

The Newsletter

November 2015

Rector:

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Farmerette Laura Grant of Clareen with her coach Denis Dooley. Laura gained third place in her class at the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska while fellow Seir Keiran parishioner John McBryde won the vintage class in which he competed

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The month of November has traditionally been a month of remembrance for Christians, a month when we have given thanks for all those who have lived good and Godly lives, but as well as looking back, we should also look forward: how shall we be remembered?

Taking the school assembly, I retold a story from childhood days.

When I was ten years old, a girl called Sarah, whom I thought to be the most beautiful in the world, was having a birthday party. This was to be a day of great excitement, for it was to be the best party ever. On the day on which the invitations were handed out, I was absent from school with asthma. "Never mind", I thought, "my invitation will be waiting for me." As the day drew close, I grew more worried. Our two teacher school had forty pupils. There were twenty in the classroom in which I sat, and everyone else had been invited. It wasn't talk of the party that worried me, it was the point when all the others went to the party that I was dreading. Sarah lived in a stone cottage directly opposite the gate of our village school. It would be impossible for the others not to notice that I was the only person not going.

At 3.45 on the appointed day, our teacher let us go from the class. I was very sad as I walked out through the door and across the playground to the school gate. Everyone else merrily crossed the road to Sarah's house; very sad and lonely, I turned right and walked home – the loneliest ten year old in the entire world.

Then do you know what happened?

Thirty years later, a new family moved into the house next door to my church in Dublin and they came to church.

"Where are you from?" I asked the man.

"From England", he said.

"Where in England?"

"Somerset", he said.

"Where in Somerset?" He named my home village.

"Where did you live in the village?"

"Opposite the school."

"You're Sarah's little brother", I said. He looked at me in amazement.

It is fifteen years since I met that man, forty-five years since that birthday party, but the memories remain. How shall we be remembered? Jesus gives clear instructions about how we should be remembered, in Saint Luke Chapter 14 Verse 12-14, he says, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

How shall we be remembered? As people who were friends only to our friends, or as people who will be rewarded by Jesus?



Church of Ireland News

Death of the Reverend Ann Wallace

The Reverend Ann Wallace of Abbeyleix died on 13th October after a period of declining health. Ann will be remembered with gratitude and affection by her family and by all who received her gentle and devout ministry. Ordained in 1995, Ann served as a non-stipendiary minister in Cashel and Ossory diocese and served as diocesan chaplain to the Mothers' Union. Ann's funeral took place in her home parish church, Saint Michael and All Angels in Abbeyleix, and was followed by burial in the adjoining churchyard.

Diocesan Synod

A resolution at the diocesan synod of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory prepared the way for changing the way ministry in our diocese is done. The future will see more ordained local ministers, who will not be paid a stipend, and fewer stipendiary clergy, who are scarce and who are a heavy financial burden upon small communities.

The resolution, proposed by the Rector was as follows: That this synod notes that returns from the parishes in April 2015 show a diocesan population of 9,149 and not the 19,300 drawn from the civil census and referred to at the time of last year's review of episcopal needs; considers that the financial burden of the present number of incumbencies is becoming unsustainable for a small Church of Ireland population and that the demographic trends within the diocese

suggest no likelihood of improvement in the situation; accordingly requests the bishop and diocesan council to investigate which churches or clusters of churches might be feasible locations for the deployment of some form of ordained local ministry and encourages the General Synod to give urgent consideration to advancing this matter; and further requests that the bishop and diocesan council report to the diocesan synod not later than 2017 their suggestions and proposals concerning the issues raised in this motion, so that ministry and mission, and not fundraising, are the focus of the life particularly of our smaller parishes.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Harvest Ball

Laois Church of Ireland Youth Council hold their annual Harvest Ball on Saturday, 21st November 2015 at the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise. Over 18's only. Dinner is at 8pm. Dancing is to the band "The Suite" followed by a DJ. Tickets cost €40 and they are on sale from any committee member

New Rector of Enniscorthy

The Revd Nicola Halford has been appointed rector of Enniscorthy & Monart Union of parishes in Ferns diocese. Ms Halford who has been curate in Wexford and Kilsoran Union of parishes since October 2012 succeeds the Archdeacon Chris Long who retired at the end of July.

Parish Notes

Saints Simon and Jude: One of the things planned in the summer was that there would be a monthly saint's day service in Mountrath. Our October saints come late in the month and are Simon and Jude whom we will remember at our Holy Communion service in Mountrath church on Wednesday, 28th October at 8 pm.

