

# The Newsletter

June 2016

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*The work on replacing the rotten window frames in Mountrath church takes place in the coming weeks. It cannot come too soon, another winter storm could have broken the remaining windows.*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# Rector's Letter

I went to look for the Bergins. Private Jeremiah Bergin was born in Mountrath and enlisted at Castletown. He was a member of the Second Battalion of the Leinster Regiment and was killed in action on 20th October 1914. Private Patrick Bergin was born in Mountrath and enlisted at Portlaoise, which was then called Maryborough. No age is given for Jeremiah, Patrick was just nineteen years old when he died. Neither of them have a grave, not enough of them remained to identify them, instead their names appear on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Flanders. Engraved in the stone, their names simply appear as, "J.Bergin," and "P.Bergin," it is not much of a recognition of lives of two brave young men.

Does it matter? If 2016 has taught us anything, it is a lesson in the power of remembrance. Events of the past shape the present in which we now live, teach us about what matters in the world in which we now live. If men from our community had died in the GPO, there would have been much attention paid to the fact, there would have been numerous commemoration events, but who still remembers two boys who died in the fields of Flanders? They had joined up because they were told they would be fighting for Catholic Belgium, that they would be fighting for the rights of small nations, that they would be fighting for the honour and freedom of Ireland, but they were forgotten.

Scripture teaches us that every person is of infinite worth, that there is no person who does not count, but look at our recalling of the past, and ask if everyone has been treated with equal dignity. Where are Jeremiah and Patrick Bergin commemorated apart from the seven engraved letters of their initial and surname on a monument in Belgium that few of us have ever visited?

The aspiration of the 1916 Proclamation was that all the children of Ireland would be cherished equally, this must surely mean that their memories are also cherished equally? If there is ever to be reconciliation with Northern Ireland it will only come when there is an acknowledgement of the legitimacy and the dignity of all the traditions on the island. It does not mean that we have to share the views of the other person, just that we respect their right to hold them. If we cannot do this, then our future will be as divided as our past. If Jeremiah and Patrick Bergin are not worthy of the respect and dignity accorded to other men who died for their country, then reconciliation remains very far away.



# Church of Ireland News

## Value For Learning Rather Than Value For Money – Small Schools Study Launched At Synod

A report on research into the communities, cultures, benefits and challenges of small primary schools in the Republic of Ireland was launched at General Synod on Friday May 13. The Small Schools: Value for Learning report by Anne Lodge and David Tuohy was launched by former president of the INTO and teaching principal of a three teacher primary school, Sean McMahon.

The study aims to address the gaps in understandings of small Irish primary schools. It provides specific insights into the culture of small schools from a range of perspectives including principals, teachers, members of boards of management, patrons, children and parents.

Launching the report, Mr McMahon spoke about what he described as the 'assault' on small schools and the value that small schools bring to their communities. "As a nation, post Celtic Tiger, we have become obsessed with the view that bigger is better and that is to the detriment of schools along our western seaboard and it is to the detriment of schools of minority faith groups," he stated.

## Wide-Ranging Debate On The Report On Commission Of Episcopal Ministry And Structures

The Report of the Commission of Episcopal Ministry and Structures was presented to General Synod on 13th May. Proposing the report, Eithne Harkness said that the commission had concerns about the role of bishops. "We have concerns about whether our Bishops today are pushed into functions and activities that take them away from the functions in the Ordinal. That is teachers and pastoral oversight. Last year, the Commission asked every diocese and central Church body to consider the expectations they place on Bishops, transferring jobs from Bishops to other people. Let's all try to do more to release our Bishops to do more 'bishopsing'," she said.

On the matter of diocesan boundaries, Mrs Harkness said that the commission published a booklet of guidelines at General Synod 2015 containing maps of where those guidelines might lead. "Last year, Synod approved our thinking and asked us to bring proposals forward this year. We consulted and invited feedback. In some places that was forthcoming and we felt warmly welcomed. In other places there was not full engagement. We met some apathy, some complacency and some nimby-ism and some church politics. We are convinced that there is an appetite for change but wonder if there is an appetite to change," she stated.

