

The Newsletter

July/August 2016

Rector:

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The 1916-2016 Commemorative Peace Garden in Mountrath, dedicated on Sunday, 29th May 2016. Thank you to everyone who participated in the organisation of the day and in the ceremony itself.

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

Camping holidays or lives possessed? It seems an odd question, I'll explain.

Recently in church, we read the story from Saint Luke Chapter 8 of the man possessed by a demon that called itself "Legion." When reading that story, there is a temptation to think, "That was interesting, but it has nothing to do with me." But if we look again at the story, we see that the spirit that possesses the man is destroying the man's life, Saint Luke Chapter 8 Verse 27 tells us, "For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs." The spirit does not want to let go of the man, we read in Verses 28-29, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man."

If it all seems a long time ago in a country far away, perhaps we need to ask what spirits there are that might possess people's lives today, what things there are that destroy lives, what things there are that won't let go. The various addictions are the most obvious things possessing lives, whether they be addictions to substances or to stuff on the Internet, they destroy lives and are hard to escape. In Jesus' time, addictions that are common now were unknown, but he still encounters lives possessed by destructive spirits. The thing Jesus warns most strongly against is being taken over by Mammon, he gives stern warnings in Saint Matthew Chapter 6 and Saint Luke Chapter 16 that we have to choose between living our

lives for God and living our lives for money and material things, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Mammon has become the spirit that controls the lives of many people, and like many spirits it is destructive and hard to escape. We can be so concerned with money and material things that we lose the important things. We can assume that we must have money, and more and more of it, to be secure, to be happy; and we can find that chances of happiness have passed us by.

Some of my favourite memories from childhood days were going camping with my family. We stayed on a campsite where the toilets and the water taps were in the next field; we spent the days on the beach; we went for walks; we played games; maybe we would go for a drive to another seaside village in the evening; we fell asleep as soon as we got into our sleeping bags. We didn't have any money to spend.

The summer can be an opportunity for doing things which bring us happiness, which leave us happy memories, let's not be so concerned with mammon that we miss our chances. The evil spirit was destroying the life of that man; let's not let the spirit of mammon destroy our lives.



Church of Ireland News

New Discussion Paper on Rural Isolation

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland have published a discussion paper on rural isolation to inform members of the Church as they consider issues. The Commission commends the paper for study and discussion in parishes across the island. The rural isolation paper outlines some of the factors contributing to increasing levels of isolation in rural Ireland, which may be experienced by couples and families as well as individuals. It also includes links to advice and resources on improving mental health and reducing financial stress. The paper can be found online at: <http://tinyurl.com/jsl9xuo>

New Centre in Dublin Port Offers Seafarers a Home Away From Home

Dublin Port's new Seafarers' Centre was officially opened in June. The beautiful new centre is on the site of the old Odium's mill at the port and from it the Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris offer an invaluable ministry to seafarers from all over the world.

The €500,000 state-of-the-art centre will cater for the 7,500 seafarers and sailors that arrive into the Port every year. Facilities include free Wi-Fi access for sailors to contact family and loved ones while ashore, cooking and dining facilities and a relaxation and recreation space including a pool table, library and TV den with beanbags. There is also a chaplain available on request, they give out free Bibles and woolly hats are given out in winter.

Statement from the Archbishop of Dublin Following Orlando Attack

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, issued the following statement following the horrific attack on a nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

“Outrage and incredulity combine as we in Ireland, like the rest of the world, try to take in the enormity and the evil of the horrific events in Orlando, Florida. These events, targeting a specific section of the community, have, once again, brought terror and hatred to the forefront in a place where people have been among friends and living their lives. As people come to terms with the attack on Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, we hold all those who have lost their loved ones and all who have been injured and traumatised by the mass shooting in our prayers. We remember victims, friends and family members at this time of devastation. We echo the statements which say that this had nothing to do with religion. These events are becoming all too common. It is for this reason that we hold before God each individual who has suffered and each individual who has died as a special person and as a child of God's creation. Right across the faiths of the world we long and pray for a time when there will be an end to such attacks and an end to the needless and senseless loss of human life.”

