service on Mountrath on Saint Peter's Day, Sunday, 29th June, at 11 am. It being a fifth Sunday, this will be the only service that day. Do come along and support our young people.

Good wishes: We wish Dr Stanley Monkhouse and his wife Susan many blessings as Stanley is instituted as vicar of Burton-on-Trent in Staffordshire on Tuesday, 8th July. As

Portlaoise hospital chaplain, Stanley ministered to many members of our parishes who were grateful for his gentle bedside manner and warm, good humour.

Holiday Bible Club: Our second Summer Holiday Bible Club takes place in Mountrath Parochial Hall from Monday, 14th until Friday, 18th July, 10.30am—1.00pm. The club is for children at National School and this year the theme is "On Your Marks". Using a sporting theme we will be looking at important events in the life of Jesus, using songs, quizzes, Bible Stories, fun activities and crafts. Mervyn Tomb of The Faith Mission and his summer team from Canada will be leading the club each day, along with local helpers, who have undergone appropriate Garda checks. The cost for the week is €20 per child. If your child would like to attend and the cost presents a problem, please talk to the Rector. On Sunday, 20th July, there will be a Holiday Club service at Lacca, led by Mervyn, followed by games on the church lawn.

Summer Camps: A number of young people from the parish enjoyed attending the Faith Mission's summer camps in Durrow last Summer. The residential camps are running again this year. The Discovery Camp for those from 8-10 years runs from Monday, 21st July to Friday 25th July and costs €75; the Adventure Camp for those aged 11—13 is from Monday, 28th July until Friday, 1st August and costs €85; and the Teens Camp runs from Monday, 4th August until Friday, 8th August. Full details are available from Mervyn at 057 874 0770. As with the holiday Bible club, if

there are parishioners whose children would like to attend and the cost presents a problem, please talk to the Rector.

Outing: Rathdowney Mothers' Union invite anyone interested to join them for their summer outing on Thursday, 17th July. The bus will leave the square in Rathdowney at 9 am and there will be a visit to Newbridge Silverware for morning coffee. The outing will then visit Mount Usher Gardens at Ashford in Co Wicklow before returning home via Dundrum Shopping Centre. The cost of the outing, including admission to the gardens, will be around €26, depending on the number travelling - coffee and lunch are not included in that price. Please contact, by 10th July, Olive Thompson, 087 903 1222, or Gillian Alley, 0505 46149/086 169 9201, if you would like to go on the trip. The €26 cost should be paid to Olive or Gillian by 10th July.

Abbeyleix Fete: The annual garden fete on August bank holiday Monday is always an occasion eagerly anticipated; it is a great opportunity for meeting people and enjoying the legendary afternoon teas. Hopefully there will be a big attendance from Clonenagh parishes to support Canon Harvey and the people of Abbeyleix and Killermogh.

Family Fun Day: Clonenagh Parish hold their barbecue with bouncy castle, etc on Sunday, 24th August at 2 pm. Last year's barbecue, which was postponed and took place under grey skies, still attracted 110 people, so we look forward to a good crowd.

Stewardship: We are throwing away thousands of Euro! Our parish accounts are in a healthy state, but we really do need to make sure that every note put on the collection plate by a taxpayer is given through an envelope scheme. Since last year, the same rules have applied to PAYE and self-assessed donors - the church receives a 31% rebate on donations over €250. This means that for every 69 cent given, the Revenue Commissioners give back 31 cent, so for each Euro given the parish can receive an additional 45 cent. €20 notes are very welcome - but in an envelope they can become €29. An envelope scheme does not mean anyone knows anything about your tax affairs, the tax claim is done through the diocesan office and the diocesan treasurer simply receives a total for each parish, without details of individual refunds.

Census results: Word is that the results of last November's Church of Ireland census are going to be published over the summer. In our own our parishes, while there is always room for improvement, the results are encouraging.

Pilgrimage: Brian Donohue and Kirsten Donohue and their family, and the group from Grace Evangelical Free Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, enjoyed the pilgrimage from Seir Kieran to Kilkenny on Sunday, 1st June and extend thanks to the parishioners of Seir Kieran for their welcome and to the Revd Tim Irvine, vicar of Kilkenny, for the service of compline and for his reflections on monastic life.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee have organised a Golf Classic in the Golf Club Mountrath on Friday 27th June.

To make this event a success we would be grateful if parishioners would make up teams of Golfers (or Non-Golfers!)

