

The Newsletter

April 2016

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



Proclamation Day at Clonenagh National School

As there are people in 2016 who remember 1966, so there will be people in 2066 who remember 2016: what will be the future we hand on to our children?

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

I grew up listening to the pop music station BBC Radio 1. One of its best-known presenters in the 1970s was Simon Bates who presented a mid-morning programme each weekday. The programme used to include an item called "Our Tune". Simon Bates used to read people's personal stories, sometimes happy, sometimes poignant, sometimes tearful, and at the end of the story the person would request a particular record, a tune that evoked for them the memories of particular moments. Being hopelessly sentimental in those days, I could be in tears by the end of the story! Many of my friends at home still remember "Our Tune," some still remember some of the stories.

When we think about how a single tune can have the power to bring to people all sorts of thoughts and memories and emotions, perhaps we should ask ourselves why the church has not been nearly so good at capturing people's imagination. The story we have to tell has lots of tunes and is the story about a most amazing, charismatic and life-changing man. We should be far better than any pop music song when it comes to pulling on people's heartstrings. We have a true hero, a hero who fights injustice, a hero who frees those who are trapped, a hero who leaves no life untouched amongst those whom he meets. We have a hero who faces opposition, persecution, violence and finally

death. He is left in a grave and then, in a blinding flash on a Sunday morning he walks out triumphant. If we can't capture people's imagination with that story, then how will we do so?

We have been given a story to tell that should draw on every single emotion of those who hear it. But instead of simply telling that story, instead of telling of the empty grave and the Risen Jesus meeting with his friends, the Church of Ireland seems to have put the organisation in front of Jesus. When we talk to people we know about what the "church" means, most will talk about the organization, parishes, dioceses and all that stuff; none of which has anything to do with the story of what happened on that Sunday morning in Jerusalem.

It's as though we had been given a record to play, and instead of listening to the tune, we instead concerned ourselves with what the record looked like and how the record player worked. It is the tune that evokes the emotions and the memories, not the machinery. We need to retell the story of Jesus as it is, free of all that has become attached to it, and allow the story the power to touch people's hearts.



Church of Ireland News

Archbishops of Armagh reflect on Saint Patrick

On the eve of Saint Patrick's Day 2016, Archbishop Richard Clarke and Archbishop Eamon Martin spent an hour in conversation with BBC presenter Tara Mills to discuss what Saint Patrick meant to the two Archbishops.

Archbishop Richard shared his belief that God does not 'do labels' or segregate people. And he believed that Saint Patrick was not into labelling people either. During Lent, Archbishop Richard had been reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "The Cost of Discipleship" again which distinguishes between 'cheap Grace' and 'costly Grace'. If Christian discipleship is to mean anything it will cost us and be dangerous and difficult. Saint Patrick personified how being a disciple costs – through the many sufferings he endured and preserved through, in his ministry and particularly as he extended the witness of the Christian church in Ireland.

Archbishop Eamon spoke of how Saint Patrick is remembered particularly by all the places and people who are named after him. Each year at this time Archbishop Eamon reads St Patrick's "Confession" and his "Letter to Coroticus" which are the two main pieces of writing we have that give us an insight into Patrick's character. When he thinks of Saint Patrick – two words come to mind – Mercy and Mission. God's call to be merciful to others as he has been merciful to us. Mercy then leads to mission. In his mission, Patrick went to the people on the margins, on the edge, and he challenges us not just to go to those we might be comfortable with or close to.

Brussels attacks

The Archbishop of Dublin expressed the sympathy of our church members to all who were affected by the terrorist attacks on 22nd March.

"As the horrific events in Brussels unfold we hold those who have lost loved ones and those who have been injured and traumatised in these terror attacks in our prayers.

"I wish to express my sorrow and solidarity with the people of Belgium at this time and with all who have suffered and all who mourn the death of those dear to them. I wish also to express concern for members of the emergency services who experience horror and trauma as part of their commitment to service in their work.

"Brussels, as we all know, is home to people from all over the world and many Irish people will know the city well and identify with its citizens as they come to terms with what is happening there today.

"As we travel through Holy Week towards Easter and the Resurrection, a time of sorrow and suffering followed by a time of hope, let us pray that there can be an end to such terror attacks and hope for a future in which peace and security will prevail over violence and destruction and the loss of human life."

Parish Notes

Ecumenical Service: We were very pleased to welcome Mr George Cunningham as our speaker to mark Saint Ciaran's Day at Seir Kieran in March. As part of the 58th Roscrea Conference, which is being organised by George, and which takes place at Mount Saint Joseph's from 1st-3rd April, there will be a visit to the monastic site at Seir Kieran on Saturday, 2nd April at 2.15 pm. The visit will include an ecumenical service in Seir Kieran church, led by Bishop Michael Burrows. Anyone from the parish who is interested may go along for the guided tour of the site around the church and attend the service.