Parish Notes

From the registers

Baptism: Rachel Jean Treacy of Loran, Pike of Rushall at Annatrim Church on Sunday, 12th June 2016 .

Confirmation: 2016: James Bennett, Amelia Clegg, Corinna Hayes, Amy Jestin, Jason Lalor, Lydia Senior and Ava Shirley, by Bishop Michael Burrows at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Sunday, 22nd May.

Marriage: Linda McKay of Shannon Road, Mountrath and William Carter of Stradbally at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Friday, 24th June 2016,.

Funeral: Annie Julia (Nancy) Fagan of Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea (formerly of Grangemore, Borris-in-Ossory) at Saint Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory on Wednesday, 15th June 2016. Born in 1933, Nancy was a child when the Second World War began and her family were evacuated from Rotherhithe in east London, an area which suffered severely during the Blitz and from the V1 flying bombs. The contrast between Rotherhithe and West Kingsdown in Kent was great and gave Nancy an abiding love for the peace and beauty of country places. Growing up the daughter of parents who were shopkeepers, Nancy came to know farming life through her marriage to her husband John who brought Nancy back to his native Ireland, farming first in Co Waterford and then at Borris-in-Ossory. Country life in the rural Midlands was very different from life in Rotherhithe, Nancy devoted herself to being a wife and a mother to Ann, Tony and Neil, as well as playing an active part in the life of the community, where the Irish Countrywomen's Association had a special place in her

heart. Living beside Ann and her husband Eric in recent times, Nancy's granddaughter Gillian was a special companion to her. Alzheimer's disease brought Nancy into a nursing care for the final part of her life, receiving excellent care at Villa Marie Nursing Home. Nancy's funeral service was followed by interment at the new cemetery in Borris-in-Ossory.

Golf Classic Thanks: We extend our thanks to everyone who supported our golf classic for Mountrath church windows on Friday, 20th May. Despite it being a damp and chilly day, we raised over €6,000 towards the work. Special thanks, as always, to Mabel Peavoy and the team of organisers.

New windows: The first of the new windows was installed in Mountrath church on Monday, 20th June. Everyone has commented on how well it looks. It is very pleasing that the long wait has been worthwhile and we look forward to the completion of the work.

Summer series: Our seventh annual summer Borris-in-Ossory sermon series takes place on eight Wednesday evenings in July and August. "Songs from the Heart" is the theme of our series this year; we shall look at eight hymns that have a special meaning for people. Bishop Michael is joining us for the opening service on Wednesday, 6th July at 8 pm. Our series is as follows:

6th July – Abide with me
13th July – Amazing grace
20th July – Be still, my soul
27th July – How great thou art
3rd August – Nearer, my God, to thee
10th August – Thine be the Glory
17th August – What a friend we have in Jesus
24th August – When I survey the wondrous Cross

Fellowship Group: Our Fellowship Group at Lacca continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month. The summer meetings are on Thursday, 14th July and Thursday, 11th August at 8 pm.

Saint Mary Magdalene: We remember one of the first people to meet Jesus after he rose from the dead with Holy Communion for Saint Mary Magdalene's Day in Mountrath church on Friday, 22nd July at 8 pm.

Mothers' Union Outing: Members of our Mothers' Union branch, together with friends, are invited to join with members of Rathdowney branch and friends for their annual outing on Wednesday, 6th July. The group will be visiting Johnstown Garden Centre for morning coffee and then on to Castletown House, Celbridge for a guided tour of the house and home via Liffey Valley Shopping Centre and Lawlor's of Naas, for an evening meal. The cost of the bus and entrance into Castletown House will be approximately €24, depending on the number travelling. The cost of morning coffee, lunch and the evening meal is not included in the price. The bus will leave The Square in Rathdowney at 8.30 am. Please contact Olive Thompson, 087 903 1222, or Gillian Alley, 0505 46149/086 169 9201, by 1st July if you would like to join the group. The €24 cost should be paid to Olive or Gillian by 3rd July.

