

The Newsletter

April 2017

Rector:

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*Freddie Knowles of Clonin took this photo of the view
from his house on 22nd March*

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

Moving to be rector of a small country parish in Co Down in 1989, one of my first and most urgent tasks was to try to support a family threatened by the IRA. The woman's first husband had been a policeman who had been murdered by the IRA and her second husband, another policeman, realized his life was in danger when he was advised that a stranger had been seen photographing their house and car. It was a stark and immediate reminder of the daily reality of life for many people at the time.

There was hardly a family in that farming community of ninety Church of Ireland families that had not been touched by the Troubles, whatever claims the IRA made about their campaign being against "British rule," it was ordinary Protestant people who felt the brunt of it. Many of the people who suffered most during the Troubles were those who had also been disadvantaged by the decades of Unionist rule; in the city of Belfast, the lot of working class Protestants had been little better that of their Roman Catholic counterparts.

The news of the death of Martin McGuinness brought memories of visiting families whose loved ones were remembered in photographs on the sideboard, those whose attendance at church took them past the graves of those who had been shot or bombed. Yet I read a piece

by the Revd Trevor Morrow, a former moderator of the Presbyterian church, who recalled the McGuinness of recent times and how he had welcomed the opportunity to share in prayer. I recalled a recent interview with Ian Paisley Junior and how he spoke of how his father and Martin McGuinness had prayed together.

The Good Friday story tells us a story of forgiveness of the dying thief; it tells us the story of God's forgiveness of each one of us, the story of Jesus standing in our place so that we do not receive the punishment we deserve. A man in the North once said to me, "Ian, there are two sorts of people in the world: there are sinners saved by grace, and there are sinners." Of course, only God can judge us, but if the Revd Trevor Morrow and Dr Ian Paisley believed McGuinness to be a sinner searching for grace, then who are we to question?

Perhaps Martin McGuinness is a reminder to us that we all need God's grace, that we all need to turn from our own ways. The Good Friday story reminds us that death is not the end, that the way is opened to a life beyond this one - a life where our old divisions are forever set aside.

Happy Easter.



Church of Ireland News

Statement from the Archbishop of Dublin on the Death of Martin McGuinness

"I wish to express my sympathy on the death of Martin McGuinness to all members of his family and to those who hold him dear. I do so in recognition of his contribution to peace and to reconciliation as an integral part of the process of politics. Over a sustained period he committed himself in partnership with others to building a platform of peace in a broken world. Reconciliation changes individuals and it changes lives because at its heart it is transformative of inherited and accumulated caricatures and wrongdoings. It is one of the signs of the Kingdom of God in our midst. God calls all to work for the furtherance of the Kingdom regardless of our human frailty. I further wish to recognise the courage he showed in enduring a most debilitating illness in the last months and to pray for comfort for his wife and family at this time."

Fraudulent text message and email alert

A number of fraudulent text messages and emails are being circulated purporting to be from the Church of Ireland – which is also described by the sender as the 'Church of Ireland Charity Organization' and 'Ireland Church'. The message is followed up by an email which claims that the Church of

Ireland is awarding €200,000 in cash and a travel visa to Europe to random mobile phone numbers across 16 countries in West Africa.

This message and email is not from the Church of Ireland which does not allocate funding in this way and the email appears to be a fraudulent attempt to obtain personal and banking details and/or monies from the recipient. If you have received this message or email, please delete it.

Diocesan Synod

This year's synod for the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory will take place in the Woodford, domen Hotel in Carlow on Wednesday, 18th October.

Book of Common Prayer

A revised edition of the Book of Common Prayer will be going to press in 2018, and will include the various changes and additions that have been approved by meetings of the General Synod since 2005. It is intended that the page numbers will remain unchanged (as far as this is possible).

However, there is a need for copies at the present time and a short-term reprint is taking place. This will be a reprint of the basic pew edition. It is hoped to keep the euro price as it currently stands (around €20), depending on the number of copies printed. If you want a copy, please contact the rector.

Parish Notes

Mothers' Union: Our Mothers' Union branch holds its annual "Lady Day" service on Monday, 27th March at 8 pm in Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath.

Lent Services: Two of our series of six Lent services remain, in Lacca on Wednesday, 29th March we will look at salvation. Then the series concludes at Seir Kieran on Wednesday, 5th April at 8 pm. The theme this year has been "difficult words" and we finish, appropriately by looking at eternity.

Lacca Ladies' Dinner: The Lacca Ladies hold their annual dinner in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday, 31st March at 7.30 pm. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Moira Harvey.

4th Seed Youth Group: The Durrow Centre group for young people aged 11-13 continues on the second Saturday of the month, meeting from 7.30 until 9.30 pm. The group will meet on 8th April, 13th May and 10th June. Contact Mervyn, 057 874 0770 for further details.