For all the saints: We hold our annual service of remembrance of loved ones on All Saints' Day, Sunday, 1st November at 7 pm in Mountrath Church. In the New Testament, the saints are not special or extraordinary people but are the holy ones, the ordinary members of the local churches. We are all called to be saints and as we remember our loved ones we remember those who have helped make us the people we are and for whom we are thankful to God. Everyone is welcome at this service, from within the parishes and beyond.

Bible Club: Our Bible Club got off to a slow start after the summer break, but there were nineteen young people at the first of the October meetings. We are very grateful to Mervyn Tomb of the Faith Mission in Durrow for his leadership and to the team of helpers who come along to each meeting. The Bible Club meets on Thursdays, 5th and 19th November. As usual, Mervyn will be leading the family service at Lacca on Sunday, 22nd November at 10.30 am.

Remembrance Sunday: Remembrance Sunday this year is on Sunday,

8th November. There will be acts of remembrance at Annatim and Mountrath churches and there will be poppies for sale at each of the churches in our group.

Remembrance Day: 11th November this year is a Wednesday and, as with last year, we are holding a service in Mountrath to which the whole community is invited. Forty-four men born or living in Mountrath fell in the Great War and for too long most of them were written out of history. Everyone, from all traditions or none, is welcome at our remembrance service in Saint Peter's Church at 8 pm. Do encourage friends and neighbours to join us. As the 2016 year of commemorations approaches, it is important that all Irish people are remembered with equal respect.

Local History Society: The Mountrath Local History Society meets in Mountrath Library on Thursday, 12th November, 6.15-7.15 pm. It would be good if a few more members of our own community were able to attend the meetings.

Fellowship Group: The Rector was surprised (and pleased!) when seventeen people came along to the first meeting of the fellowship group at Lacca. It wasn't too scary; Margaret Jestin had well-chosen three hymns; we used the Late Evening Office from the Book of Common Prayer; we shared thoughts about a passage from Saint Mark Chapter 8; and we had a time of open prayer. It was all very Church of

Ireland, despite the strange stories coming from some parts of our diocese that Lacca is no longer a Church of Ireland church!

Third Sunday Service: The winter series of four o'clock services on the third Sunday of the month began again on Sunday, 18th October when the preacher was Mr Sam Harper. We are grateful to Sam for conducting the service while the rector was on duty at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The four o'clock service this month will be on Sunday, 15th November.

Group Service: With the confirmation taking place in Annatrim in June and the blessing of the schoolbags taking place in Mountrath at the end of August, our group services may be out of sequence. It is planned that the group service on 29th November will be in Borris-in-Ossory at 10.30 am. There will be an early Communion service in Mountrath at 9 am.

Saint Andrew's Day: The rector is going to Rwanda for a week on Tuesday, 1st December. He would value the presence of a goodly number at the Holy Communion for Saint Andrew's Day in Mountrath at 8 pm on Monday, 30th November. Andrew is the patron saint of mission work and remembering him seems an appropriate way of preparing for the trip.

A volunteer, please: After twenty-five years or more of putting up the Christmas tree in Mountrath church (since Graham was a boy), Aileen Peavoy would like to retire from the responsibility. We are very grateful to Aileen, and to her young assistant, for all the Christmases at which they have provided the tree and would welcome a volunteer to take Aileen's place. The

decorations are stored in the church and it is a matter of procuring a tree, putting it up and decorating it and then taking it down after Christmas. Please talk to the rector or one of the churchwardens if you would be happy to take on the duty.

Leprosy Mission boxes should be returned to Olga Telford by December 5th so that the money can reach the charity before Christmas.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

Mountrath Mothers' Union branch held their opening service of the new season in Saint Peter's Church on Monday, 12th October, when the Rector reflected on the Gospel reading for the week and what it had to say to Mothers' Union members. On Wednesday, 14th October, the office holders from the branch joined with those from Abbeyleix and Rathdowney at the home of Vivienne Black for a training evening.

Branch members are invited to support the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, filling boxes that will be sent to Eastern Europe or to Africa. A leaflet giving details of what should be put into the boxes (and what should not) is available from Jean Treacy or Mabel Peavoy. Boxes need to be ready by Tuesday, 10th November.

The Mothers' Union Diocesan Council meets at the Faith Mission Centre at Durrow on Tuesday, 17th November for its autumn gathering.

The branch is holding a night out to which all members and spouses are invited (along with anyone else would like to come) at Mountrath Golf Club on Friday, 20th November. Please advise Mabel or Jean by Sunday, 15th November, if you would like to come.

Mothers' Union across Ireland are holding a vigil against gender-

based violence on Saturday, 28th November. Mountrath members are invited to go to Saint Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny. The vigil takes place from three o'clock to five o'clock and there will be a break for tea.

