

The Newsletter

November 2014

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The Flanders grave of Serjeant Patrick Doyle, the son of Mr James and Mrs M. Doyle of Shannon Road, Mountrath, who was awarded the Military Medal for bravery while serving with the 7th Battalion of the Leinster Regiment and who died at the age of 33 on 17th August 1917. Serjeant Doyle is one of those we shall remember this month

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox" (Isaiah 65:25). When we hear those words from Isaiah, Isaiah's vision of peace, when we hear about the wolf and the lamb feeding together; as which one do we see ourselves? Aren't we the good guys in history? Isn't the other side the wolf, isn't the other side the bad guys?

Of course, those on the other side would disagree and division in the way we see history has meant that remembering history in Ireland has been something that has been divisive, something that has been used to exclude each other from history. As the years passed perceptions developed that certain sections of history belonged to one or other community. Most Protestants came to perceive the remembrance of the Easter Rising as something that concerned Catholics and most Catholics perceived Armistice Day as something that concerned Protestants.

The complexity of the history of the Easter Rising and the War of Independence was overlooked and the complexity of the history of Irishmen fighting in the British army was overlooked. Remembrance is not a simple matter and if we look again at Isaiah's words, we see that peace is no simple matter.

"The wolf and the lamb will feed together,

and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD'

There are no winners or losers in Isaiah's vision, no-one is written out of the story, even the serpent, the worst of creatures, has a place in the scheme of the things. Isaiah gives us a starting point for understanding what is necessary for peace—everyone must be included.

'I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind', promises the LORD. Isaiah gives us the culmination of a peace process, a day to come when all the old hatreds and enmities are set aside.

Remembering in the Bible is not about nostalgia, it's not about digging up obscure facts, it is about who God's people were in the present. So our remembrance is not just about the past, it is about understanding who we are now, it is about seeking a history for the future where no-one is excluded, where no-one is written out of the script.

Do join us at Saint Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Tuesday, 11th November at 8 pm.



Church of Ireland News

Response to Ebola

During the early days of the outbreak of Ebola, Bishops' Appeal released €5,000 to support the efforts of the Leprosy Mission and local partners in Liberia and Guinea to provide protective equipment for hospital staff responding to the virus. To date, an alarming percentage of the victims have been health workers. A protective suit costs £4/€5.

Bishops' Appeal is now acting as a conduit for funds that will be directed to safeguarding frontline health workers in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone through the provision of protective equipment.

some responsibility for creating an atmosphere where our elected representatives can find it difficult to make courageous and tough decisions. Arriving at sound, long term decisions in a divided society which still carries a great deal of pain and darkness from the past is incredibly difficult. Deepening financial pressures only add to the complexity. There will be many areas where it may seem safer to do nothing. However, principled compromise and accommodation are not weaknesses in the political world and we encourage all involved in the current talks to work beyond a state of semi-permanent impasse, which leads to further disillusionment and deepening distrust".

Prayers for the North

The members of the Church of Ireland's Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group issued a statement to encourage political representatives from all parties and to the British and Irish Governments as they engaged in talks to try to resolve the many issues which are preventing progress being made in society in Northern Ireland.

The Group said, "They are in our prayers each day. It is our hope that the talks are entered into wholeheartedly as the matters to be discussed are too serious and too complex to be addressed in any other spirit. The task of those involved in the talks is not an easy one and everyone in Northern Ireland needs to accept

Commissioning of Lay Readers

Three new diocesan readers will be commissioned in an Advent service at Saint Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny on Sunday, 30th November at 7 pm. The three include Nicola Rowan of Portlaoise, the excellent preacher at our harvest thanksgiving in Roskelton. Everyone is welcome at the service.

Consecration

The Service of Ordination and Consecration of the Revd Canon Kenneth Kearon as the new Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe will take place in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Saturday 24 January 2015 at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Notes

4th Seed: Mervyn Tomb has begun a new initiative aimed at young people from 6th Class until Second Year ages. Called 4th Seed (after the Parable of the Sower, where the fourth sort of seed was that which bore fruit), it is a monthly Saturday evening gathering at the Faith Mission Centre in Durrow for games, activities and some Bible teaching. The second meeting is on Saturday, 1st November. Contact Mervyn, at 057 874 0770, for details.

Roskelton Heating: After much discussion, investigation, pondering, more discussion and decision, a new heating system is being installed in Roskelton church. The new heaters can be switched on by timer, getting rid of the need for someone to go to the church early in the morning; will mean less condensation than that which was produced by the gas heaters; and will allow much easier breathing for those who are asthmatic. We hope to have them turned on for the service on Sunday, 2nd November.

A Remembrance of Loved Ones: On Sunday 2nd November, as part of All Saints' Tide, we shall hold our fifth 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. The past year has been one of much sadness in our parishes and everyone is welcome at the service – whether or not they are churchgoers.

