

# The Newsletter

September 2016

**Rector:**

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*Bill Dann of Shanboe blowing out the candles of his 98th birthday cake*

## **Clonenagh Group of Parishes**

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

# Rector's Letter

When training for ministry thirty years ago, there was no part of the course that taught us about planning for the future; the church had come through generations without much change and it was assumed that things would continue as they had been for years to come. It was our task to keep things going, to keep an eye on things and deal with any problems that might arise. In 1986, when I was ordained, no-one could have imagined the Ireland that we now have. One of the things we must now do is to think about the future, make plans as to how God's work is going to continue.

Planning for the future is not some idea from the modern world, it is what Jesus tells his followers they must do in Saint Luke Chapter 14. He tells them they must be as sensible as a builder constructing a tower or a king facing a war. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace."

In our own parishes, we need to look at what is working and what is not working. We need to look at how often and at what times we have services. We need to look at what things we might do to strengthen our churches as communities that people will want to join, as places where people will wish to come to worship: this is not some modern, trendy idea, this is the way Jesus expects his followers to think.

We need even to think about ministry in our parishes, do we need to have ministers who are not clergy being paid stipends? If you don't think changes are happening, just look at the diocesan magazine and how many parishes are now part-time posts and how many more are going in that direction. Like the builder and the king in Jesus' teaching, we need to sit down and think.

PS. For the first time since I came here, I am using up all of my annual holiday this year, going home to England and then to France and returning on 24th September. The Revd Tim Irvine in Mountmellick has agreed to take emergency calls, Phone 057 862 4143



# Church of Ireland News

## **Church of Ireland College of Education**

Dr Anne Looney has been appointed as head of Dublin City University's new Faculty of Education. The new faculty is the result of the incorporation into the university of three formerly independent colleges of education: the Catholic St Patrick's and Mater Dei teacher training colleges, and the Church of Ireland College of Education. Dr Looney is currently CEO of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. She is also currently the Acting Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority. Dr Looney is a graduate of Mater Dei, where she trained as a religion teacher. From September courses run previously by the three colleges will be delivered by DCU through its new faculty.

However, although the university will run what is essentially one primary teacher training course, a separate entry CAO entry route is being maintained exclusively for Protestant primary teaching applicants. The incorporation of the three colleges into DCU has been under way for the past several years but comes to full fruition this September when students of the former CICE join others mostly in Drumcondra, on the former St Patrick's College campus.

## **Meeting with the Old Catholic Churches**

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, co-chaired the Anglican–Old Catholic

International Co-ordinating Council in Ghent, Belgium at its gathering in August. The meeting was hosted by the Anglican Communion. Participants reflected on the nature and meaning of the communion between the Anglican and Old Catholic Churches, updated each other about developments within each of their communions, briefed each other about developments in ecumenical relationships, and considered how to develop concrete proposals for the common mission of the Anglican and Old Catholic Churches on the European continent.

## **New Rector for Carlow**

The Revd David White, who has been curate in Bandon Parish in Co Cork will be instituted as the new Rector of Carlow on Sunday, 28th August.

## **August Diocesan Magazine**

The August edition of the diocesan magazine was a special edition. Usually, there is no magazine in August but because there was none published in March due to the sad death of the former editor, Mr Herbie Sharman, it was decided to produce a special issue for August which would carry a history of each of the churches in our diocese. It was a very worthwhile effort, leading, as it did, to the uncovering of much material unknown to most of us. (How many people knew the vestry in Seir Kieran was once dominated by Presbyterians?)

# Parish Notes

It has been a difficult summer in the life of our parishes, particularly with the burial of five members of our parishes in the space of eight days, and we extend our condolences to all who have lost loved ones in the past weeks, remembering especially those whose funeral services took place in our own churches.

## From the registers

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

Daniel Samuel Peavoy of Monagh, Coolrain at Annatrim Church on Saturday, 13th August 2016.