Summer Camps: A number of young people from our parishes will be attending the residential summer camps at the Faith Mission Centre in Durrow during July and August run by Mervyn Tomb and his team of volunteers during July and August. We remember our young people, together with the Centre and all their team members, in our prayers.

Family Service: The family service at Lacca led by Mervyn takes place on Sunday, 24th July at 10.30 am.

Group Service: 31st July is a fifth Sunday of the month. There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath at 9 am and a group service in Annatrim at 10.30 am.

Transfiguration: Adhering to our discipline of observing a saint's or holy day each month in Mountrath, we shall remember the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ on the eve of the day, Friday, 5th August at 8 pm.

Eve of Tullamore Show: Tullamore show takes place on Sunday, 14th August. Our service at Seir Kieran that would normally take place that morning will instead be on Saturday, 13th August at 7 pm.

Durrow Convention: The Faith Mission hold their Midlands Convention at Durrow from Friday, 19th August until Sunday, 21st August. The meetings are on Friday at 8 pm, on Saturday at 11 am, 4.00 pm and 7.30 pm, and on Sunday at 4 pm (a Family Service) and at 7.30 pm. The main speaker is Paul Mallard from Widcombe Baptist Church in Bath, England. Everyone is welcome at the convention.

Ordination: Kilkenny Parish welcomes a new curate when the Revd David Compton is ordained as a priest in Saint Canice's Cathedral on Saturday, 27th August at 4 pm. The Revd David was an executive with a number of companies in the United States before becoming a bestselling American novelist. He will bring very distinctive gifts to our diocese and we pray for him and his family as he begins a new chapter in his story.

Blessing of the School Bags: On the last Sunday in August last year we had a service for the blessing of the school bags in preparation for the new school year. It seemed to be appreciated by everyone who attended, so we are going to try it again this year on Sunday, 28th August at 10.30 am in Mountrath church. All young people from all schools, along with school staff, will be welcome at the service. Like last year we will have tags, with a prayer for blessing on the school year, for young to tie to their school bags. There will be just two services that morning, Seir Kieran at 9 am and the Blessing of the Schoolbags in Saint Peter's Church at 10.30. Please bring your school bag.

Abbeyleix Fete: The annual garden fete at Abbeyleix Rectory takes place as usual on August Bank Holiday Monday at 2 pm. Do go along and support Canon Harvey and his people for what is always a very enjoyable occasion.

Borris-in-Ossory parishioners were saddened to hear of the death of Billy Garrett on 13th June. Billy spent all his youth and teenage years in the parish and following the death of his parents William and Frances, presented an organ to St. Mark's Church in their memory.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee: Thank you to Mabel Peavoy and all who helped organise 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 to date we raised €6,156 towards the fund. Thank you to all who participated, who donated raffle prizes, and who sponsored holes. We look forward to your support next year.

Parish Diary

July

6th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 6th Wednesday.....Mothers' Union outing (*page 5*)
 13th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 14th Thursday.....Fellowship Group (*page 4*)
 20th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 22nd Friday.....Holy Communion for St. Magdalene's Day (*page 5*)
 27th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)

August

1st Monday.....Abbeyleix Parish Fete (*page 6*)
 3rd Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 5th Friday.....Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ Service (*page 5*)
 10th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 11th Thursday.....Fellowship Group (*page 4*)
 13th Saturday.....Rescheduled Seir Kieran Communion Service (*page 5*)
 17th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)
 19th-21st, Fri-Sun.....Faith Mission Midlands Convention (*page 6*)
24th Wednesday.....Closing date for September Newsletter
 24th Wednesday.....Summer Series (*page 4/5*)

Have you lost a loved one to suicide?