Palm Sunday: Morning services on Palm Sunday, 9th April will be Holy Communion at Annatrim at 11.00 and Morning Prayer in Mountrath at 11.30.

Holy Week Series: Our Holy Week theme for 2017 is "Saint Matthew's Passion"; each evening through Holy Week we shall follow the story from the ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the burial of Jesus on Good Friday. Our services will be:
Palm Sunday, 7 pm Seir Kieran - Evening Prayer
Monday, 8 pm Roskelton – Compline

Tuesday, 8 pm Annatrim – Late Evening Office

Wednesday, 8 pm Borris in Ossory – Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday 8 pm Mountrath - Holy Communion

Good Friday: Our services on Good Friday begin at 10 am with the Stations of the Cross from The Hollow to Roskelton. At 2 pm we keep the Last Hour in Mountrath, a service of Bible reading, hymns and quietness. Attendance at this service is usually twenty or so, it provides an opportunity for silence in a world filled with noisiness. On Good Friday at 8pm we gather in Lacca for a dramatized reading of the Passion story from Saint Matthew's Gospel, along with all the old favourite hymns.

Easter Eve: Our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ begins at Annatrim on Easter Eve, Saturday, 15th April, at 8.30 pm, the time of the sunset which marks the beginning of a new day in the New Testament way of counting the days. We gather for the Easter Vigil, Holy Baptism and the First Communion of Easter Day. As part of our service each year we decorate a cross with flowers, acknowledging the new life for us that came through Jesus' death on the cross. Our Easter Eve services continue at 10.30 pm at Seir Kieran. As has been our practice in recent years, we shall light the Easter Fire on the monastic site where Saint Ciaran lit the Easter fire sixteen centuries ago.

Easter Day: Our Easter morning Holy Communion services on Sunday, 16th

April will be at 8.15 am at Borris-in-Ossory and then at 9.30 at Roskelton, 10.30 at Lacca and 11.30 at Mountrath.

Sunday, 23rd April: The Rector is canon-in-residence at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on the Sunday after Easter, so there will not be Holy Communion in Mountrath that Sunday. There will, however, be Holy Communion in Mountrath on Sunday, 2nd, Sunday, 16th, Sunday 30th, as well as on Palm Sunday and Saint Mark's Day, so there are opportunities to receive Holy Communion every week during the month of April.

Saint Mark's Day: We keep up our discipline of observing a saint's day each month in Mountrath with Holy Communion for Saint Mark's Day on Tuesday, 25th April at 8 pm

Easter Vestry Meetings: The Easter General Vestry meeting for Clonenagh Parish will be on Wednesday, 19th April at 8 pm; the Offerlane meeting is on Wednesday, 26th April and the Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran meeting is on Thursday, 27th April.

Fifth Sunday: Sunday, 30th April is a fifth Sunday of the month. There will be Holy Communion in Mountrath at 9 am and then at 3.30 pm in Roskelton Church it is our confirmation service. Worshippers at Roskelton believe this will be the first confirmation service ever to take place in the church.

Saint Ciaran's Day: We are grateful to the Revd Mairt Hanley our Saint Ciaran's Day preacher at Seir Kieran who talked to us about the spiritual life of our church in the early centuries. The Revd Mairt offered us insights into

a church which regarded sin as an illness that needed healing and suggested our church should be like a hospital for the soul.

Summer Camps: Mervyn Tomb invites young people to join him and his team for the Summer Camps at the purpose built centre in Durrow, Co. Laois. Mervyn says, "we are going to have a brilliant time, finding out more about the Bible, making new friends and enjoying some great activities, food and outings. Our accommodation will be in modern en-suite rooms, and the Durrow Centre also includes a wide variety of meeting and dining rooms, as well as sports and recreation facilities. Our camps commence on Monday morning and conclude on Friday evening. Each residential camp includes: age related activities & outings; tuck shop & camp bank; Relevant Bible teaching, singing; quizzes, sword drills & Bible verses. Camps are led by myself and Rachel along with other leaders. Our campers are expected to attend all our organised activities and meetings." By mid-March, one-third of the places were already booked, so early booking is essential. Booking forms for the camps, which begin on 28th July, are available at: <https://tinyurl.com/kro99qs>

Camross Community Alert would like to thank Offerlane Parish for their contribution of €217.50 at the Church Gate collection in February.

Clonenagh Parish Golf Classic will take place on Friday May 19th in Mountrath Golf Club. Entries are now open for teams and sponsorships. Contact Mabel Peavoy on 057-8732331.

