

The Newsletter

July/August 2017

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External work complete!

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

The closing days of June were a difficult time in the North. Tensions within communities built up. Vulnerable people were intimidated by youths building bonfires. Policing, difficult at the best of times, became all but impossible. By the beginning of July, many people had left the Province, heading for Britain or the Continent, or crossing the border to Donegal or to go "down South." The 1st July marked the beginning of the busiest days of the "marching season," sectarian feelings would be heated, sometimes by the weather, more often by alcohol and inflammatory words.

For someone ordained in the Church of Ireland and reading the Gospel stories, it was hard to understand how the church simply accepted all that took place; and not only did it accept what was happening, it held church services for those who participated. There was a need to take seriously what was happening, to talk to the people who participated, to try to understand the causes of the confrontation and violence, but there was no inclination to do so. When the Church of Ireland finally responded to the problems of Drumcree, it spoke about the parades; it never seriously tried to understand why people would feel so insecure that they wanted to take part in those marches.

There has been a fear in our church of asking difficult questions, and it has not just been in the sphere of politics. At a widespread level, church attendances have been falling and parishes have been failing. (A recent profile of a suburban parish in the diocese of Down and Dromore showed Sunday attendance down to just 6% of the Church of Ireland population). The Church of Ireland has been loath to ask the awkward questions about the future, behaving like a child who pretends something will go away if no-one talks about it.

None of us would expect to succeed in farming, or in business, or in whatever work we were doing, if we didn't ask hard questions about what we were doing and why we were doing it. If we ask such questions in everyday life, then shouldn't we ask such questions in church life? Shouldn't we ask where our parishes might be in ten years' time? Shouldn't we ask if the ministry of the church might be done in a different way? Shouldn't we ask about the cost of full-time clergy? Shouldn't we ask about the ways we do our worship? Shouldn't we ask about how our church is organised?

Asking questions is not easy, but not to ask them creates situations that are even more difficult.



Church of Ireland News

World Refugee Day

Tuesday June 20th, was World Refugee Day. To mark the date Dublin City Interfaith Forum organised an Interfaith Service to remember, through prayers and readings, the migrants who have lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea. The service took place at the Famine Monument on Customs House Quay in Dublin, a place from which many Irish migrants left this country to find better lives.

Representatives of many of Dublin's faith communities took part in the service including Baha'i, Zen-Buddhist, Christian (including Indian Orthodox and Redeemed Christian Church), Hebrew, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh.

Leading the service, Colm Reilly of the Baha'i community, said it was startling to learn that there has never in the history of the world been so many refugees and displaced people on the move as we do today. He said that while there were no world wars taking place, wars, conflicts, famine and the effects of climate change were forcing people to flee their homes.

Mr Reilly said that nobody chose to leave their homes and their possessions, they were forced to do so. He added that the perception of people here was that those arriving on our shores were penniless. He said that while they had no money, they had many gifts and skills to bring to society.

"We remember our common brothers and sisters who are forced to leave their homes and that they test our humanity," he stated. "There are over 67 million people who are migrants today and they don't choose to be but they contribute to society where they are."

Sam Maguire Memorial

A truly unusual and historic community project is under way in Dunmanway, County Cork, based at the Church of Ireland parish church – Saint Mary's – and started by the local rector, the Reverend Cliff Jeffers.

Eight bells, to be known as 'The Sam Maguire Community Bells', are to be installed in the church in memory of one of the famous parishioners – Sam Maguire – whose name is given to the cup awarded each year to the winners of the All-Ireland Football Championship. Also known as 'Sam' or 'the Sam', the cup, modelled on the Ardagh Chalice, was first presented in 1928.

The bells, two of them brand new and inscribed with Sam Maguire's name, have now arrived at the church and, on Saturday, 17th June, at an Ecumenical Service, they were named and dedicated by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton.