Suicide has ended the life of a person you loved dearly. It is possible to experience grief in many different ways and every individual's loss will be unique to them. There is no time limit or logical order in the way people go through emotions and reactions to loss and grief but some of the typical ones may include:

Shock
Disbelief
Why?
If Only
Blame
Exhaustion
Loneliness
Despair
Confusion
Numbness
Anxiety
Grief
Anquish



The Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service (Midlands) is a local service available to individuals/families and persons who have been bereaved by suicide. Anyone affected by suicide is welcome to make contact with the Liaison Person either for support or to learn about what services may be available to them in the Midlands. The support can be provided hours, days, weeks or years after the loss.

Getting in Touch

The Suicide Bereavement Liaison Person can be contacted by telephone or can meet directly with a bereaved person on a one-to-one/group basis in a mutually agreed location as appropriate, i.e. family home etc. The Liaison Person can answer specific questions you may have about some of the difficult practical issues following a death by suicide. You may want support, guidance or assistance in helping with communicating with the Gardai or Coroners, etc., accessing a therapeutic service or even just to talk about what has happened. In some cases, there may be a specific concern about the reactions and emotions individuals and families are experiencing. In all cases your call will be welcomed.



Contact: Bernie on: 086 418 0088
Email: midlandsblis@gmail.com

The Wheel Of Life

How balanced is your life? Balance is personal and unique to the individual – what may be balance for some may be stressful or boring for others. Fill in the following template to see how balanced your wheel is or is it a bumpy ride?

You can change categories to add something that is missing or re-label an area into something more meaningful for you.

Wheel completed- Now ask yourself these questions

Are there any surprises for you?

How do you feel about your life as you look at your wheel?

How do you currently spend time in these areas?

How would you like to spend time in these areas?

Which of these elements would you most like to improve?

How could you make space for these changes?

Can you effect the necessary changes on your own?

What help and cooperation from others might you need?

What would make that a score of 10?

Emily Dunne
Counselling & Psychotherapy
Dip, B.A, B.A (Hons), M.A, A.P.C.P.

Services & Readings

July						
First Sunday 3rd	<i>2 Kings 5: 1-14</i> <i>Psalms 30</i> <i>Galatians 6:7-16</i> <i>Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20</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>Amos 7: 7-17</i> <i>Psalms 82</i> <i>Colossians 1: 1-14</i> <i>Luke 10: 25-37</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 17th	<i>Amos 8: 1-12</i> <i>Psalms 52</i> <i>Colossians 1: 15-28</i> <i>Luke 10: 38-42</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>Hosea 1: 2-10</i> <i>Psalms 85</i> <i>Colossians 2: 6-15</i> <i>Luke 11: 1-13</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Fifth Sunday 31st	<i>Hosea 11: 1-11</i> <i>Psalms 107: 1-9, 43</i> <i>Colossians 3: 1-11</i> <i>Luke 12: 13-21</i>	Mountrath 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 10.30am Group Service		

August						
First Sunday 7th	<i>Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20</i> <i>Psalms 50: 1-8, 23-24</i> <i>Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16</i> <i>Luke 12: 32-40</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 14th	<i>Isaiah 5: 1-7</i> <i>Psalms 80: 1-2, 9-20</i> <i>Hebrews 11: 29 - 12: 2</i> <i>Luke 12: 49-56</i>	Saturday 13th Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 21st	<i>Jeremiah 1: 4-10</i> <i>Psalms 71: 1-6</i> <i>Hebrews 12: 18-29</i> <i>Luke 13: 10-17</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 28th	<i>Jeremiah 2: 4-13</i> <i>Psalms 81: 1, 10-16</i> <i>Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16</i> <i>Luke 14: 1, 7-14</i>	Seir Kieran 9.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 10.30am Blessing of the Schoolbags		

Items for the September 2016 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY August 24th AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the fourth Sunday, August 28th.

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