

# The Newsletter

May 2015

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*Ciaran kept the Easter fire lit all the year round.  
It is not something we would try.*

## **Clonenagh Group of Parishes**

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

# Rector's Letter

Looking at the stories about Jesus appearing to his friends after he had risen from the dead in school, we looked at the story of Jesus appearing at the side of the lake while the disciples were out in a boat fishing. Reading the Good News Bible that we use in school, one verse seemed odd, Saint John Chapter 21 Verse 7 says, "When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken his clothes off) and jumped into the water." Who puts on all their clothes before jumping into a lake? It seemed a plain daft thing to do. (The fact that the Gospel writers don't take out the odd things is always encouraging, it means they told the story as it was rather than wrote a story themselves where everything fitted neatly together).

It was the first time, though, that the verse seemed odd, the first time when the question occurred to me: why do something so strange?

Questions came up quite a lot on a visit to Flanders and the Somme with a group from Co Laois. We went to a grave of a man from a farm outside of Portarlinton, a man whose brother had been nursed in Mountmellick Hospital by one of the ladies in our group. In a deeply moving act, one of our group poured a little container of soil from the home farm onto the man's grave and took a little soil from the grave to take back to the farm.

We were not sure, but it might have been the first time the man's grave

had been visited by somebody from home; he had died two weeks before the end of the First World War. Of course, in times past, travel was not cheap, and going to a grave was not something easily done, but it wasn't just that the graves of the men were not visited, the men were not even talked about – sons and brothers, husbands and fathers disappeared from memory.

Standing in that cemetery the thought occurred to ask "why" this had happened. Certainly, fear of the IRA in the 1920s would have made some people keep quiet, but in Church of Ireland parishes, when memorials were being put up, why did they not honour everyone who had died? Even if they had not mentioned everyone by name, they could have acknowledged the number. Why were families left with not only the loss, but not even the chance to talk about their loss?

Writing these notes on the 99th anniversary of the Easter Rising, there is a sense that in the coming year we must ask odd questions, ask questions about why all Irish people are not included in history.

Like the stories of the Risen Jesus, the bits of Irish history do not fit neatly together, but we need to have the courage to be like those who wrote the Gospels and to tell all that we know.



# Church of Ireland News

## General Synod

The Church of Ireland General Synod takes place in Armagh from 7th-9th May. The synod no longer receives the coverage in the newspapers or in broadcasts that it enjoyed in the past, but people interested can follow news on the General Synod website:

<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org>

The only item of synod business that may affect our parishes is plans being considered to change around the dioceses.

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## **Bishop Michael Burrows completes the 15 stations on Good Friday**

The Bishop achieved his objective on Good Friday last when he visited fifteen railway stations throughout the length and breadth of his diocese – all in one day. Symbolically emulating the traditional stations of the cross, the bishop followed the way of the cross by devising a tight schedule to spend a brief time at certain railway stations endeavouring not to duplicate a station within a parish. At each point he delivered a short reflection which combined the theme of the relevant religious station with the specific aspect of the area.

Setting himself a gruelling timetable, he began in Waterford Cathedral with the Litany at 7 a.m. moving to Waterford station where he was greeted by his first group of parishioners and Irish Rail staff. This

was repeated at each stop along the route, initially incorporating Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary. It was then on past Cashel to hit the main Dublin-Cork main line at Thurles and along to Templemore and Ballybrophy.

At Ballybrophy he took the first of his two train trips when he travelled the short distance to Portlaoise where he was greeted by Irish Rail Chaplain Gregg Ryan.

Having accomplished approximately half of the stations, it was on to Kilkenny to draw breath and recognise the quiet time of the Vigil between 2 pm and 3 pm.

It was one of longest road journeys of the day across to the South East corner where the parishioners of Wexford were waiting. They were being led by the Revd Canon Arthur Minion, barefooted and carrying a full size cross. After the reflection at O'Hanrahan Station it was on to Enniscorthy while the Wexford people followed their pastor through the streets of Wexford to Selskar Abbey.

At Enniscorthy the Bishop took his second rail trip of the day catching the Dublin bound train as far as Gorey. Finally it was back West in the long hop by Mt Leinster to the Diocese of Leighlin calling first at Carlow, then the 15th station at Bagenalstown and concluding with Compline at St. Laserian's Cathedral. A large congregation of over 80 awaited the Bishop for 10 p.m.

