

The Newsletter

July/August 2015

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Looking back on eight years at school

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

When we moved from the North in 1999 to live in Dublin, one of the most useful words I learned was "bockety". It was a slang word from "bocht", the Irish word for "poor", but it expressed something much more. A bridge could be bockety, a building could be bockety, a car could be bockety, perhaps even people could be bockety.

It was a word that suggested that something was worn out, that it might break down. There was a skill in keeping going something that was bockety. It would have been a good word to have known when I was a teenager as there were times when I might have used it. My Dad was great at keeping bockety cars going, I remember the summer of 1976 when he bought two Renault Dauphine cars, one for £30 and one for £25, and, using parts from the two, made a car that did him for a while. It was a bockety car, but even in 1976, you wouldn't have bought much of a car for £55. Following his example, I had a bicycle that was a gathering of parts, it included wheels that I had cleaned with Brillo pads before spraying them with chrome paint. It was still going well when I was in my twenties.

With the passing years, I have come to think that the word "bockety" might apply to people as well, or apply to me at least. Going to the doctor because I couldn't hear properly, I was told it was caused by some tubes or other being blocked

and was given a prescription of antibiotics and steroids, medication to add to the other stuff taken for asthma, and high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, and hay fever. A Renault Dauphine would never have needed such a high level of maintenance.

There is a suggestion in the book of the prophet Isaiah that we shouldn't feel bockety. Isaiah Chapter 40 Verse 31 says, "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

But then I look at the story of Jesus and realize that being weak at times, that being tired, that being worn out, are part of what it means for him to be human, and if he felt that way, the we should also expect to do so.

I hope July and August are kind to us, that we will have good weather while the children are off school and while the harvest is brought in, and that, even if we feel bockety at times, we will be well charged for the autumn.



Church of Ireland News

Response to the Tragic Deaths and Injuries in Berkeley, California

Archbishop Michael Jackson writes, “It was with a deep sense of sorrow that I, like everyone else, heard of the tragic death and serious injury of young people in Berkeley California. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these who have died and also to those who battle with serious injury and significant trauma as a result of their terrifying and painful experiences. We are all aware that students from Ireland, in particular, travel to America at this time of year after examinations in the hope and expectation of fresh experiences and that they instantly make new friends. Our sympathy is with all of those who suffer in these long and sad days. Our thoughts are with relatives who travel to be reunited with those whom they love, in circumstances they never envisaged possible. We also remember those who tend the injured and the hurt in Berkeley.

Archbishop of Armagh’s speaks of “closing the gates on war”

Archbishop Richard Clarke gave the address at a service to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Drawing on the image of ‘closing the gates on war’, Archbishop Clarke will say: “Closing the gates on war” is a fine and noble aspiration as a fitting memorial of the Battle of Waterloo, but it will not be

painless if it is being taken seriously. It will mean closing the gates firmly on all narrow nationalistic pride, on all that makes for the indignity and degradation of others, whether racially, economically or socially. It means standing firmly against a pseudo-liberalism that quickly turns into a cruel totalitarianism when dealing with minorities whose understanding of life does not conform to the fashionable consensus. It means closing other gates against an avaricious pillaging of the environment that will ultimately (if not today or tomorrow) drive others into violence as the only means of their survival. “Closing gates on war” will only ever be a sanctimonious cliché if it is not seen as carrying a real cost and a serious price-tag.’

Church of Ireland eBulletin

The Church of Ireland circulates a bulletin by email. It highlights a selection of items of interest relating to the witness and work of the Church of Ireland from around the dioceses and across the island and lead you to various new articles on the Church of Ireland and Diocesan websites – you’ll just have to click on the website links. To ‘subscribe’ to the eBulletin so that you can receive the eBulletin directly to your mailbox as it is issued, go to:

www.ireland.anglican.org/ebulletin

Parish Notes

Sacrament of Holy Baptism: At Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Sunday, 24th May 2015, Liam Niall Bennett of Rushin.

