

# The Newsletter

June 2017

**Rector:**

*Canon Ian Poulton,  
Clonenagh Rectory,  
Portlaoise Road,  
Mountrath.*

*Phone: 057-8732146*

**Diocesan Reader:**

*Mabel Peavoy,  
Shannon Road,  
Mountrath.*

*Phone:057-8732331*



*Elizabeth Cooper and Emily Jackson flank Dinah Kingsley as Dinah makes the winning captain's speech at the Clonenagh Parish Golf Classic*

## **Clonenagh Group of Parishes**

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

# Rector's Letter

Being a fan of detective stories, I enjoy Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie's Miss Marple mystery "The Pale Horse" was opens with Jane Marple receiving a letter postmarked London W2, from Father Gorman, a parish priest in Paddington. When asked about her friendship with Father Gorman, Miss Marple remembers times when she had been an army nurse during the Great War and Father Gorman had been chaplain with the South Irish Horse.

The South Irish Horse was a real army regiment. One of their members was Second Lieutenant Martin Jestin, later of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who died at the Battle of Messines on 7th June 1917. Martin Jestin had enlisted in the South Irish Horse in 1914 and had risen through the ranks, being commissioned as an officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in February 1917. Martin Jestin was the uncle of our own Martin Jestin; the centenary of his death is this month.

Agatha Christie was meticulous in her research, particular in her eye for detail. Her use of the name of a real regiment would have found resonance with thousands of her readers; that she did not feel a need to use a fictional name is perhaps an indication of people's preparedness to recall the reality of the history through which they had lived. Miss Marple's memories of Father Gorman seem to prompt a deep reflection, perhaps the young priest had been the great love in her life. How many of Christie's

readers would have shared that sense of pain, that grief at the loss of the one person they loved?

Vera Brittain's book "Testament of Youth", in which the Great War claims those dearest to her, describes a world peopled by countless Jane Marples, yet it is not the stuff of dusty history books. The romances of the years leading to 1914, the brief loves of the war era, left hundreds of thousands of young women who would never marry. The men who died, the men whose lives were irretrievably changed by physical and sociological wounds, became a lost generation. Twenty years later, in 1939, it would all begin again, and another generation of Jane Marples would be left to ponder what might have been.

Our Europe of 2017 is a Europe that is still recovering from the Great Wars of the Twentieth Century, the shadows of those times still shape the politics of Europe as the shadows of 1916 still shape the politics of Ireland. The deaths of Martin Jestin, and all who fell in the Great War, are as relevant in 2017 as they were in 1917.

The Bible is the story of God's people remembering their history, as they learned from the telling and re-telling of that history, so may we learn from the telling and re-telling of the stories of our past.



# Church of Ireland News

## **GFS Members Return to their Roots to Celebrate 140 Years in Ireland**

Hundreds of past and present members and leaders of the Girls Friendly Society converged on Christ Church Bray on Sunday, 21st May to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the organisation in Ireland.

The church was filled for the service which was celebrated by the All Ireland Chaplain, the Revd Tanya Woods. The wonderful music was led by the Belturbet Praise Band and the preacher was the Revd Janice Aiton. GFS Patrons, the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin, were present and brought greetings to the service. They were joined by the Bishops of Derry and Raphoe, Kilmore and Limerick and Killaloe.

GFS All Ireland President, Sylvia Quinn, gave an appreciation of all the society stands for and thanked all who helped to organise the service.

Current members and leaders joined past presidents, past central secretaries, past office holders and leaders from all over Ireland. A huge number of diocesan and branch banners was processed into the church, including that of the Bray branch where GFS first began in Ireland.

During the service Sylvia Quinn was commissioned as senior delegate and Tamara McKenzie as junior delegate to the GFS World Council which takes place in Perth, Australia, in July.

For her interactive sermon the preacher drew on Luke 15:11–24, Luke 5:17–26 and Hebrews 13:8. She focused on making choices highlighting the good and bad choices made by the prodigal son. She looked at the welcoming, forgiving, caring and loving character of the father and said that Jesus had the same qualities adding that we can trust in him as he is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The first official meeting of the Girls Friendly Society was held in the Marine Hotel in Bray on February 22 1877. The Viscountess Powerscourt presided and also in attendance were Viscountess Monck, the Hon Mrs Greene, Mrs La Touche, the Revd JG Scott (Rector of Bray), and the Revd JA Cross (Hon Sec). They made plans to form GFS in Ireland. The Countess of Meath became the first Central President in 1878.