# Parish Notes

**Holy Baptism:** 28th March at Annatrim Church – Matilda Jacqueline Brady-Boulton of Old Oak, Shanderry, Coolrain

**Funeral:** 29th March at Lacca Church – Sylvia Lalor of Knocknagad. A native of Camross, growing up in a house that included a shop, Sylvia was someone whose years were filled with life; from her earliest years until her closing weeks, life was to be lived. Meeting John Lalor at a dance in Annatrim, Sylvia was married at twenty-two and she and John were to spend the early years of their marriage living in Bray before moving back to Laois. With John driving a lorry and a family of four girls and three boys, home life was always filled with activity, and Sylvia took it all with good cheer. Her concern was always for others, the love enjoyed by her husband and children being extended to each of the grandchildren: Sylvia would know where each of them were, what each of them was doing. Sylvia was always positive, always concerned to go forward. At her funeral service, the Rector spoke of three symbols of Easter that spoke of three phases of Sylvia's life: the rabbit, a reminder of the rabbits sold from the shop in younger days, a symbol of all the years of hard work; a Kinder egg, a reminder of Sylvia's love for her grandchildren and for all her family; and the daffodils, the flowers of heaven, a reminder of Sylvia's faith, of her facing the future with confidence and of our trust that she was now with God. Following the funeral service, Sylvia's mortal remains were buried at Annatrim. We extend our condolences to John and the family.

**Easter:** Lent seemed longer than usual this year but Easter came, as it always does, and was an occasion of great joy. The Rector would like to thank everyone who supported the sixteen services we held from Palm Sunday until Easter, particular thanks Mabel, Margaret and Joan, our three organists for their ministry during the week, to all who were responsible for the

decoration of the churches, to John Bailey for ensuring that Easter Day ran on time, and to Lionel Gyves, who drove the Rector to the six Easter services.

**Easter Vestries:** Our Easter General Vestry meetings took place during April. One of the things select vestries were required to do by the middle of April was to send a census return to the diocesan office giving numbers of parishioners by age group, frequency of church attendance, and whether or not they were subscribers. The numbers we have submitted, from lists revised by the select vestries, are 168 for Clonenagh and 165 for Offerlane, and 61 for Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran, giving a total of 394. Anyone who looks at the civil census for 2011 will realize that such a figure is a reasonable reflection of the actual number of Church of Ireland people in our part of Co Laois. However, if one looks at our diocesan book of reports, which is sent out to diocesan synod members each year, it is a total which would suggest we are among the larger parishes in the diocese, which is obviously not the case if one looks at the civil census. One hopes the diocesan council will closely examine all the returns it receives; it would be contrary to Scripture if transparency and effort were to be penalised.

**General Synod:** The Church of Ireland General Synod takes place in Armagh from 7th-9th May; Mr Joe Peavoy from Mountrath and Mr Ivan Jestin from Borris-in-Ossory are members of the General Synod.

**Ascension Day:** Ascension Day this year is on Thursday, 14th May and there will be Holy Communion at Saint Peter's Church in Mountrath at 8 pm.

**GFS:** Our GFS branch is drawing to the close of another successful year, with over twenty girls as members. One of the highlights of the year is the annual GFS Festi-

val Service and Prizegiving which takes place at Saint Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny on Sunday, 17th May.

**Mountrath Local History Society:** The Local History Society continues to meet at Mountrath Library on the second Thursday of each month, 6.15-7.15 pm. The next meeting is on Thursday, 14th May when the topic is local folklore. It would be good if some members of the Church of Ireland community would become involved as the Rector goes along and usually cannot answer questions concerning our own community that might be about events or people in decades past.

**Revd Ian Coulter:** Ian Coulter is joining us on the third Sunday of each month to take the service at Lacca which switches from 4 pm to 10.30 am during the summer months. Please do give the Reverend Ian support and encouragement.

**Offerlane growth:** It was good to see that the development of the family service in Lacca has contributed to a growth in attendances in Offerlane parish. On the second Sunday in March, when the Rector took the service at Annatrim, there were 27 in the congregation, and there was no service at Lacca. On the fourth Sunday in March, Mrs Gillian Purser took the service in Annatrim, where there was an attendance of 27, and the Faith Mission evangelist Mervyn Tomb took the family service at Lacca and had a congregation of 41.

**Western Front Stories:** The rector took a Church of Ireland group to Flanders and the Somme from 20th-23rd April, he would be grateful for any stories or biographical information people might have about the local men who served and particularly about those who never came home. After a hundred years, it is time they were given the respect they deserved.

**Congratulations** to Niall & Bridget Bennett on the birth of their son Liam, born on 14th February.

*(apologies for the lateness of this item –the editor)*

**Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee** have organised a **Golf Classic** in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday 22nd May. To make this event a success Mabel would be grateful if parishioners would make up teams of players. Golfers and Non-Golfers are most welcome!

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.

The **annual Parish BBQ** will take place on the rectory grounds on June 21st, more details next month.