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

**Funerals: Sarah Cooper of Shanderry, Coolrain,** at Annatrim Church on Wednesday, 29th June 2016. Spending her early years on the home farm at Knocknagad, Sarah, together with her brother John and sister Violet, went to live in Bray after the death of their mother. The years in Bray were remembered with happiness, Sarah working as a telephonist at Britton's Cars in Rathmines after leaving school. Marriage to Billy Cooper brought Sarah back to Laois, where Sarah and Billy enjoyed many happy years raising their eleven children. Sarah was an enthusiastic participant in community life, active in the local ICA and as a committed member of Fine Gael. Sarah continued to take an interest in life on the farm at Shanderry, particularly in the horses, and was never more happy than when surrounded by family members, delighting especially in her great grandchildren. The final family occasion Sarah was able to attend was her granddaughter Lorraine's wedding in Annatrim on 28th April. Sa-

rah's declining health in recent years might have required nursing care, but the love of her daughters, Betty, Dinah and Pat, meant Sarah had the best of care without having to go to a residential home. Devout in her faith, Sarah had confidence that the frailty of this life was not the last word, but there was a new and infinitely greater life to come. After the funeral service at Annatrim, the burial took place in the adjoining churchyard.

**Alfred Oxley of Blossom Cottage, Dangan Roe, Castletown** at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Friday, 5th August 2016. Born at Clonenagh, Alf was educated at Clonenagh National School before going to Tinahely for a grocery apprenticeship. At 22 he went to work in Smith's in Mountmellick. Opportunities in Ireland were limited and Alf went to London in 1957, working at the Irish Harp pub in Hendon; at a grocery shop in Acton; and then as an area manager at Lyons Co-op in the North End Road. In 1960, he married Sheila Cole from Ballyfin and they returned to London before Alf went to work as a manager at the Chrysler factory in Coventry. The family grew with the arrival of Deborah in 1970. An accident in the 1980s meant Alf took early retirement, and in 1999, after forty-two years away, Alf and Sheila returned to Ireland. Alf was delighted to be back and enjoyed his retirement years: seeing members of his family, going away for breaks, keeping his garden in immaculate order. His failing health in recent years kept him in the house and he was always delighted to welcome visitors. A man of deep faith, receiving Holy Communion each month was an important part of his life. He was deeply grateful for the love he received from Sheila and Deborah and for the kindness of all who cared for him. After his funeral service in Mountrath, the burial took place at Saint John the Baptist churchyard, Ballyfin.

**Roger Hill of Church Street, Mountrath** at Lacca Church on Monday, 8th August 2016. The death of his father when Roger was just two years old meant life for the family would never be easy, but Roger would never to let hardship or difficulty dominate his life. Remembered by friends in schooldays as someone who always enjoyed laughter (and, sometimes, mischief), Roger was blessed with the capacity to always be cheerful in whatever the situation. A serious motor accident when he was in his twenties brought the death of a close friend and, naturally, remained a painful memory. He was pleased to find love and have a family. Roger had various jobs, but was always at his happiest when working with his animals on his land at Clonin, whatever he might earn would be reinvested in livestock or farm items. When he was diagnosed with cancer last year, he accepted the diagnosis and talked openly about the illness. Developing a brain tumour at the age of fifty-five might have been a cause of bitterness or resentment, but Roger approached his terminal condition with bravery and frankness. Not a churchgoer, Roger nevertheless had a faith of his own and would share regularly in Holy Communion at the house of a friend. Following his funeral service at Lacca, Roger's mortal remains were buried in Annatrim, where he wished to be close to his uncle Bob.

**Maud Harvey of Derrycarrow, Camross** at Lacca Church on Tuesday, 9th August 2016. Growing up on the family farm at Ballygeen, Maud was educated at the National School at Aghaboe and was always proud of having won a scholarship to the Preston School at Abbeyleix. Maud worked on the family farm until her marriage to her husband Bobby in 1955 when they bought a farm at Durrow, Maud milked the cows and kept the farm going while Bobby was working in Abbeyleix. In 1968, they bought the shop and farm at Camross, a business that was to be their daily life until it closed seven years ago. Although in her eighties by that time,

Maud still wondered if she had not retired early, missing the daily contact that the business had brought. An enthusiastic member of the local community, Maud retained an active interest in all that was going on and was always anxious to hear all the news of local events. Maud took particular pride in the musical successes of her grandsons, delighted to be able to often declare that she no idea in what corner of the world they might be. Devoted to Bobby, it would have been unthinkable for her to have been at home without him. Maud's deep faith gave her a fearless confidence in the future. After the funeral service at Lacca, Maud and Bobby were buried, as they had lived, side by side, in the graveyard at Aghaboe, close to the schoolhouse that had given her many happy memories.