# Parish Notes

## From the registers

**Marriage:** Thursday, 28th April 2016 at Offerlane Parish Church, Annatrim, Lorraine Cooper of Danesfort, Coolrain and Joe Phelan of Derrykearn, Abbeyleix.

**Condolences:** We extend our condolences and prayers to our lay reader and organist Mabel Peavoy on the death of her brother Bert in Roscrea on 29th April.

**Mountrath Church windows:** We finally received approval to proceed with the replacement of nineteen windows in Saint Peter's Church in Mountrath and, under the guidance of Mr Brian Grubb, the conservation architect who is supervising the work, the select vestry has received tenders and appointed a contractor. We hope the first of the replacement windows will be installed by mid-June. We still have some way to go to have all the funds we require to pay for the work, but are confident the target will be reached.

**Fellowship Group:** Our Fellowship Group at Lacca continues to meet on the second Thursday evening of each month at Lacca church. The June meeting will be on Thursday, 9th June at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome at the meetings.

**Mountmellick Institution:** The Revd Tim Irvine, currently vicar of Kilkenny, comes to Mountmellick as rector on Saint Columba's Day, Thursday, 9th June at 8 pm. Many of us will be familiar with the Revd Tim through his ministry, particularly in Roskelton and Bor-

ris-in-Ossory, where he took services on a number of occasions, and we are asked to remember him in our prayers.

**Saint Barnabas' Day:** As part of our spiritual discipline, we try to keep one of the saints' days each month in Mountrath church. In June, there is a double clash of dates on Saint Columba's Day, there is a wedding on Saint John's Day, and there is the school end of year service on Saint Peter's Day, therefore we shall observe Saint Barnabas' Day, 11th June, and because it is a Saturday, we shall have the service at 10.30 am instead of 8 pm. When we look at the discipline among our Roman Catholic neighbours, many of whom attend Mass every day, we realize how relaxed we are in our church life, something that is not necessarily a good thing.

**GFS Service:** On the day of the GFS service, Sunday 24th April, we were very pleased to welcome descendants of James Armstrong Meredith of Athy and Mary Elizabeth Bates of The Lodge, Mountrath, who were married in Saint Peter's Church in Easter Week 1916. The twenty visitors, together with the GFS members and their families, brought our total congregation up to 108, as compared to the usual number of 25-30 for Mountrath. There were doubts about the wisdom of having services at both Annatrim and Lacca at the same time as the service in Mountrath, but, as it turned out, there were still 27 people in Annatrim and 35 in Lacca. It was an altogether encouraging day, both for the GFS and for the Rector!

**School end of year:** Clonenagh National School holds its end of year service in Mountrath church on Wednesday, 29th June at 7 pm. It is always a special moment for the members of Sixth Class who are leaving the school and it is hoped that there will be good support from the wider parish.

**Special synod:** The special diocesan synod on 23rd April was both encouraging and discouraging. For our own parishes, there was the encouragement that our financial burden would not be so great, but for those of us who believe the church should be growing, it was disappointing to hear the pessimistic sentiments expressed. The state Census of 2011 showed the Church of Ireland population of our dioceses as 19,000. When we wanted to defend our diocese against changes, we quoted this figure. As soon as the threat of changes had passed, we went back to a figure of 9,000. It was good to hear the Revd Lester Scott encouraging us to go out and seek the 10,000 people who put down Church of Ireland on their census forms, but don't appear in our churches. The church is not a club to which people pay their subscriptions; it is God's Kingdom at work.

**Summer series:** Our seventh annual summer series takes place in Borris-in-Ossory church on Wednesday evenings in July and August. Our theme this year is "Songs from the Heart" and we shall be looking during the series at eight hymns which are close to the hearts of many.

**Thank you:** The Rector would like to thank Archdeacon Murray and Canon Harvey for their ministry during his absence at the beginning of May. He would also like to extend the thanks of our whole parish to Canon Harvey for his twenty-five years of ministry in Abbeyleix and Killermogh, he has been a good and faithful servant of God and a good and faithful neighbour to all of us.