**Borris- in-Ossory parish** would like to thank all who supported the recent quiz. Unfortunately there were no local winners, the prizes going to Cavan Birr and Athy.

**Best wishes** to Lorna (nee Garrett) and Peter Bouclier who have come to live in Ballaghmore. We hope they will be very happy amongst us

**GFS meeting** on Friday 8th May 7:15-8:45pm in the Parochial Hall.

**GFS Diocesan Service and Prize-giving** in St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny on Sunday 17th May at 3.00pm; please meet in the Cathedral at 2:30pm.

**Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service** takes place in Enniscorthy at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 29th April. We hope members of our branch will be able to attend.

**Clonenagh National School Summer Fête** will take place on Sunday 14th June at 2pm. This is a great family day for all, full of fun and treats. There will be a cake stall, bric-a-brac, pony rides, go fish, sponge throwing, lucky number, sports, raffle, crafts, face painting, and so much more. We would appreciate and welcome all for a continued successful Summer Fête.



# SUMMER HOP DANCE

**SOCIAL EVENT 6th JUNE 2015**  
**Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, Co. Laois**

Organised by

**CLONENAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Live Band: **VEGAS NIGHTS**

Followed by: **DJ Tith Chambers**

**TICKETS €20**



Music from 10pm - 'till Late (Late Bar Extension)  
Finger Food

**ALL WELCOME !**

Contact: Michelle Stone Principal 087 1505306 / Wendy Carry 087 1787245  
Jane Chambers 087 7614974 / Joanna Shore 087 1198104 / Joe Shirley 087 2664012

# Smiles

A Rector was talking to people after a service, when he said, " I spend a lot of time these days thinking about the Here-after." I go into a room, or upstairs, and wonder what am I after here? "

\* \* \*

A little girl was sitting on her Grandmother's knee, as she read her a bedtime story. From time to time the little girl took her eyes of the book and reached up to stroke her Grandmother's wrinkled cheeks, then stroked her own cheek. Finally she said. "Grandma, Did God make you?" "Yes", Grandma replied. "God made me" Then the little girl asked "Did God make me?" Yes" her Grandmother replied "God did make you" There was a pause before the little girl said "Getting better isn't he?"

\* \* \*

The Pope was visiting New York. His chauffeur wanting to impress him, said, " Hey Mr. Pope, anything that you want to do I will make it happen for you. Just name it." "Well," said The Pope thoughtfully, "now you mention it, I've often wanted to drive a car again. Back in the Vatican, they keep me pretty well holed

up, and when I want to go out they drive me round in the in the Papal buggy, Just once more I would like to drive myself for a change ". "Hey," said the Chauffeur, "No problem."

So they got out and changed places. The Pope had not driven far when he accidentally went through a red light. Immediately, one of those tough New York City cops drove up behind them, turned on his lights and pulled the car over. He strutted over to the limo, But before he reached it, he noticed that the Pope was driving, and went straight back to his car and called his chief on his radio. "Chief," he said, I just pulled over someone I should not have done" "What?" said his chief "You didn't pull over another cop did you?" "No chief, he's bigger than that ," said the cop.

"You didn't pull over the Mayor, did you?"

"No chief, " said the cop, "he's bigger than that."

"Did you pull over the President of The United States?"

"No, chief he's bigger than that," said the cop.

"Well who did you pull over?"

"I don't know," said the cop, "but whoever he is, he's got the Pope as his Chauffeur "

**Items for the June 2015 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY May 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, May 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](mailto: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](http://www.clonenagh.com)

# Services & Readings

## May 2015

<b>First Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>Acts 8: 26-40 Psalm 22: 25-31 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion
<b>Second Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Acts 10: 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Baptism & Holy Communion		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Third Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Acts 16: 16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 11.00am Service of the Word	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Family Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Fourth Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b Romans 8: 22-27 John 15: 26-27, 16:4b-15</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer		<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Family Service	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Baptism & Holy Communion
<b>Fifth Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8: 12-17 John 3: 1-17</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 9.00am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 10.30am Family Service		

# Parish Diary

## April

29th Wednesday.....Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service (*page 5*)

## May

7th-9th.....Church of Ireland General Synod (*page 4*)

8th Friday.....G.F.S. meeting (*page 5*)

14th Thursday.....Mountrath Local History Society meeting (*page 4*)

17th Sunday.....G.F.S. Diocesan Service & Prizegiving (*page 5*)

**20th Wednesday.....Closing date for June Newsletter**

22nd Friday.....**Parish Golf Classic** (*page 5*)

## June

6th Saturday.....Clonenagh N.S. Summer Hop Dance (*page 6*)

14th Sunday.....Clonenagh N.S. Summer Fête (*page 5*)

21st Sunday.....**Parish Barbecue** (*page 5*)