**Bobby Harvey of Derrycarrow, Camross** at Lacca Church on Tuesday, 9th August 2016. Growing up on the family farm at Cromogue, Bobby attended the nearby National School at Clonard, (from where the schoolmaster's son still remembered the "Harvey boys" with affection eighty years later), and then the South School in Abbeyleix. Working in Telford's in Mountrath, Bobby moved to Durrow in 1955 when he married Maud and they bought a farm at Killamuck. Bobby cycled to work in Pratt's shop in Abbeyleix until they bought the business at Camross that was to be their daily life for more than forty years. A succession of break-ins was an important factor in the decision to close the shop, though Bobby never retired entirely, still stocking gas bottles and peat briquettes for members of the local community. Bobby was independent in thought and action: he would think deeply before offering well-chosen and apposite words on a subject; he valued the physical independence that came with being able to drive. He approached the Holy Communion service with great seriousness. Bobby's heart was always with Maud; when in Tullamore Hospital earlier in the year, he was anxious to be home to ensure all was

well, and even when very ill in Portlaoise Hospital, his first concern was always to ask about Maud. Bobby's burial beside Maud at Aghaboe, with the strains of the aisling "Táimse im'chodladh" filling the still air, was an ending for which he would have wished.

**Bertie Holmes of Tinnakill**, Camross at Annatrim Church on Saturday, 13th August 2016. Growing up on the family farm at Keatingstown, Co Kilkenny, where he attended the Model School and Saint Canice's Cathedral, Bertie was always a Kilkenny man at heart, and always a farmer. Working with horses when a boy and going out on a traction engine with the threshing machine, he had a comprehensive knowledge of farming history. Marrying Christobel from Kilmanagh in 1952, they came to live at Tinnakill, a journey that must have seemed a far remove in those years. Bertie brought with him an International tractor, in a time when tractors were a rare sight. Dairy and tillage farming kept him busy, that and going from farm to farm with his threshing set, Bertie was proud at having threshed corn in Waterford, Kilkenny and Laois. The farm work brought Bertie a deep sense of contentment, the passing of each season bringing a new set of tasks in which he engaged with enthusiasm. Badly injured in a farming accident, Bertie continued his work, nevertheless. He missed Bell when she died in 2005 after more than fifty years of marriage. His declining health in recent years took him to nursing care, where he was appreciative of all that was done for him and delighted, as he always had been, to be surrounded by the love of his family. A man to whom prayer came naturally, Bertie saw the end of life here as a harvest being brought home. Following the funeral service at Annatrim, the burial took place in the adjoining churchyard.

**Harvest services:** Our harvest services this year are as follows: Mountrath on Sunday, 25th September at 4 pm; Clonenagh National School at Saint Pe-

ter's Church on Wednesday 28th September at 7 pm; Roskelton on Sunday, 2nd October at 4 pm; Seir Kieran on Sunday, 2nd October at 7 pm; Annatrim on Sunday, 9th October at 11 am; Lacca on Sunday, 16th October at 4 pm; and, to complete the season, Borris-in-Ossory on Sunday 30th October at 10.30 am (a group service).

**Girls Friendly Society** girls have been very busy over past few months completing Bible Study, Handcrafts and Badge-work. Leaders and girls attended the Annual Service and Prizegiving in St Canice's Cathedral on 28th May.

Congratulations to all girls on receiving certs for their Bible Study and Handcraft entries, and well done to the following prize-winners:

**Bible Study**, Candidate (5-7yrs); Rebekah Clegg, 1st in Diocese and Highly Commended in All Ireland.

**Handcraft**, Junior Members (7-11yrs); Chloe Dunne, Joint 2nd in Diocese; Jessica Cooper, Luiza Kazakevica and Meaghan Lawlor, Joint 3rd in Diocese; Jane Lalor, Highly Commended in Diocese.

Members (11-15yrs); Ava Shirley, 1st in Diocese and 2nd in All Ireland; Siofra Marum, Joint 2nd in Diocese.

Thank you to parents and leaders for their help throughout the year and to Canon Ian for preparing girls for Bible Study and Helen Bradley for examining the Cookery badge. We ended our year in June with a walk through Lacca Wood followed by the presentation of Certificates and a Picnic.

**Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee** meeting will be held in the Parochial Hall on Monday September 19th at 8pm to finalise the Golf Classic, and to make plans for the Christmas fund raiser.