**Welsh course:** The Rector will be attending a meeting of the Centre for Studies in Rural Ministry, which meets three times yearly at Hawarden in North Wales, from 7-10th June. He will have his phone with him as usual and calls to the Rectory will reach him there.

**Clonenagh School Summer Fete:** Sunday 12th June - From 1 pm. Great family day for children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends of Clonenagh. BBQ, cakes, tea/coffee, plant stall, bric a brac, raffles, giant games for the children and lots more. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

**Thank you** to everyone who attended the "**May Hatters Dance**" social event for Clonenagh Juvenile Badminton Club. The sponsors, ticket sellers and anyone who supported this social event in any way are all greatly appreciated. Special thanks to David Murphy & Veronica Farrelly from Leinster Badminton, Dublin for supporting this social event. Thanks too to Wendy Carry for organizing this. A fantastic night was had by all. Total made on the night was €1459.00, excluding expenses.



*Canon Ian with Maud and Bobby Harvey Camross on the occasion of Maud's 90th birthday in April*

## Smiles

There was a little old lady who was very spiritual who would step out on her porch every day, raise her arms to the sky and yell, "Praise the Lord" One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling, "Praise the Lord" from her porch, he would go outside on his porch and yelled back, "There is no Lord."

Yet, the little old lady continued. One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her hands up to the sky and said, "Help me Lord, I have no more money, it's cold, and I have no more food."

The next morning, she went outside, and there were bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. "Praise the Lord," she yelled.

The Atheist stepped out from the bushes and said, "There is no Lord, ha ha ha, I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, "Praise the Lord, you sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them!"

\* \* \*

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favourite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!

## Stress Management

A lecturer, when explaining stress management, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers ranged from 20g to 500g. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it."

If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem, if I hold it for an hour, I'll have a pain in my arm but if I hold it for a day, you may have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it the heavier it becomes.

And that is the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry it.

As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When you are rested you can carry on with the burden.

So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. Whatever the area of your life is that holds the burden, put it down for a while, take a break, share the burden, take up on an offer of help, but put it down for a while. You can pick it up again tomorrow.

## Ways Of Dealing With The Burdens Of Life

1. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days you are the statue.
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you

look good if you die in the middle of it.

4. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

6. If you lend someone €20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

8. Never buy a car you can't push.

9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because you won't have a leg to stand on.

10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

11. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

12. The second mouse gets the cheese.

13. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

14. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

15. You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

16. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

17. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

18. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

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

**Items for the July/August 2016 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY June 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the fourth Sunday, June 26th.**

**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@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						
<b>Fifth Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Kings 18: 20-39 Psalm 96 Galatians 1: 1-12 Luke 7: 1-10	<b>Mountrath</b> 9.00am Holy Communion		<b>Roskelton</b> 10.30am Group Service		
June						
<b>First Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Kings 17: 8-16, Psalm 146 Galatians 1: 11-24 Luke 7: 11-17	<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>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Lacca</b> 8.00pm Fellowship Service				
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Mountrath</b> 10.30am Holy Communion for Saint Barnabas' Day				
<b>Second Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Kings 21: 1-10, 11-14, 15-21a Psalm 5: 1-8 Galatians 2: 15-21 Luke 7: 36 - 8: 3	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>Third Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Kings 19: 1-4, 5-7, 8-15a Psalms 42 Galatians 3: 23-29 Luke 8: 26-39	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Service of the Word	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Fourth Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20 Galatians 5: 1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am <b>NO SERVICE</b>	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion	

# Parish Diary

## May

- 29th Sunday.....GFS Annual Festival Service  
 29th Sunday.....Mountrath Easter Rising Commemoration  
 31st Tuesday.....Holy Communion of the Feast of the Visitation

## June

- 9th Thursday.....Fellowship Meeting (*page 4*)  
 9th Thursday.....Mountmellick Institution (*page 4*)  
 11th Saturday.....St. Barnabas' Day Service (*page 4*)  
 12th Sunday.....Clononagh N.S. Summer Fete (*page 5*)  
**22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for July/August Newsletter**  
 29th Wednesday.....Clononagh N.S. End-of-Year Service (*page 5*)