The society was founded in London in 1875 by an Irishwoman, Mrs Elizabeth Townsend, to provide support and skills training for girls who came from the country to work in the city. It is the oldest Church of Ireland organisation for girls and women.

# Parish Notes

From the registers . . .

## **Holy Baptism and Confirmation**

Sunday, 30th April 2017 at Saint Matthew's Church, Roskelton: Hector Allen of Doon; Matthew Allen of Doon; Aidan Goodson of Mount Salem

Sunday, 30th April 2017 at Saint Matthew's Church, Roskelton: Ross Handcock of Boherard; Jordan Lalor of Knocknagad; Robert Lalor of Longford.

**Sympathy:** We extend our sympathy to the Holmes Family of Tinnakill following the death of Rosemary's mother, May Reynolds, whose funeral took place in The Colliery Church, Castlecomer on Thursday, 18th May and to the Treacy Family of Loran following the death of Willie's brother-in-law, John Hall, whose funeral took place in Saint Catherine's Church, Tullamore on Saturday, 20th May.

**Mothers' Union Festival Service:** The diocesan festival service for the branches of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory takes place in Saint Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny on Wednesday, 31st August at 7.30 pm

**Mountrath Family Service:** To try to encourage more families along, during the summer there is a change of the service time in Mountrath on the first Sunday of the month from 11.30 am to 10.45 am. It is planned that we shall have a Communion service, using the form of service we have used at the Back to School service and that there will be a cup of tea in the hall afterwards. Beginning on Sunday, 4th June, we are going to try it for June, July and August to see how well it works.

**Seir Kieran Services:** Attendances at Seir Kieran are noticeably larger when services are held on Saturday evening rather than on Sunday mornings at 9.30 am. In order to try to cater for everyone, the services on the first and third Sundays will be at 9.30 am and those on the second and fourth

Sundays will be on the Saturday evening at 8 pm. (In Bible times, the day began at sunset, so the first day of the week began at sunset on Saturday).

**Western Front Tour:** The Rector is taking a group, including a number of parishioners, to the Somme and Flanders from 5th-8th June. Wednesday, 7th June marks the centenary of the Battle of Messines, where Irish soldiers from North and South stood shoulder to shoulder. The group's tour begins in France, at the Somme, and then moves to the Flanders region of Belgium. The Flanders itinerary includes a walk in the footsteps of Major Willie Redmond, brother of John Redmond the Irish Nationalist leader and a Member of Parliament himself, beginning at 4.10 am. Later that morning, we follow the final steps of Second Lieutenant Martin Jestin from Sentry Hill, Borris-in-Ossory who died that day, one hundred years ago and who has no known grave. The group will attend the official commemorations involving the governments of Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom at the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines. A very long 7th June will conclude with the deeply moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres at 8 pm – a ceremony that takes place every night of the year

**Fellowship Group:** Our Fellowship Group meets at the hall at Lacca on Thursday, 8th June at 8 pm. There will be a cup of tea after the meeting.

**National Schools' Service:** The annual diocesan services for our national schools take place on Friday, 9th June. Clonagh National School will be attending the service at Saint Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny where the theme will be "Great Leaders."

**Saint Columba's Day:** There will be Holy Communion to remember Columba, one of the great saints of the early Irish church, in Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Friday, 9th June at 8 pm.

**Third Sunday:** The service in Lacca on Sunday, 18th June will be at 10.30 am rather than at 4 pm in order to avoid clashing with the school fete.

**Clonenagh National School Fete:** The School Fete takes place on Sunday, 18th June at 2 pm in the school grounds. The fete is always a very happy occasion and represents a great deal of work by the Parents' Association. Do come along and support our school.

**Farm Remembrance Service:** Brian and Norma Rohan invite everyone to the annual Embrace Farm Remembrance Service on Sunday, 25th June at 2 pm at the Church of the Most Holy Rosary in Abbeyleix.