Confirmation classes: Our confirmation preparation began in March and continues on Tuesdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th April, 6.30-7.30 pm. We have seven candidates for the service in Mountrath at 4 pm on Sunday, 22nd May – five are pupils at Clonenagh National School while two attend Rathdowney. Please remember them, and all who are preparing for confirmation in your prayers.

Offerlane Easter Vestry: Offerlane Parish (Annatrim and Lacca churches) will hold its annual general vestry meeting in Annatrim church on Tuesday, 5th April at 8 pm.

Mountrath Men's Shed: After a false start last year, we seem to be making progress in establishing a Men's Shed in Mountrath. It will meet in the former girls' school on the Limerick Road and has been considering what it will include in its regular activities. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 5th April at 9 pm. It would be good to see more participation by members of the Church of Ireland community.

Borris-in-Ossory-Seir Kieran Vestry: The annual general vestry of our scattered parish takes place on Wednesday, 6th April at 8 pm in Borris-in-Ossory church.

Clonenagh Easter Vestry: Our general vestry season concludes with the meeting for Clonenagh Parish (Mountrath and Roskelton churches) in the parochial hall in Mountrath on Wednesday, 13th April at 8 pm.

Fellowship group: Our fellowship group continues to meet in Lacca on the second Thursday of each month at 8 pm. We use the Late Evening Office from the Prayer Book, sing three hymns and spend time discussing a passage of Scripture and joining in a time of open prayer, finishing up around 9.15 pm. We usually number around ten to twelve people and should anyone wish to join us from beyond the parish, they would be very welcome.

Mothers' Union: The Mothers' Union diocesan council meets in Gorey on Tuesday, 5th April, beginning with a service of Holy Communion at 3.30 pm. Our branch will be attending an area meeting in Abbeyleix on Wednesday, 20th April at 8 pm. It is an international night when branches in the area are invited to give a presentation on the country they were allocated.

The Mothers' Union **diocesan tour** this year is to Kenmare from 2nd-6th May. Please contact Phyllis Foot for details, 057 873 9627.

Special synod: The diocese is holding a special synod on Saturday, 23rd April to discuss the new diocesan financial scheme, which will hopefully lift some of the burden currently being borne by parishes like our own. We have

been blessed that all three of our parishes, Clonenagh, Offerlane and Borris-in-Ossory-Seir Kieran have been able to pay their assessments, but the current situation cannot continue.

Easter Rising Commemoration: The commemoration of the Easter Rising in Mountrath had been planned for Sunday, 24th April, the actual centenary of the Rising, but has been postponed until Sunday, 29th May when a commemorative stone will be unveiled.

Mervyn's ministry: The Thursday Bible Club in Mountrath has now finished until the autumn, but Mervyn Tomb will continue to take the family service at Lacca on the fourth Sunday of each month at 10.30 am

Saint Mark's Day: As part of our spiritual discipline in Mountrath, we try to observe a saint's day every month with Holy Communion in Saint Peter's Church. The month of April does not provide us with many choices; we shall celebrate Saint Mark's Day, which is Monday, 25th April, with Holy Communion at 8 pm.

Congratulations: We wish the Revd Tim Irvine, vicar of Kilkenny, well on his appointment as Rector of Mountmellick parish. The Revd Tim is known to many of us in our parishes, having preached at harvest time and having helped when

the Rector has been on duty in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The institution service in Mountmellick is on Thursday, 9th June and we pray for him as he prepares to come to be our neighbour.

Debating: Well done to Naomi Senior, from Mountrath Parish, and her team from St Paul's National School, Mountmellick on their success in the Co Laois schools debating competition. In their opposition to the motion that the world could feed nine billion people, the team pointed to the impact on the climate of the world that would be caused by trying to feed so many people. In the society in which we live, the ability to debate issues is becoming an increasingly important skill for Christians. .

Please remember **Census night** is 24th April, Census enumerators are in the area, for Security they will all have i.d with them. Confidentiality is guaranteed . So make your mark on Census night.

Welcome to Brian and Heather Frarey who have come to live in Borris-in-Ossory. We hope they will be very happy amongst us.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising **Golf Classic** on May 20th in Mountrath Golf Club is now open for sponsorship of a hole and team entries. More details next month.



Participants in the South Offaly ploughing match on 28th February in Rath, Birr

Aware Lifeskills

There is excellent evidence that CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) works for the treatment of anxiety and mild to moderate depression. It focuses on how the way we think is linked to the way we behave and explores if “how we are thinking” is helpful or not, and if there is sufficient evidence to support our thoughts in the first place. It questions if we have over time mistaken our “thoughts” for fact.