The **Mothers' Union** hold the opening service of their new year in Saint Peter's Church on Monday, 26th September at 8 pm.

Firstly, a little apology. My exert for the July/August Newsletter was too big and the template for the following couldn't be included. I am therefore re-running both the instructions and the template.

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

### 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?

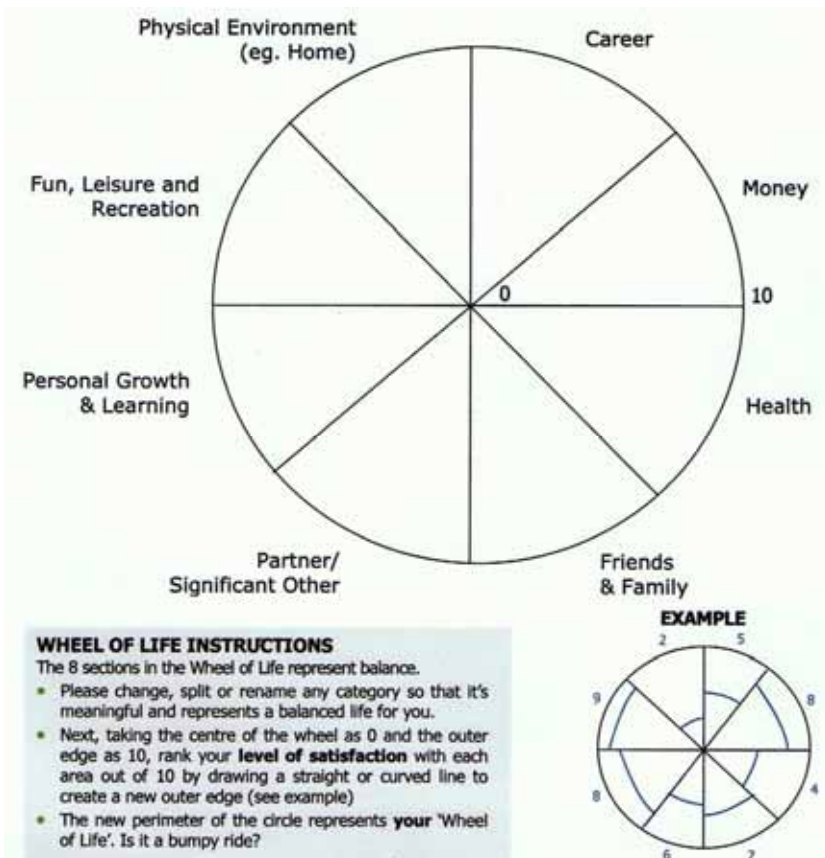
Which of these elements would you most like to improve?

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?



# Services & Readings

September						
<b>First Sunday</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Jeremiah 18: 1-11 Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14: 25-33	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer Mrs Yvonne Carter	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion Archdeacon Murray	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion Archdeacon Murray
<b>Second Sunday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Luke 15: 1-10	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer Mrs Mabel Peavoy	
<b>Third Sunday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Jeremiah 8: 18 - 9: 1 Psalm 79: 1-9 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Luke 16: 1-13	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion Rev Ian Coulter	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Service of the Word Mrs Caroline Botha	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion Rev Ian Coulter	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer Mr John Bailey
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 Luke 16: 19-31	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion The Rector	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Family Service Mr Mervyn Tomb	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion The Rector	<b>Mountrath</b> 4.00pm Harvest Communion The Rector	

# Parish Diary

## September

- 19th Monday.....Fundraising Committee meeting (page 6)  
**21st Wednesday.....Closing date for October Newsletter**  
 25th Sunday.....Mountrath Harvest Service (page 6)  
 26th Monday.....Mothers' Union Opening Service (page 6)  
 28th Wednesday.....Clonenagh National School Harvest Service (page 6)

## October

- 2nd Sunday.....Roskelton Harvest Service (page 6)  
 2nd Sunday.....Seir Kieran Harvest Service (page 6)  
 9th Sunday.....Annatrim Harvest Service (page 6)  
 16th Sunday.....Lacca Harvest Service (page 6)  
 30th Sunday.....Borris-in-Ossory Harvest Service (page 6)

**Items for the October 2016 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY September 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the fourth Sunday, September 25th.**

**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

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