**Family Service:** The monthly family service in Lacca on Sunday, 25th June will be at 4 pm, instead of 10.30 am, and will be followed by a barbecue. Everyone is welcome.

**End of year service:** Clonenagh National School hold their service to mark the end of the school year and the departure of Sixth Class on Thursday, 29th June at 7 pm in Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath.

**Holiday Club:** Mervyn and his team are planning a holiday Bible Club at Lacca from Monday, 17th until Friday, 21st July. Full details will be circulated.

**A big thank you:** Our thanks to Mabel Peavoy and her team and all who ran such an excellent Golf Classic on 19th May. To date, €7,350 has been raised for the restoration appeal and we are very grateful to all the sponsors and the participants for their generosity.

**Alzheimer's Tea:** Lena Roe invites you to afternoon tea and a cake sale to support the work of Laois Alzheimer's Society on Saturday, 10th June from 2.30 pm. The tea is at Lena's house at Irej, Ballyfin. It will be signposted.

**Offerlane Parish Fundraising Dance:** All are invited to our Fundraising Dance for Offerlane Parish in the Manor Hotel Abbeyleix on Saturday 1st July. Doors open at 9pm, dancing from 10pm to 2am. Finger food will be served and there's a late bar extension.

Tickets are €20 per person, please contact Wendy Carry at 087-1787245.

Live 5-piece wedding band 'The Works' will provide good lively music, and will be followed by DJ Tim Chambers when he and the band will rock the floor out of it for us all to dance the night away.

A great night's entertainment is assured, and we would love for as many parishioners as possible to lend their support.

Affordable accommodation packages are available at the Manor Hotel, please contact Wendy or the hotel at 057-8730111.

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

**GFS:** Leaders and girls attended the Annual Diocesan Service and Prizegiving in St Canices Cathedral, Kilkenny on Sunday 14th May. Congratulations and Well Done to all the girls on receiving certificates for their Diocesan Handcraft and Bible Study Competition entries. Congratulations to all prizewinners: Eva Kadzeja; Caoimhe Carry and Ava Shore who received Highly Commended in 5-7yrs Bible Study

5-7yrs Caoimhe Carry Highly Commended for Handcraft entry

7-9yrs Ciara Peavoy 1st in Diocese and 2nd All Ireland; Leanne Shirley Joint 2nd in Diocese Handcraft entry

9-11yrs Jessica Cooper 1st in Diocese and Highly Commended in All Ireland for Handcraft; Naomi Senior Highly Commended for Handcraft

11-15 yrs Lydia Senior 3rd in Diocese for Handcraft

The Service in Bray on 21st May Celebrating 140years of GFS in Ireland was attended by some leaders and girls.

We conclude the year with our day trip on Saturday 10th June.

**Feeling stressed about the Junior Cert or Leaving Cert? What students and their parents can do to combat exam pressure:**

Students are besieged with constant reminders of the importance of exams on their life choices and the significance of good results. Pressure seems unavoidable and it's understandable some students and families are struggling to cope with the stress.

Everyone is walking on eggshells. Students try and focus their nervous energy on the upcoming exams, and the biggest battle for anxious parents can be holding back their own concerns about their teenagers, while being supportive.

Advice from experts suggests regular exercise, perhaps 30 minutes a day for students, is crucial for both body and mind, releasing endorphins. During exam time, use whatever stress reliever works best for you, whether playing an instrument or games console, listening to music or playing with a pet - for short downtime to help clear your mind.

**What worked for me and my daughter**

Simply walking together around the house and garden for a few minutes

Using the words you have learnt this, so it's in there in your head somewhere, it will come back to you on the day"

Me- making a big chart of the exams and her ticking each off as completed with a red marker.

At the end of each exam allow a short time for reflecting on, then agree it is over and in the past. Take all books and notes relating to this exam and put away out of sight. Allows space to focus on the coming exam and the pile of books/ notes will be reducing every day.

**Don't**

Be drawn into a row or start critiquing their study regime.

**Do**

Understand that this will possibly be the most stressful period in their life.

Bite your tongue and count to ten.

Recognise that nothing you say will appear to be right or helpful but by saying it anyway you are showing them you love them and want the best for them.