Remembrance Sunday: We shall have our remembrance of the fallen at our ser-

vices at Annatrim at 11 am and at Mountrath at 11.30 am on Sunday, 9th November. 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 names are remembered on the war memorial and those from the wider community. The Rector has discovered a total of forty-four men who died in the Great War were either born in Mountrath, or had a Mountrath address, or both. Forty-four men from a town as small as Mountrath was a significant proportion of the population. Poppies will be available for sale at the services.

Armistice Day: There will be a Liturgy of Remembrance for those from Mountrath who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918, in Saint Fintan's Church at 8 pm on Armistice Day, 11th November. Everyone is welcome at this service, which may be the first time on which people from the whole community may have gathered to remember the dead.

Thursday Bible Club: The Thursday Bible Club has got off to a good start this year and will meet on Thursdays, 13th and 27th November. The Club meets in the Parochial Hall in Mountrath from 6.30 until 7.45 pm; admission is free and everyone of National School age is welcome.

Third Sunday Service: The Third Sunday evening service at Lacca will be on Sunday, 16th November. As usual, there will be tea and buns after the service and everyone is welcome. Let's keep up the sequence of excellent attendances.

Mothers' Union: Our Mothers' Union branch and Young Wives have arranged a ladies night out for a meal at Seasons Restaurant in Portlaoise on Thursday,

20th November at 7.30 pm, the approximate cost is €33. Those intending to go are asked to contact Mabel (086 203 3720) or Jean (085 707 4805) – numbers are needed by 16th November. Everyone is welcome.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday, 24th November in the Parochial Hall at 8 pm when Mrs Eileen Senior will give a demonstration of Christmas decorations. This year, instead of having an auction or bring-and-buy sale, we are inviting people to give a donation for local charity on either the night of the meal or at the meeting.

We are looking forward to welcoming as many as possible on both of the above nights.

Group Service: Sunday, 30th November is a fifth Sunday of the month. There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath at 9 am and our group service will be a family service at Lacca at 10.30 am when the Rector will conduct the service and Mervyn will be our speaker.

Harvest Thanksgiving: Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very successful series of harvest thanksgiving services. Thank you to our preachers, Mervyn Tomb, Tim Irvine, Sam Harper, John Bailey and Nicola Rowan, and to everyone who came along to the services. Our congregations were: 66 at Borris-in-Ossory; 150 at Mountrath on Friday night for the school service; 73 at Mountrath on Sunday afternoon; 29 at Seir Kieran; a full church of 175 at Lacca, with many friends from Camross and the wider community; 131 at Annatrim, when we welcomed friends from Co Galway as we remembered Canon George Flynn; and 66 at Roskelton. May we be people who remember the Lord every Sunday at not just at festival time!

Vacant Parishes: It is encouraging to hear news of the appointment of clergy to the vacant parishes in our area: the Revd

Alec Purser to be priest in charge of Stradbally from Friday, 5th December, and the Revd Jane Galbraith as Rector of Roscrea. We pray for God's blessing upon them and upon the communities to which they will minister. We look forward to announcements of new clergy for Portlaoise and Templemore and continue to pray for Rathdowney Parish where the appointment of a new Rector has lapsed to the bishop.

Bishop Michael will be visiting the parishes on Sunday, 23rd November, presiding at Holy Communion services at Seir Kieran at 9.30 am and at Annatrim at 11 am. It is hoped there will be good congregations in both churches that morning. At the diocesan synod, the bishop warned synod members about the possibility of major changes to the boundaries of the Church of Ireland dioceses - do take the opportunity to ask him what he fears may happen and how we may respond to the proposals.

Leprosy Mission boxes should be returned to Olga Telford by December 6th.

Once again, Borris-in-Ossory I.C.A. ladies are busy collecting and covering shoeboxes for the **Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal**. They will meet in St Canice's Hall on Thursday November 6th to fill them with books pencils soft toys toiletries sweets etc. This is a very deserving charity which provides Christmas gifts for needy children abroad who might not otherwise receive a visit from Santa Claus.

Clonenagh Parish will be holding its annual **Pre-Christmas Market** in the Parochial Hall on Thursday 4th December at 7pm. There will be the usual stalls, but if anyone has any new ideas please do not hesitate to come along with them. There will also be a sheet at the back of the church in Mountrath and Roskelton for names to help on stalls. More details next

month.

The committee would like to thank everybody who supported the **Harvest Barbecue** in the hall, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to George and Ciara Danne on the birth of their twin daughters Fiadh and Ailbhe.

Mountrath Table Tennis Club: Round One of another new season of table tennis in the province got underway recently, with Palmerston Co. Dublin staging what would prove to be a most challenging event for most who took part.

