

The Newsletter

January 2019

Rector:

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Clonenagh National School Christmas Show in the Convent Hall

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

A NEW YEAR POEM FOR CHRISTIANS

by Mary Fairchild

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

~Rev. Victor

Parish Notes

With Sincere Sympathy

Georgina Vanston, mother of parishioner Harry Vanston, died in the early hours of the morning of Sunday 16 December at Brookhaven Nursing Home in Ballyragget. Her beloved husband George predeceased her by 31 years, having died in 1987. Her sister Alice is now the sole surviving sibling, and we extend to her and to Georgina's three children Sylvia, Olive and Harry our heartfelt condolences. Georgina was laid to rest in St. Peter's cemetery following her funeral service on the afternoon of 18 December.

We also extend our condolences to parishioner Kathleen Bennett and family on the death of her dear father **Ned Kidd**, late of Rathvarrin, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Ned's funeral service took place in The Holy Trinity Church, Ardoyne, on Friday 14 December.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Confirmation 2018: Please continue to remember in your prayers our eight young parishioners who were Confirmed on Saturday 24 November by Bishop Michael, at a special ceremony in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath at 3pm. It was a very joyful and joy-filled occasion for the parish; a beacon of light shining in the gloom of November, and was extremely well attended.

Confirmation 2019: If you would like to be confirmed in 2019 please contact the Rector. So far we have around six young people who have expressed an interest in being Confirmed next year. The service will take place in Annatrim church on 12 May 2019.

CIYD Youth Forum: Are you aged between 15 and 18 years of age? Are you interested in engaging in dialogue with the wider community? Do wish to speak up, enjoy speaking out, and like sharing your views? If so, then the Church of Ireland Youth Department's Youth Forum might be for you. It will take place on Saturday 19 January 2019 at the City North Hotel, just off the M1 motorway. Your Friday night's accommodation will be complimentary. If you'd like to participate, please get in touch with Rev. Nicola Halford.

Route 66 Stocking Fillers: Copies of Route 66 books were made available at the Diocesan Synod, with a view to rectors asking churchwardens in each of their churches to sell the books before Christmas, if possible. It makes an ideal stocking filler! Our books are still available for purchase – at a very reasonable €5 each – if interested they're on sale at St. Peter's Church.

Lacca Church Sunday School: Taking place on the first Sunday of every month, our Sunday School in Lacca is for all children in the parish. We encourage all children as it will be a great fun way for children to learn their bible through stories, games and crafts.

Dates For Your Diaries:

Lacca Fellowship Service: 2nd Thursday of every month

The Rector's home communion calls in January will be on the 2nd Wednesday & 2nd Thursday (for this month only).

Roskelton & Lacca Church Service Times:

There will be no changes to service times in either church in the New Year. It has been decided to maintain the current service arrangements for the foreseeable future.

Leprosy Mission boxes raised €219.49 this year, many thanks to everyone who contributed.

~Olga Telford

The **Clonenagh National School Annual Vintage Tractor Run and Family 6km Fun Run/Walk** takes place on Friday 28th December in Coolrain.

The Fun Run/Walk registration is at 11am, with the Tractor Run setting off circa 2pm. There will be music and refreshments throughout the day with a monster auction at 9pm. The draw for the Christmas raffle will take place on the evening also.

All support for this fundraiser is much appreciated with an enjoyable day and night guaranteed

Clonenagh National School News

On the 12th December, Clonenagh National School held their Christmas Show in the Convent Hall. The Mountrath Forum very kindly gave the school the hall for the night. It was the most perfect location as it added to the overall theatrical experience for everyone there, as it still has the majestic curtains and vast stage. Many parents took a walk down memory lane as they were past pupils themselves of the Convent. The audience were treated to an appreciated glass of mulled wine and a mince pie when they came in, from the Clonenagh Parents' Association.

Junior, Senior Infants and First Class performed some lively Christmas tunes and a wonderful rendition of "*When Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney!*" Second Class to Sixth Class performed "*Alas in Blunderland,*" a play based on a mixture of fairytales and humour. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the children's efforts and in turn, they were rewarded with rapturous applause. The children finished off the Christmas Show by singing some well known carols.

It was a night that the pupils of Clonenagh National School are sure to never forget and it finished with a cup of tea, some traybakes and a raffle. Money raised from the raffle will go to the funding of a six-week Gymnastics module after Christmas. Needless to say, the pupils (and staff!) were exhausted the following day after all of their exertions the night before! Well done to all involved!

If any business is interested in sponsoring our Football jerseys, please contact the school on 057-8732516 or email clonenaghns@gmail.com.

Clonenagh National School enrolments for September 2019 take place now. Please contact the school on 057-8732516 or email clonenaghns@gmail.com and a form will be sent to you. Closing date for receipt of forms is Friday 25th January 2019.

As a Christmas Treat, Junior Infants to Fourth class went to the Dunamaise Theatre to see "*Elfie Saves Christmas.*" Fifth and Sixth class went to the cinema. Transport to Portlaoise and tickets were funded by the Parents' Association. These special treats provide such memorable moments for our pupils.

Services & Readings

December 2018

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| Sunday 30th <small>1st Sunday of Christmas</small> | 1 Samuel 2: 18–20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3: 12–17 Luke 2: 41–52 | Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion | Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion |
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January 2019

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| Sunday 6th <small>The Epiphany</small> | Isaiah 60: 1–6 Psalm 72: 1–7, 10–14 Ephesians 3: 1–12 Matthew 2: 1–12 | Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion | Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer | Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 13th <small>1st Sunday after the Epiphany</small> | Isaiah 43: 1–7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14–17 Luke 3: 15–17, 21–22 | Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion | | Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer | |
| Sunday 20th <small>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</small> | Isaiah 62:1–5 Psalm 36: 5–10 1 Corinthians 12: 1–11 John 2: 1–11 | Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer | Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer | Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion | Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer | Lacca 4.00pm Service of the Word |
| Saturday/ Sunday 26th/27th <small>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</small> | Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12–31a Luke 4: 14–21 [22–30] | Seir Kieran Saturday 8.00pm Holy Communion | Lacca Sunday 10.30am Family Service | Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer | Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion | |

Parish Diary

December

28th Friday.....Clonagh N.S. Vintage Tractor Run & Fun Run/Walk (page 3)

January

6th Sunday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes

6th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 2)

9th/10th Wed/Thurs...Rector's home communion calls (page 3)

10th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (page 3)

19th Saturday.....CIYD Youth Forum (page 2)

23rd Wednesday.....Closing date for February 2019 Newsletter

25th Friday.....Closing date for Clonagh N.S. enrolment forms (page 3)

Items for the February 2019 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY January 23rd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, January 27th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and 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