End of Year: Clonenagh National School closed for the summer holidays on Friday, 26th June and we wish the principal and staff a very peaceful and restful summer. It has been a very busy year in the life of our school, which has continued to grow, finishing the year with over seventy on the roll, and we look forward to further developments in the new school year. Our thanks go to the members of our parents' association who have run three fund-raising events during the course of the year, the vintage tractor and car run at Christmas, and the dance and the summer fair in June. Funds raised by the parents' association are important in providing things which would not be possible in the ordinary school budget. Thank you also to the school board of management for their work during the year. This autumn marks the end of the four year term of the existing board of management and we will be looking for volunteers for the new board which will commence in November.

Golf Classic: Thank you to Mabel Peavoy and all who helped organize the golf classic to raise funds for the replacement of the windows in Mountrath church. The event was blessed with a good day and enthusiastic participation and over €5,000 was raised towards the fund. Thank you to all who participated, Clonenagh Parish, which is Mountrath and Roskelton churches, has 168 parishioners, so €85,000 is a big target.

Barbecue: Thank you to everyone who came along to the Clonenagh bar-

becue on Sunday, 21st June. The weather was not ideal, but it was an enjoyable afternoon and was attended by between ninety and a hundred people.

Mothers' Union: Members of Mountrath branch are invited to join members of Rathdowney branch for their outing on Thursday, 2nd July. The group will visit Leinster House, the Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin and return via Liffey Valley shopping centre. On arrival in Dublin, there will be coffee at the Kilkenny Design Centre in Nassau Street and lunch will be at the Botanical Gardens. The cost of the bus will depend on the number travelling but should be around €18. Coffee, lunch, etc will be at people's own expense.

The bus will leave the square in Rathdowney at 8 am on 2nd July. Please contact Olive Thompson, 087 903 1222 or Gillian Alley 0505 46149/086 169 9201 as soon as possible, payment, please, at time of booking.

Mountrath branch members are invited to visit Gee's Jams in Abbeyleix on Tuesday, 28th July at 3 pm. There will be a tour of the jam making followed by tea. Please let Jean Treacy know by Sunday, 26th July if you hope to join the visit.

Somme services: The Rector has been invited by the Somme Association to lead remembrance services in France to mark the 99th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July. The services are at the memorials to the 36th (Ulster) Division at Thiepval and the 16th (Irish) Division at Guillemont. He will be travelling out on Monday, 28th June and returning from France on 2nd July. He will have his phone with him and any calls made to the Rectory number will reach him as usual.

Summer sermon series: Our sixth annual summer sermon series takes place in Borris-in-Ossory church on eight Thursday evenings during July and August. We have switched to Thursdays as an experiment this year as Wednesday evenings sometimes clashed with other activities in which people were involved. Our approach this year is to take a look at the life and faith of our parishes and to ask, "What's it all about?" The eight questions we shall ask are as follows: Thursday, 9th July - What shapes our faith? Thursday, 16th July - Who runs our church? Thursday, 23rd July - What are our buildings for? Thursday, 30th July - Who does the work of the church? Thursday, 6th August - What do we think about worship? Thursday, 13th August - Who do we believe? Thursday, 20th August - What do we think about our loved ones who have died? Thursday, 27th August - Who are our community?

Summer Holiday Bible Club: Our third annual holiday Bible Club takes place each morning from Monday, 13th-Friday 17th July. We are very grateful to Mervyn Tomb and his team from the Faith Mission for organizing and leading the club and we look forward to welcoming children of National School age for a lively week of activities and teaching. In order to prepare the materials we need, including buying the booklets we use, we do need to know in advance how many young people to expect. We would be very grateful if the names of young people who hope to be with us could be sent to Jillian Hayes by Monday, 6th July. For one of the craft activities we need some empty half litre bottles of the shape of the Deep River Rock, Tesco Perthshire Still Water, Evian Natural Mineral Water, or Ballygowan Water - fat 500 ml bottles.

Mervyn has other commitments on Sunday, 19th July but will be leading

a holiday club service in Lacca on Sunday, 26th July at 10.30 am.

Saint Mary Magdalene: There will be Holy Communion for Saint Mary Magdalene's Day on in Mountrath church Wednesday, 22nd July at 8 pm.