In 2016, following centenary celebrations of the 1916 Rising, St. Mary's Church of Ireland began to look at ways to commemorate Sam Maguire; the legendary sportsman and patriot who is buried in the parish churchyard in Dunmanway. The rector, the Reverend Cliff Jeffers, explains, "Sam Maguire was laid to rest in St. Mary's churchyard 90 years ago, and after the centenary celebrations last year we realised that we had done little to remember him. We chose to install the Sam Maguire Community Bells as a way of remembering Sam Maguire, of telling his story. As the people of Dunmanway learn to ring these bells together we hope that it will strengthen our sense of community and working together for the good of the home town of Sam Maguire."

Parish Notes

From the registers . . .

Holy Baptism and Confirmation

Sunday, 4th June 2017 at Saint Matthew's Church, Roskelton, William Patrick O'Brien and Josephine Elizabeth O'Brien of Inis Atha, Mountrath.

End of year Service: Clonenagh National School hold their end of year service in Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath on Thursday, 29th June at 7 pm when we shall bid "goodbye" to the members of our Sixth Class. Everyone is welcome at the service.

Cottage Market: The second Cottage Market takes place in Mountrath on Saturday, 1st July at the Macra Hall. The first market was a great success with a big crowd of people, the home baking being entirely sold out in a matter of minutes. The success of the market is a tribute to the work of Lucy Conroy and her team, and to the encouragement from Mountrath Community Forum, led by Martin Meade, Geraldine Moore and Eddie Phelan, with, of course, the ever present Councillor Jamesie Kelly.

Mountrath Family Service: It was pleasing to welcome thirty-seven people to Mountrath church on a Sunday morning of a Bank Holiday weekend, for the first of our new series of family services on the first Sunday of the month. If our regular parishioners, who were away, had been present, we could have easily have had fifty or sixty in the congregation. There was a good crowd for tea afterwards and lots of offers to do the tea in the coming months. The July service is at 10.45 on Sunday, 2nd July and the August one on Sunday, 6th August.

Seir Kieran Services: Our services at Seir Kieran are at 9.30 am on the first and third Sundays of the month and at 8 pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Congregations had been down to six or seven and there were thirteen at the first 8 pm service.

Summer sermon series: Our summer series this year is "When the Church of Ireland has gone." The reality of our church is that it is in long-term decline. In our own diocese we have seen parishes where there were once full-time incumbents become places for part-time ministry, we have seen parishes merged, sooner or later, we shall probably reach the point where numbers in some places are so small that they can no longer maintain church buildings and they will need to close. Our Wednesday evening series in Borris-in-Ossory will look at how the disappearance of the church as we currently know it need not mean the disappearance of the church in our own places, that even if there were no General Synod, and no RCB, and no diocese, and no Rector; Jesus would still be alive and we could still be the church. It is a short and practical series over four Wednesday evenings: July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. We shall look at questions like worship, pastoral care, organisation, and mission: in times when the Church of Ireland has gone.

Fellowship Group: Our Fellowship Group meets at the hall at Lacca on Thursday, 13th July at 8 pm and on Thursday, 10th August. There will be a cup of tea after the meeting.

Third Sunday: The Four O'Clock service in July will be on Sunday, 16th July at 4pm and on Sunday, 20th August.

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.

Family Service: The monthly family service in Lacca on Sunday, 23rd July will be at 4 pm, instead of 10.30 am, and will be followed by a barbecue. Everyone is welcome.

Saint James' Day: We remember one of Jesus' closest friends with Holy Communion in Mountrath Church on Tuesday, 25th July at 8 pm

Blessing of the School Bags: On the last Sunday in August in the past two years we have had a service for the blessing of the school bags in preparation for the new school year. It seems to have been appreciated by everyone who has attended, so we are going to repeat it this year on Sunday, 27th 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.

A big thank you: Our thanks to Mabel Peavoy and her team and all who ran such an excellent Golf Classic on 19th May. €8,500 was raised for the restoration appeal and we are very grateful to all the sponsors and the participants for their generosity.

Rector away: The Rector is not going to France in September this year, but, instead, is going in August, home to his family in Somerset, where his father is unwell. Full details of who is covering for him will be announced.

Offerlane Fundraising Dance: The parish dance takes place at the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on Saturday, 1st July at 10 pm. Tickets €20, everyone welcome.