Aware is the national charity which provides support around depression and they are offering a CBT based Life Skills Programme to help people deal with life’s challenges, in several counties in Ireland including Laois. This programme has been developed by Dr. Chris Williams who is a Professor of Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at the University of Glasgow and is a recognised expert in the area of CBT. Details are as follows:

Life Skills Group Programme Information

The Aware Life Skills Group programme is a free educational programme offered to adults aged 18 and over. The programme contains six modules. Each module takes 90 minutes, one evening a week from 7.30pm – 9pm, over six weeks. The reason the programme takes place over six weeks is to give participants time to reflect on the key learning point each week and time to practice the ‘new ways of thinking’ to challenge negative thought patterns and constant worrying.

The Life Skills programme is not individual therapy: it is a group programme which allows participants to learn some of the principles of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and apply

them to their own life. The programme instructors are trained to encourage healthy boundaries of privacy among participants.

Applying for the programme

Life Skills Group programmes commencing on dates between April 12th and April 15th 2016 are now open for registration. There are approximately 25 places available on each programme. The Laois venue is the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise and the programme dates are: Thursday 14th, 21st, 28th April and Thursday 5th, 12th, and 19th May from 7.30pm-9pm.

Programmes are available in counties; Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Sligo, Waterford Westmeath and Wexford.

To apply for the programme log on to <http://www.aware.ie/life-skills-group-programme>

The programme is free however a refundable booking fee of €20 is in place in order to minimise the number of people applying for a place which they do not later take up and to ensure that people who really want to do the Life Skills programme actually have the opportunity to do so.

Please note that if you are a student, unemployed, an OAP or hold a medical card you do not have to pay the refundable booking fee. In this case please select the ‘exempt’ ticket option.

Emily Dunne
Counselling & Psychotherapy
B.A., M.A., A.P.C.P.



May Hatters Dance

All are invited to our social event for **Clonagh Badminton Club** in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on Saturday 7th May 2016. Commencing at 10:00pm to 2:00am. Doors open at 9:00pm. Finger food served on the night, late bar extension.

Tickets are €15.00 per head, please contact Wendy Carry (087-1787245). Live 5-piece band Fiesta will provide very lively and good music. Followed by DJ Tim Chambers, where he and the band will rock the floor out of it for us all to dance the night away. We would love your support and a good night's entertainment is assured.

Affordable accommodation packages available in the hotel, please contact Wendy or Abbeyleix Manor Hotel (057-8730111) for details.

All are welcome, come and join us to have the craic!!!

Services & Readings

April						
First Sunday 3rd	<i>Acts 5: 27-32</i> <i>Psalms 118: 14-29</i> <i>Revelation 1: 4-8</i> <i>John 20: 19-31</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
Second Sunday 10th	<i>Acts 9: 1-6</i> <i>Psalms 30</i> <i>Revelation 5: 11-14</i> <i>John 21: 1-19</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 17th	<i>Acts 9: 36-43</i> <i>Psalms 23</i> <i>Revelation 7: 9-17</i> <i>John 10: 22-30</i>	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 24th	<i>Acts 11: 1-18</i> <i>Psalms 148</i> <i>Revelation 21: 1-6</i> <i>John 13: 31-35</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary

April

- 2nd Saturday.....Ecumenical Service at Seir Kieran (*page 4*)
 5th Tuesday.....Mothers' Union Diocesan Council meeting (*page 4*)
 5th Tuesday.....Offerlane Easter Vestry (*page 4*)
 5th Tuesday.....Mountrath Men's Shed meeting (*page 4*)
 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th...Confirmation Classes (*page 4*)
 6th Wednesday.....Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran Easter Vestry (*page 4*)
 13th Wednesday.....Clonagh Easter Vestry (*page 4*)
 14th Thursday.....Fellowship Meeting (*page 4*)
 20th Wednesday.....Mothers' Union Area meeting (*page 4*)
20th Wednesday.....Closing date for May Newsletter
 23rd Saturday.....Special Synod (*page 5*)
 24th Sunday.....Census Night (*page 5*)
 25th Monday.....St. Mark's Day Service (*page 5*)

May

- 2nd-6th.....Mothers' Union diocesan tour (*page 5*)
 20th Friday.....Clonagh Parish Fundraising Golf Classic (*page 5*)
 29th Sunday.....Mountrath Easter Rising Commemoration (*page 5*)

Items for the May 2016 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY April 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the fourth Sunday, April 24th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and most importantly, please ensure that names are spelled correctly.

Ideally, items should be submitted by e-mail to- newsletter@clonagh.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.clonagh.com