

The Newsletter

June 2015

Rector:

Canon Ian Poulton,
Clonenagh Rectory,
Portlaoise Road,
Mountrath.
Phone: 057-8732146

Diocesan Reader:

Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.
Phone:057-8732331

Parish Archivist:

Vicky Knowles,
Clonin School,
Mountrath.
Phone: 057-8732846



This congregation gathered to meet the Rector one Sunday morning a couple of weeks ago. He practiced his sermon on them and they listened very well.

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

In 2012 we went to France at the end of April for our post-Easter break, in 2013 we went to England at the end of April, then last year we discovered that the rugby European cup final would be in Wales in late May, so we took our break later and found our way to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, after visiting various family members in the previous week. In 2015, it was planned that the final would be in Milan in the great San Siro stadium. We worked out that we could get cheap flights to France and travel in stages to Milan to be there to see the match. Anyway, anyone who knows about rugby will know that the competition changed, that it was no longer the Heineken Cup, and that the final was shifted from the end of May to the beginning of May, and instead of being in Milan it was in London.

A couple of weeks ago, Katharine wondered why our post-Easter break was coming so late that it was actually after Pentecost. I wondered as well, then remembered, "Milan", I said, "we were going to get the train to Milan". Instead of going to the San Siro in Milan, we have a booked a caravan on a campsite near Perpignan, where we stayed in 2012.

As we had forgotten why we were going away so late, sometimes people can carry on doing things and forget about why they are doing them.

Sometimes people can forget about why they are members of the church. It is easy to get caught up with keeping things going, with keeping up our traditions and being part of our community, and it is easy to forget why we are members.

The Bible readings we have heard in church in recent Sundays are a reminder to us of what being a church member means. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter talks about "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day".

Being a church member is obviously part of our tradition and part of the life of our community, but first and foremost it means believing in Jesus who was raised from the dead, without that none of the rest of it makes any sense. If being a church member is about believing in the risen Jesus, then what should that mean for each of us?

Let's not forget why we do things.



Church of Ireland News

The Revd Ruth is leaving

The Revd Ruth Noble, who has been Rector of Mountmellick since 2010, and a good neighbour to our own parishes, is leaving Co Laois to minister in Dublin where she has been appointed as Rector of Crumlin and Chapelizod. She will take up the position in August. A native of County Wicklow, Ruth (nee Jackson) went to secondary school in King's Hospital, Dublin and graduated from Business Studies in Dublin City University. After a year in Birmingham, she moved to Northern Ireland as a member of the community at the Christian Renewal Centre, Rostrevor, County Down and then to the Queen's University Chaplaincy in Belfast. Ruth was ordained in 2002 for a curacy in St Mark's, Portadown. In 2005, she moved to Blarney, County Cork and, while there, completed a Masters Degree focusing on growing churches in the Republic of Ireland. In Crumlin, she will succeed the Revd Adrienne Galligan who became Rector of Rathfarnham in January.

Royal Visit to Drumcliffe Church Of Ireland

On 20th May, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall attended an ecumenical service for peace and reconciliation at St Columba's Church, Drumcliffe. The service was led by Dean Arfon Williams and local clergy from Sligo Churches Together – the Revd Alan Mitchell, Canon Noel Regan, Fr Pat Lombard and the Revd Stephen Taylor. Prayers were led by

the Revd Michael and Ann Wooderson and reflections were given by the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Elphin, The Most Revd Kevin Doran.

A peace candle was lit by a former Rector of Drumcliffe, the Revd Ian Linton and Fr Christy McHugh, local Parish Priest. Former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and the British Ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott read from Scripture; students from local schools sang 'Look at the World' and 'You raise me up' and also led the congregation in the hymns. Following the service, the royal visitors visited the grave of the poet WB Yeats.

Thanks and Praise

There are provisional plans for a diocesan launch of the new hymnbook "Thanks & Praise" at Cashel Cathedral on Wednesday, 10th June.

'Thanks & Praise' is a new supplement to the Church Hymnal, containing 227 hymns and songs. It is being published in September. The launch is intended to be an opportunity to hear some of the contents, to find out about the book, and to ask questions. It is for everyone – vestry members, choirs, organists, clergy, parishioners – anyone who wants to know more about the book. Paying for Christian Copyright Licenses for our churches each year, if there are useful hymns in the book, we might buy copies for our organists and reproduce them on our service sheets.

Parish Notes

Holy Baptism: On 25th April at Saint Matthew's Church, Roskelton, David William Telford of Belleville, Mountrath.

Holy Baptism: On 10th May at Saint Jude's Church, Annatrim, Martha Dorothy Ann Lalor of Bellingham, Portlaoise.