Despite close attention, the unstoppable Kate Whelan gave Mountrath Table Tennis Club an early victory in Girls U18 with clubmate Amylou Hayes taking bronze. Indeed, it will take something special for any player in Leinster to record a victory over this wizard from Ballyroan as she continues to amaze everybody with her consistent quality at all times. Not to be outshone, clubmate Dylan Grace is matching her step for step for gold and in the boys U15 event. He produced another magical display in capturing his main event with a comfortable win over an up and coming player of great potential in Art McGloughlin from Leixlip in the final. While McGloughlin was on fire, it was Grace who was cool as a breeze, fearless and persistent in claiming top spot. At U11 Ross Handcock produced many fine displays as he captured a well-earned silver. Another fine performance from Scott Jestin saw him reach the U18 Quarterfinals in a very strong group of players. However, Jestin will have his sights set on making it a step further next event and indeed, this is all very possible. Richard Thompson continues to progress at every event and made the top 8 in both U13 and U15. Jessie Hayes 4th and Paddy Vaughan 6th did not hit their usual high notes on the day so they will be really looking forward to Round two in No-

vember. Amy Jestin, Tiegan and Sarah O'Connor, Claire Handcock and Corinna Hayes also delivered many good performances.

Mountrath Table Tennis Club is one of Irelands leading clubs and have a limited number of spaces if any boys or girls 8-13 in the district would like to try table tennis. It is not beyond the ability of any young potential player to reach a good standard, which can take you to provincial and national level. Over the past seven years a total of ten Mountrath TTC players have gone on to represent Leinster on many occasions. Four have been Leinster champions, three have been National champions, one British Isles champion and one player has reached number 3 in the world. Two have been All Ireland team champions and All Ireland Community games champions. A number of players have been part of successful Team Ireland primary schools teams. Many are currently on Irish teams who travel all over Europe. Mountrath Community School are currently All-Ireland schools champions. A host of club players have won gold in a great number of events in Ireland and abroad. Club Coach Jimmy Hayes has won the Irish Club Coach of the year award in recent times and has been coach to Leinster and National teams.

The club is made up of many local players while many also travel from other Counties. Training takes place on Wednesday nights in Trumera Youth Centre 7-8.30 where 12 tables are available. The same venue also hosts a Table Tennis Ireland Academy known as The Midland Table Tennis Academy on Friday nights 7-9.30 where leading players from the midlands assemble to work with club and International Coaches who have trained, played and coached in China among other places.

Smiles

A young couple invited their pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied. "Goat?" replied the Pastor, "Are you sure about that?" "Yes," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mam, 'We might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day.'"

* * *

There was a new family that had just moved into town. Their son came to Sunday School but seemed upset. His teacher asked him if anything was wrong. The boy replied no, that he was going to go fishing but his dad told him that he needed to go to church instead. The teacher was very impressed with the boy's parents and asked the boy if his father had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing. The boy replied, "Yes he did. My dad said that he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

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A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

* * *

A man stopped by the local church to talk to the Pastor. He told the Pastor "I stole a turkey this morning on my way home from work".

The Pastor told him "That was a terrible thing to do".

The man replied "Yes, I know that now, do you want it?"

The Pastor replied "No, take it back and give it to the man that you stole it from."

The man replied "I tried to give it back but he refused it".

The Pastor told him "In that case you keep the turkey". The man thanked the Pastor and went on his way.

When the Pastor arrived home later that day he discovered that his turkey had been stolen.

* * *

One beautiful Sunday morning, the pastor announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one you have chosen."

Items for the December 2014 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY November 19th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, November 23rd.

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

Services & Readings

November 2014							
First Sunday 2nd	<i>Joshua 3: 7-17</i> <i>Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13</i> <i>Matthew 23: 1-12</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	Mountrath 7.00pm A Remembrance of Loved Ones
Second Sunday 9th	<i>Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25</i> <i>Psalm 78: 1-7</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18</i> <i>Matthew 25: 1-13</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance	
Third Sunday 16th	<i>Judges 4: 1-7</i> <i>Psalm 123</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11</i> <i>Matthew 25: 14-30</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 23rd	<i>Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24</i> <i>Psalm 100</i> <i>Ephesians 1: 15-23</i> <i>Matthew 25: 31-46</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 30th	<i>Isaiah 64: 1-9</i> <i>Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1: 3-9</i> <i>Mark 13: 24-37</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion			Lacca 10.30am Family Service		

Parish Diary

November

- 1st Saturday.....4th Seed (*page 4*)
 2nd Sunday.....Service of Remembrance of Loved Ones (*page 4*)
 6th Thursday.....Borris-in-Ossory ICA Shoebox Appeal (*page 5*)
 13th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)
19th Wednesday.....Closing date for December 2014 Newsletter items!
 20th Thursday.....Mothers' Union night out (*page 5*)
 23rd Sunday.....Bishop Michael's visit (*page 5*)
 24th Monday.....Mothers' Union branch meeting (*page 5*)
 27th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)

December

- 4th Thursday.....Clonenagh Parish Pre-Christmas Market (*page 5*)
 6th Saturday.....Return Leprosy Mission boxes (*page 5*)