Spring and hope are intertwined in the mind, body, and soul

Hope has been compared to light and heat. Karl Menninger called hope the "indispensable flame" of mental health. English writer Martin F. Tupper wrote, "though the breath of disappointment should chill the sanguine heart, speedily it glows again, warmed by the live embers of hope". Spring also brings added light and heat, sometimes so suddenly that we speak of a virtual "spring fever". The first day of spring marks the vernal equinox, a balance of daylight and darkness. With increased light come a host of direct and indirect effects that improve mood and engender hope. Most directly, increased serotonin is produced. Serotonin is a major excitatory neurotransmitter in the nervous system, and the target of many antidepressant drugs.

Hope has been touted as "the best medicine". Norman Cousins opined "the patient's hopes are the physician's secret weapon. They are the hidden ingredients in any prescription." While anecdotes outnumber rigorous empirical studies, there is enough evidence to suggest that a hopeful attitude has a real and measurable impact on health.

The healing potential of spring is undeniable, from effecting the remission of Seasonal Affective Disorder to the increased production of Vitamin D. Once ignored, Vitamin D has become a staple of annual physical exams and a critical

part of the healing regimen for cancer survivors. Vitamin D is involved in promoting bone health, proper cell differentiation, and boosting immunity.

Like spring, hope is a potent ally in sustaining health and recovering from illness. This is because hope is made collectively from the same bio-psychosocial "stuff" that investigators have separately associated with wellbeing (perceived control, social support, self-regulation, and spirituality). A survey of oncologists revealed that more than 90 percent cited hope as the primary psychological factor that impacts mortality.

Hope can also refer to a safe harbour or haven. In the Oxford English Dictionary, one of the earliest definitions of hope is that of "a protected island in the middle of a wasteland".

Spring calls us back to nature, fills our sails with warmer winds, soothes our weary bones, and lifts our spirits. Spring is full of psychic potential because it satisfies the four basic motives that underlie hope. Perhaps this is what prompted Bern Williams to offer one of most succinct reflections on hope and spring: "The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring."

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

Items for the May 2017 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY April 19th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, April 23rd.

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

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

Smiles

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took her mother a while before she realised that the hymn Maria had been singing was really, "Gladly, the Cross I'd bear."

* * *

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away. 'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied. 'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

* * *

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back

and was turned to salt.'

His son asked, 'What happened to the flea?'

* * *

A man who only came to church twice a year was coming out of church on Easter morning. The rector grabbed him by the hand, pulled him aside and said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Rector."

The rector questioned him, "How come I only see you at Christmas and Easter?"

The man whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

* * *

There was a farmer who came to church once a year, at Easter.

"Great to see you here today!" said the rector.

"Really?" said the farmer.

"It's always good to have you with us at Easter," said the rector.

The farmer scratched his head. "Well, maybe I'd come more often if you'd preach about something different

Parish Diary

March 27th Monday.....Mothers' Union Lady Day Service (*page 4*)
29th Wednesday.....Lent Service (*page 4*)
30th Thursday.....Confirmation Group (*page 4*)
31st Friday.....Lacca Ladies Dinner (*page 4*)

April 5th Wednesday.....Lent Service (*page 4*)
8th Saturday.....4th Seed Youth Group (*page 4*)
19th Wednesday.....Closing date for May 2017 Newsletter
19th Wednesday.....Clonenagh Easter General Vestry meeting (*page 5*)
25th Tuesday.....St. Mark's Day Service (*page 5*)
26th Wednesday.....Offerlane Easter General Vestry meeting (*page 5*)
27th Thursday.....Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran Easter General Vestry (*page 5*)
30th Sunday.....Confirmation Service

Services & Readings

April						
First Sunday 2nd	<i>Ezekiel: 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45</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
Palm Sunday 9th	<i>Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 21: 1-11</i>	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer		Seir Kieran 7.00pm Evening Prayer	
Monday in Holy Week 10th		Roskelton 8.00pm Compline				
Tuesday in Holy Week 11th		Annatrim 8.00pm Late Evening Office				
Wednesday in Holy Week 12th		Borris-in-Ossory 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Maundy Thursday 13th		Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				
Good Friday 14th		The Hollow to Roskelton 10.00am Stations Of The Cross	Mountrath 2.00pm The Last Hour		Lacca 8.00pm Readings and Hymns for Good Friday	
Easter Eve 15th		Annatrim 8.30pm Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter Day			Seir Kieran 10.30pm Lighting of the Easter Fire and Holy Communion	
Easter Day 16th	<i>Acts 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18</i>	Borris-in-Ossory 8.15am Holy Communion	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion		Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday 23rd	<i>Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Family Service		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Fifth Sunday 30th	<i>Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 The Psalm Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion			Roskelton 3.30pm Confirmation Service	