Funeral: On 9th May 2015 at Lacca Church, John Lalor of Knocknagad. Forty days after the death of his wife Sylvia, John died suddenly and peacefully at his own home. Knocknagad had been his home in childhood years, but in the 1940s there was little work in the area, and he went to Bray in Co Wicklow where his aunt had a home and business. John held his aunt in deep respect and affection and it was "Mrs Roberts", as he always referred to her, who gave him a start in the transport business. Marrying Sylvia Pratt of Camross, their first two children were in Bray before they moved home to Knocknagad. John's family, his home, and his work were the passions of his life. Knocknagad was the only place he wanted to be, with his family around him and a good day's work done. Working hard and working well were at the heart of his character, John never let the chest problems he had suffered from childhood days hinder him as he went about his daily tasks. Always firm and direct, John commanded respect as a person of deep integrity. A man of straightforward faith, he was never someone for the religion or ritual of the church, believing all that needed to be said could be expressed in the words of the Lord's Prayer. At his funeral, photographs of his home, of his lorries, and of a field of cattle expressed a sense of his family, his work, and of a hope for the future as seed falls to the ground in the fields and grows again to new life.

After sixty years of marriage and the happiness they enjoyed together, Sylvia's death left John with a great and unfillable void in his life. John's departure meant for him a joyful reunion in heaven, but for the family members the loss of both parents in the space of six weeks is a bitter blow. We remember them in our prayers as they face the future.

Fifth Sunday Services: Sunday, 31st May is a fifth Sunday of the month; there will be a Holy Communion service in Mountrath at 9 am and then a group service at 10.30 am in Annatrim. The last group service was on Palm Sunday and was in Roskelton when just twenty people turned up, a number that Roskelton might have got by itself on an ordinary Sunday. Yes, there was a funeral that afternoon, but there were many people who were not involved with the funeral who simply did not attend because the service was not in their church. A better crowd this time, please.

PLEASE NOTE:

Roskelton on 6th June

Due to a car rally causing the closure of roads on the morning of Sunday, 7th June, the service in Roskelton that week will be on Saturday, 6th June at 7 pm.

Summer Hop: Clonenagh National School Parents' Association are holding a summer dance at the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on Saturday, 6th June with a live band and a DJ. The night begins at 10 pm and tickets at €20 each are available from parents' association committee members.

Saint Columba's Day: There will be Holy Communion for Saint Columba's

Day on Tuesday, 9th June at 8 pm in Mountrath church.

School fete: Clonenagh National School hold their annual summer fete on Sunday, 14th June beginning at 2 pm. Usually blessed with fine weather, the summer fete is a great opportunity for bargains, tea and buns, and catching up with those you may not have seen for a while. Do come along.

Barbecue: Clonenagh Parish is holding a fund-raising barbecue at the Rectory on Sunday, 21st June at 2 pm. Proceeds are for the church windows fund, for which we need to raise around €85,000. There will be the usual bouncy castle and an afternoon of good company.

End of Year Service: Our school year ends on Thursday, 25th June so Clonenagh National School will be holding its end of year service in Mountrath Church at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 24th June, when we will be bidding farewell to the members of Sixth Class. We have been blessed with a good year in the life of our school, finishing the year with over seventy pupils, and pray for a restful summer and for all the preparations for the year to come.

Confirmation: Our confirmation service this year is on Sunday, 28th June at 11 am in Annatrim Church. We have four candidates from our National School being prepared (from Mountrath, Annatrim and Kyle parishes) and will be joined by a candidate from Rathdowney. It being the confirmation day and Mervyn Tomb being on holiday, there will be no family service in Lacca that morning.

Thank you: Thank you to everyone who supported Clonenagh Parish's golf classic on 22nd May, to those who were sponsors, to those who gave donations, to those who took part, and, of course,

to those who did all the organising. It usually takes a few days for the total raised to become clear, but at the last planning meeting the prospects were good for a very good total.

Rector away: The Rector is away from Tuesday, 26th May until Wednesday 3rd June, for a belated Easter break (see the Rector's letter) and is then at a course at the Centre for Studies in Rural Ministry in North Wales on 2nd-3rd June. Calls will be taken by Canon Patrick Harvey.

Summer series: Our sixth annual summer sermon takes place in Borris-in-Ossory in July and August. It is an eight week series called, "What's it all about?" and will explore what things are at the heart of our faith and church life in Co Laois in 2015. The themes we will look at include our church buildings, ministry, worship, and hopes for the future. The services take place on 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th July and on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th August at 8 pm and will follow the usual format of hearing the Word and sharing in the Holy Communion.

Holiday Bible Club: We are looking forward to Mervyn Tomb and his team from the Faith Mission running our Holiday Bible Club in Mountrath from Monday, 13th July until Friday, 17th July. The club will be from 10.30 am to 1 pm each day and all children of National School age will be very welcome.