Laois Federation I.C.A. Choir will be in St Peter's Church Mountrath on Sunday December 6th at 3pm. This concert is in aid of Parish Funds, so your support will be appreciated. Refreshments will be served. More details next month.

Mountrath Amalgamated CEP Ltd Community employment scheme has been granted additional places for 3 Environmental workers and 1 Admin Assistant. Anyone interested in applying for these positions can contact Martina Jordan at the DSP for further information

Martina's contact details are as follows: Telephone (057) 86-32900 e-mail: martina.jordan@welfare.ie

Understanding and Minding Your Mental Health

With GROW ...
Community Mental Health Movement in Ireland

4 week course starting Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm
Venue: St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath

- Week 1: Wednesday 4th November: Understanding your Mental Health / What Threatens your Mental Health
- Week 2: Wednesday 11th November : Resilience

- Week 3: Wednesday 18th November: Managing Stress and Anxiety
- Week 4: Wednesday 25th November: How GROW Works

This 4 week course aims to develop thinking and understanding around the subject of mental health in general. It looks at the importance of maintaining one's own mental health and well-being and steps to take if we have concerns. It also aims to create an environment where people are more open and positive in their attitudes towards mental health and more willing to talk openly about the subject.

The course is FREE and all are welcome.

Phone: 086 8033126
or Email: midlandregion@grow
For more information about GROW in Ireland: www.grow.ie info@grow.ie
1890-474-474

"GROW's mission is to nurture mental health, personal growth, prevention and full recovery from all kinds of mental illness"



Smiles

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving each year on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a holiday that comes with its own humour.

* * *

Eddie in Dallas calls his son in New York just before Thanksgiving and tells him, 'I am sorry to tell you but your mother and I are divorcing. I just cannot take any more of her moaning. We can't stand the sight of each other anymore.' I am telling you first, Eddie, because you are the eldest, please tell your sister.

When Eddie calls his sister Julie, she says: 'No way are they getting divorced, I will go over and see them for Thanksgiving.' Julie phones her parents and tells them both 'You must NOT get divorced. Promise you won't do anything until I get over there. I'm calling Eddie, and we'll both be there with you tomorrow. Until then, don't take any action, please listen to me', and hangs up.

The father puts down the phone and turns to his wife and says. 'Good news' he says, 'Eddie and Julie are coming for Thanksgiving and they are both paying their own way.'

Martha had a parrot called Brutus, the only problem was that Brutus cussed something awful. Now Martha was having her in-laws over for Thanksgiving, and so she needed to train Brutus quickly not to swear.

Just before her Mother-in-law was due Brutus cussed terribly, so Martha but him in the freezer for two minutes to literally cool off. Then she opened the door and took out the parrot along with the turkey. 'And have you learned your lesson about cussing?' Martha asked the parrot.

Brutus the parrot took one look at the dead turkey and said: 'I sure have. But I have one I have a question, "What did the turkey do?"'

* * *

Asked to write a composition entitled, 'What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving,' one student wrote, 'I am thankful that I'm not a turkey.'

* * *

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

The stock boy answered, 'No ma'am, they're dead.'

Items for the December 2015 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY November 18th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, November 22nd.

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

November 2015						
First Sunday 1th	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21: 1-6 John 11: 32-44	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.30am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion 7.00pm A Remembrance of Loved Ones
Second Sunday 8th	Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9: 24-28 Mark 12: 38-44	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance
Third Sunday 15th	1 Samuel 1: 4-20 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10: 11-14, 15-18, 19-25 Mark 13: 1-8	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 Service of the Word
Fourth Sunday 22nd	2 Samuel 23: 1-7 Psalm 132: 1-12 Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday 29th	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion		Borris-in-Ossory 10.30am Group Service		

Parish Diary

October

28th Wednesday.....Saints Simon & Jude Communion Service (*page 4*)

November

1st Sunday.....Service of Remembrance of Loved Ones (*page 4*)

5th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)

11th Wednesday.....Remembrance Day Service (*page 4*)

12th Thursday.....Mountrath Local History Society (*page 4*)

17th Tuesday.....Mothers' Union Diocesan Council (*page 5*)

18th Wednesday.....Closing date for December Newsletter

19th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)

20th Friday.....Mothers' Union Night Out (*page 5*)

21st Thursday.....LCIYC Harvest Ball (*page 3*)

28th Saturday.....Mothers' Union Vigil (*page 6*)

30th Monday.....St. Andrew's Day Service (*page 5*)

December

6th Sunday.....ICA Choir Concert (*page 6*)