The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says 'Offerlane Parish' in a large, white, serif font. Below that, 'Fundraising Dance' is written in a white, sans-serif font inside a white rectangular box. The date 'Saturday, 1st July 2017' is in a yellow, cursive font. The venue 'Abbeyleix Manor Hotel' is in a white, sans-serif font. The live band 'THE WORKS' and DJ 'DJ TIM CHAMBERS' are listed in a smaller white font. The ticket price 'Tickets: €20' is in a large, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the contact information 'contact: WENDY CARRY' and the phone number '087 178 7245' are shown in a yellow font. The bottom of the poster features a photograph of a stone church building with a steeple, set against a blue sky with white clouds.

Protecting your mental health doesn't have to be very complicated or difficult. Cut out this poster and put it somewhere you can see it each day. Try a few of the tips and see what a difference it can make.

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

MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND

Building Resilience Together Campaign

Twelve Tips To Help Build & Strengthen Your Resilience

1. Have courage to be imperfect.
2. Take time for yourself.
3. Sign up for that course, join that club.
4. Be active everyday in as many ways as possible.
5. Spend time with people who make you feel good.
6. Laugh out loud each day.
7. Get your Zzzz's.
8. It's all about teamwork.
9. Remember, this too shall pass.
10. Talk out your troubles.
11. Give yourself some headspace.
12. Take time to focus on the good things.

 **Mental Health Ireland**
Supporting Positive Mental Health

 **ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH**
IN IRELAND

Parish Diary

June

29th Thursday.....Clonenagh National School
End of Year Service (page 4)

July

1st Saturday.....Mountrath Cottage Market (page 4)
1st Saturday.....Offerlane Parish Fundraising Dance (page 5)
2nd Sunday.....Mountrath Monthly Family Service (page 4)
5th Wednesday.....Summer Sermon Series (page 4)
12th Wednesday.....Summer Sermon Series (page 4)
13th Thursday.....Fellowship Group (page 4)
16th Sunday.....Third Sunday Series Service (page 5)
17th-21st Mon-Fri.....Holiday Bible Club (page 5)
19th Wednesday.....Summer Sermon Series (page 4)
23rd Sunday.....Lacca Monthly Family Service
& Barbecue (page 5)
25th Tuesday.....Saint James' Day Service (page 5)
26th Wednesday.....Summer Sermon Series (page 4)

August

6th Sunday.....Mountrath Monthly Family Service (page 4)
10th Thursday.....Fellowship Group (page 4)
20th Sunday.....Third Sunday Series Service (page 5)
23rd Wednesday.....Closing date for September 2017 Newsletter
27th Sunday.....Blessing of the School Bags Service (page 5)

Items for the September 2017 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY August 23rd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the **Fourth Sunday, August 27th**.

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

Services & Readings

June	
Thursday 29th	Mountrath 7.00pm Clonenagh National School End of Year Service

July						
First Sunday 2nd	<i>Genesis 21: 8-21 or Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Mountrath 10.45am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer
Saturday/ Second Sunday 8th/9th	<i>Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49 Psalm 45: 10-17 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 8.00pm Holy Communion	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 16th	<i>Genesis 25: 19-34 Psalm 119: 105-112 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-2</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Holy Communion
Saturday/ Fourth Sunday 23rd/24th	<i>Genesis 28: 10-19a Psalm 139: 1-11 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 8.00pm Evening Prayer	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion	Lacca Sunday 4.00pm Family Service
Fifth Sunday 30th	<i>Genesis 29: 15-28 Psalm 105: 1-11 Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion			Annatrim 10.30am Group Service	

August						
First Sunday 6th	<i>Genesis 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7, 16 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Mountrath 10.45am Family Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer
Saturday/ Second Sunday 12th/13th	<i>Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22 Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 8.00pm Holy Communion	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 20th	<i>Genesis 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Holy Communion
Saturday/ Fourth Sunday 26th/27th	<i>Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 8.00pm Evening Prayer			Mountrath Sunday 10.30am Blessing of the Schoolbags	