Annatrim work: Work in addressing the damp problems in Annatrim church is continuing. The removal of the plaster at the west end of the church allowed a process of drying to begin and our current phase of work is replacing the lead at the church porch, where much of the damp penetration has taken place – a phase that is costing around €10,000.

Mountrath windows: We await tenders for the replacement of the windows in Mountrath church. The current windows, most of which can be seen from the road, were fitted in the early-1960s and they have not stood well the test of time. The architect's drawings for Georgian-style windows that will reflect the period in which the church was built have been approved. The cost of the current replacement programme has been estimated at around €85,000. Once the current work is complete (and paid for), we will need to look at the east window, which is stained glass and which is in need of repair.

Embrace Farm Service: The annual service in remembrance of those who have died in farm accidents takes place in the Church of the Holy Rosary in Abbeyleix on Sunday, 28th June at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome. There was a very large congregation at the service last year so, if you are planning to go to the service, do go along early.

The Clonenagh Parish Annual BBQ will take place on the Rectory Grounds on Sunday June 21st, tickets available from any committee member at cost of 10 euro, Do come along to an enjoyable evening. Hopefully the weather will be good by then.

Smiles

A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

* * *

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

* * *

When a young minister was still single, he preached a sermon he entitled,

"Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children got to be teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.

* * *

A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

Table Tennis

Mountrath Community School All-Ireland Table Tennis Schools Champions And Qualify For World Finals In Israel

Mountrath Community School's Table Tennis Team emerged victorious in the 2015 All-Ireland Schools Finals in Dublin on Wednesday 6th of May. The Basketball Arena played host to the cream of Irish Schools table tennis as teams went head to head for the Nation title and take gold as Irish Champions. Mountrath C S, who had been crowned Leinster Champions two weeks previously, were in supreme form and showed little mercy to their opponents on the day. Under the guidance of coach Jimmy Hayes they started the day against Munster Champions Mercy High C S West Cork. Former Primary school International Jessie Hayes was first out to the table and got MCS off to a flying start with a 3-0 win. Claire Handcock who took little time in dispatching her opponent with a 3-0 win followed her. Leanne Delaney was third player to the table, and while she put in an excellent performance, her opponent was Mercy High's best player who took the match 3-1 to leave MCS 2-1 ahead going into the next match. Here, Nadia Krawczun produced some of her old form to take a 3-0 win, followed by Sarah O'Connor also producing a 3-0 win. Hailey Hayes lost out to her opponent 0-3, which left the doubles to be played where the Laois girls took two out of the three for a 6-3 victory and a place in the final.

Their opponents were 2014 champions St Louis Community College Mayo. A formidable challenge was expected from

the Connaught Champions. MCS firmly established control from the off as the swept aside the outgoing champions with Jessie and Claire recording 3-0 wins, while Nadia took a 3-1 result followed by 3-2 victories by Sarah O'Connor and Hailey Hayes. Leanne was somewhat unlucky to have to face international player Marie Williams where the Connaught girl won out. With the Mountrath girls winning all their doubles matches it led to an amazing 8-1 overall victory.

Being crowned All-Ireland Champions means Mountrath Community School have qualified to compete in the World Schools Table Tennis Games to be hosted in Israel in 2016. Enough time for school table tennis training and preparation to take on the world's best. For all concerned this is a supreme achievement following much commitment from the players Jessie, Claire, Leanne, Nadia, Sarah and Hailey, Coach Jimmy Hayes, Principal Siobhan McCarthy, Vice Principal Monica White, PE Teacher Christy Coughlan, Miss Scully, and all who supported the School and team who were unbeaten throughout the season as they competed in many games in winning Leinster League and Cup followed by capturing the Cup and title of All-Ireland Champions 2015. Make no mistake these young players have achieved much, having previously won All-Ireland Schools U13 in 2013, All-Ireland Community Games Champions 2012, and Jessie, Leanne and Claire have been selected on Leinster teams. Most have achieved high Provincial and National ranking and amassed huge trophy collections for table tennis.

Services & Readings

June 2015

First Sunday 6th/7th	1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-20 Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1 Mark 3: 20-35	Roskelton Saturday 6 th 7.00pm Evening 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 14th	1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 Mark 4: 26-34	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday 21st	1 Samuel 17: 1, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 Psalm 9: 9-20 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday 28th	2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion		Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Confirmation Service

Parish Diary

June

- 6th Saturday..... Clonenagh N.S. Summer Hop Dance (page 6)
 14th Sunday..... Clonenagh N.S. Summer Fête (page 5,6)
 21st Sunday..... **Parish Barbecue** (page 5)
 24th Wednesday..... **Closing date for July Newsletter**
 25th Thursday..... Clonenagh N.S. End of Year Service (page 5)

Items for the July 2015 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY June 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, June 28th .

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