**Some funny student quotes to lighten the mood**

"I hate math test because all throughout the chapter it's like really easy and then you think you've got it and then the test is like:

If I throw a triangle out of a car and the car is going 20mph and wind resistance is a thing that exists, how many cupcakes can Pedro buy with one human soul?"

"That awkward moment when your 10 minute study break turns into 2 hours of Netflix, sleeping for the rest of the week, failing your exams, being disowned by your parents, and spending the rest of your life as a Mongolian goat farmer"

Mother: "How are the exams going?"

Student: "Ok, I think what's most important here is to remember that we all have our health"

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

The circle of a student's life



# Smiles

Father's Day this year falls on Sunday, 18th June.

Does your Dad speak with the voice of Reason or the voice of Doom? What fatherly sayings had the biggest influence on your life? Here are some fatherly sayings:

Don't ask me, ask your mother.

Were you raised in a barn? Close the door.

You didn't beat me. I let you win.

I'll play catch after I read the paper.

A little dirt never hurt anyone-just wipe it off.

You call that a haircut?

You call that noise "music"?

We're not lost. I'm just not sure where we are.

When I was your age, I treated MY father with respect.

As long as you live under my roof, you'll live by my rules.

I'll tell you why. Because I said so.

That's why.

Do what I say, not what I do.

You want something to do? I'll give you something to do.

You should visit more often. Your mother worries.

I'm not sleeping, I was watching that channel.

What do you think I am, a bank?

What part of NO don't you understand?

Didn't your teacher learn you anything?

The family was viewing old slides and one flashed on the screen that caught everyone's attention. My father, wearing his favourite golf shirt, was holding me at the tender age of three weeks. The look on his face told all. "There's my prize possession," my father said. Touched, I smiled at him as he continued, "I wonder whatever happened to that golf shirt?"

\* \* \*

Four students walked in halfway through the test my father was giving at the college. "Sorry," they said, "We had a flat tyre." An understanding man, dad said that if they could all answer just one question correctly, he would give them each an "A" for the exam. They agreed. So dad handed each one a piece of paper, placed them in four separate corners of the room and said, "Write down which tyre was flat."

\* \* \*

When my dad ran out of petrol, he called mam to pick him up in her car. They went to a petrol station, filled a can, and returned to his car. After a few minutes, he got into her car again. "We need to go back to the petrol station," he said. "One gallon wasn't enough?" mam asked. "It would have been if I'd put it in the right car."

**Items for the July 2017 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY June 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, June 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

This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from

[www.clonenagh.com](http://www.clonenagh.com)

# Services & Readings

June						
<b>First Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Acts 2: 1-21 26-36, 37b 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 John 20: 19-23</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 10.45am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lacca</b> 8.00pm Fellowship Service					
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mountrath</b> 8.00pm Holy Communion for Saint Columba's Day					
<b>Saturday/ Second Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Isaiah 40: 12 - 17, 27- 31 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-2</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 8.00pm Holy Communion	<b>Annatrim</b> Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion		<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>Third Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Genesis 18: 1-15 Psalm 100 Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<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>Saturday/ Fourth Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Genesis 21: 8-21 Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 8.00pm Evening Prayer	<b>Annatrim</b> Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Lacca</b> Sunday 4.00pm Family Service & Barbecue
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mountrath</b> 7.00pm Clonagh National School End of Year Service					

# Parish Diary

## June

- 5th-7th.....Western Front Tour (*page 4*)
- 8th Thursday.....Fellowship Group (*page 4*)
- 9th Friday.....St. Columba's Day Service (*page 4*)
- 9th Friday.....Annual Diocesan National Schools Service (*page 4*)
- 10th Saturday.....GFS Day Trip (*page 5*)
- 10th Saturday.....Alzheimer's Tea (*page 5*)
- 18th Sunday.....Third Sunday Series Service (*page 5*)
- 18th Sunday.....Clonagh National School Fete (*page 5*)
- 21st Wednesday.....Closing date for July 2017 Newsletter**
- 25th Sunday.....Monthly Family Service (*page 5*)
- 25th Sunday.....Farm Remembrance Service (*page 5*)
- 29th Thursday.....Clonagh National School End of Year Service (*page 5*)

## July

- 1st Saturday.....Offerlane Parish Fundraising Dance (*page 5*)
- 17th-21st Mon-Fri.....Holiday Bible Club (*page 5*)