Faith Mission Convention: The Faith Mission hold their Convention in Durrow from Friday, 14th August until Sunday, 16th August. There will be meetings on the Friday evening, then on the Saturday morning, afternoon and evening. On the Sunday, there will be a family service in the afternoon, before the closing meeting on Sunday evening.

Saint Bartholomew's Day: We remember Saint Bartholomew with Holy Communion in Mountrath church on Monday, 24th August at 8 pm.

Blessing of the schoolbags: Sunday, 30th August is a fifth Sunday of the month and we are having it as a "back to school" Sunday. There will be a Holy Communion service for all the family in Mountrath Church at 10.30 am and we invite young people of all ages to bring their schoolbags with them to church for a blessing of the schoolbags in which we will ask for God's blessing on all the learning and teaching and activities of the year ahead. It is a new venture, which the Rector and Dean Katharine saw in a church in France in September last year, and there will be an invitation to young people from all of our parishes, and from whatever school they might attend, to be present with us.

The Clonenagh Parish Annual BBQ

Thank you to everyone who came along to our parish Barbecue on Sunday and made it a great success. It was great to see the children enjoy themselves too. A big thank you to the girls who took charge of the face painting.

Smiles

An Irishman returning to his job in Brussels after being at home in August was asked, "Did you have a good summer? He replied "Sure, we had a great barbecue that evening!"

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A parish had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The priest placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."

An the other end of the table was a plate of chocolate biscuits where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the biscuits you want -- God is watching the apples."

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A traffic corps garda saw a vehicle on the motor way doing 7 kilometres an hour and pulled the car in to make sure everything was all right. When he approached the driver he discovered that it was a nun. "Excuse me, sister. But are you alright?" he asked. She replied, "Oh, yes, guard. We're fine. Was I doing something wrong?" The garda said, "Well sister, you were travelling way under the speed limit and I was concerned that you might be having car trouble or something." "But guard", the nun interrupted, "I saw a sign there that said 7, and I know I wasn't going any faster than that." Laughing, the garda said, "Sister, that was a motorway route marker, this is the M7, not the speed limit. The speed

limit signs have a kmh at the bottom." "Oh, I feel foolish!", replied the nun. "That's OK, but please try to be more careful." finished the garda. Then as he turned to say good-bye to the nuns in the back seat, he noticed for the first time that they were trembling violently and quite pale. "Sister, what is wrong with your friends? Can I escort you to a hospital?" "Oh, no, they're all right. We just turned off of the R445."

* * *

"I hope you didn't take it personally," said an embarrassed woman to a visiting preacher after a church service on a summer Sunday morning, "when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it rather disconcerting," the clergyman replied. "It wasn't out of any disrespect to you," insisted the church-goer. "Fred has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

* * *

An airliner was going through a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence, a young woman turned to a clergyman sitting next to her and, with a nervous laugh asked, "Reverend, you're a man of God, can't you do something about this storm?"

To which he replied, "Madam, I'm in sales, not management."

The doctor sat his patient down: "I have some good news and some bad news." The patient said, "Give me the good news." The doctor said, "They're going to name a disease after you."

* * *

I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was 'Always'

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A woman went to visit a fortune teller. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news. "There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt - prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken, the woman stares at the fortune teller's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked her question: "Will I get away with it?"

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Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time.

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A wizard is a person who can keep up with the neighbours and the monthly instalments, too.

Parish Diary

July

- 2nd Thursday.....Rathdowney Mothers' Union outing (*page 4*)
- 13th-17th Mon-Fri.....Summer Holiday Bible Club (*page 5*)
- 28th Tuesday.....Mountrath Mothers' Union outing (*page 4*)

August

- 19th Wednesday.....Closing date for September Newsletter

Items for the September 2015 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY August 19th AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, August 23rd .
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

Services & Readings

July 2015

First Sunday 5th	2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 Mark 6: 1-13	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 12th	2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 19th	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Psalm 89: 20-37 Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	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 26th	2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holiday Club Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

August 2015

First Sunday 2nd	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a Psalm 51: 1-13 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	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 8th/9th	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2 John 6: 35, 41-51	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 16th	1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	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 23rd	1 Kings 8: 1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 30th	Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Mountrath 10.30am Holy Communion and the Blessing of the Schoolbags				