We also need contributions towards sponsorship of a hole, and finally, prizes for the raffle which will be held on Friday night after the main prizegiving.

If you wish to enter a team please contact Mabel Peavoy at 057 87 32331.

GFS: Thank you to all the leaders for their time and commitment during the year. Our Prizegiving took place on Wednesday 28th May at 7.30pm in Parochial Hall, Mountrath.

Girls completed GFS Knowledge Badge, Cookery Badge and Information Technology Badge during the year. Thanks to Ethel Telford for examining the girls.

Leaders and girls travelled to Kilkenny recently to the Diocesan Service and Prizegiving in St. Canice's Cathedral.

Congratulations to all the girls who received prizes for their entries in Bible Study and Handcraft competitions:

5-7yrs Bible Study: Chloe Dunne (2nd); Jane Lalor (3rd); Miriam Senior (Highly Commended); Ciara Peavoy (HC)

7-9yrs Bible Study : Aoibheann Birney (HC); Naomi Senior (HC)

11-13yrs Bible Study: Sarah Clegg (2nd) ; Andrea Caldbeck (HC)

3-5yrs Handcraft: Amy Lalor (3rd); Leanne Shirley (HC)

5-7yrs Handcraft: Chloe Dunne (1st Diocese and HC All Ireland); Ciara Peavoy (2nd); Erin Brophy (HC); Jane Lalor (HC)

9-11yrs Handcraft: Ava Shirley (2nd); Amelia Clegg (HC)

11-13yrs Handcraft: Sarah Clegg (2nd); Andrea Caldbeck (HC)

All the girls will receive a certificate and small token for their entries.

Very kind, hard working, great with children, student available to child mind for the Summer period day or night. Contact Amanda Dunne 087 7707602.

Items for the September 2014 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY August 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, August 24th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and most important, 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

Parish Diary

June

- 25th Wednesday.....Summer Sermon Series (*page 3*)
26th Thursday.....Clonenagh N.S. End of Year Service (*page 3*)
27th Friday.....Clonenagh Parish Golf Classic (*pages 4 & 6*)
29th Sunday.....Confirmation Service (*page 4*)

July

- Various dates.....Summer Sermon Series (*page 3*)
14th-18th Mon-Fri....Holiday Bible Club (*page 4*)
17th Thursday.....Rathdowney Mothers' Union outing (*page 5*)
20th Sunday.....Holiday Summer Camp (*page 4*)
21st-25th Mon-Fri....Faith Mission Discovery Summer Camp (*page 4*)
28th-1st Mon-Fri....Faith Mission Adventure Summer Camp (*page 4*)

August

- Various dates.....Summer Sermon Series (*page 3*)
4th-8th Mon-Fri.....Faith Mission Teens Summer Camp (*page 4*)
4th Monday.....Abbeyleix Parish Fete (*page 5*)
20th Wednesday....Closing date for September 2014 Newsletter items!
24th Sunday.....Clonenagh Parish Family Fun Day (*page 5*)



Clonenagh National School Sports Day

Services & Readings

July 2014

First Sunday 6th	<i>Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49</i> <i>Psalm 45: 10-17</i> <i>Romans 7: 15-25a</i> <i>Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30</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
Second Sunday 13th	<i>Genesis 25: 19-34</i> <i>Psalm 119: 105-112</i> <i>Romans 8: 1-11</i> <i>Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 20th	<i>Genesis 28: 10-19a</i> <i>Psalm 139: 1-11</i> <i>Romans 8: 12-25</i> <i>Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holiday Club Service	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday 27th	<i>Genesis 29: 15-28</i> <i>Psalm 105: 1-11</i> <i>Romans 8: 26-39</i> <i>Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

August 2014

First Sunday 3rd	<i>Genesis 32: 22-31</i> <i>Psalm 17: 1-7, 16</i> <i>Romans 9: 1-5</i> <i>Matthew 14: 13-21</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
Second Sunday 10th	<i>Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28</i> <i>Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22</i> <i>Romans 10: 5-15</i> <i>Matthew 14: 22-33</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 17th	<i>Genesis 45: 1-15</i> <i>Psalm 133</i> <i>Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32</i> <i>Matthew 15: 21-28</i>	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 24th	<i>Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10</i> <i>Psalm 124</i> <i>Romans 12: 1-8</i> <i>Matthew 16: 13-20</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 31st	<i>Exodus 3: 1-15</i> <i>Psalm 115</i> <i>Romans 12: 9-21</i> <i>Matthew 16: 21-28</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion			Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Group Service	