

The Newsletter

May 2019

Rector:

*Rev'd Victor Fitzpatrick,
Clonenagh Rectory,
Portlaoise Road,
Mountrath.*

Phone: 057-8732146 /086-3974035

Diocesan Reader:

*Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.*

Phone:057-8732331

Parish office: clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org



Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Parish Notes

Requiescant In Pace

We extend our condolences to the members of the Cooper family on the death of **Leslie Cooper**, fondly known to many in this parish. Leslie, beloved husband of Blanche, was originally from The Pike of Rushall, but in recent years lived in Blackrock and Templeogue in Co. Dublin. Leslie died at his home on Tuesday 26 March, in his 84th year.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the late **Frances Sunderland** (late of Switsirs, Kilkenny and formerly of Aske, Gorey, Co. Wexford) who died on 1 April, peacefully, at St Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny. Frances was daughter of the late Frederick and Evelyn Sunderland and will be greatly missed by her many friends in this parish.

Annatrim parishioner **Robert Noel Newman**, late of Aughafan, Castletown, Co. Laois and late of Rath saran, Errill, Co. Laois, died in the early hours of 11 April, peacefully at his home after a long illness borne with tremendous dignity. Robert was a devoted husband and best friend of Helen, sadly missed by his wife, family, neighbours and wide circle of friends, and we offer them all our sincere condolences.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

We also welcome baby **Aimee**, daughter of Sonja and Jonathan, who will be baptised on Sunday 5 May at the 10.30am celebration of Holy Communion at Lacca Church. We send William & Aimee, and their families, every good wish and blessing as they begin their first steps in the faith.

Pentecost Service:

On Saturday night, June 8th at 8 p.m. in one church in each union/group of parishes, a special service for Pentecost will be held in one church of each group / union in the Diocese. This service will be in the form of a film, which was shot in the Diocese earlier this year.

A screen will be needed in the appointed churches that night and a laptop and cable. The service will be sent to us well ahead of time via usb key. A "techy" parishioner would be useful for this as a Facebook Live broadcast of the Bishop's introduction will be made before the showing of the film.

It is hoped that a central venue (perhaps the Parochial Hall) that is accessible to as many as possible to view the screening will be utilised in the Clonenagh Group (as WiFi or a WiFi hotspot using a smartphone will be needed to show the bishop on screen before the full service is shown). More details will follow but I would be very grateful for the services of a technology wizard.

Welcome In Holy Baptism: We welcome to the Christian family baby **William Peavoy**, son of Laura and Alan, who will be baptised on Sunday 28 April at the 11.30am celebration of Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church in Mountrath.

Our **Easter General Vestries** for the Clonenagh Group of Parishes will take place on:

8pm Tuesday 30 April **Clonenagh** (Parochial Hall, Mountrath)

Easter General Vestries continued:

8pm Wednesday 1 May **Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran** (St. Mark's Church, Borris)

8pm Tuesday 7 May **Offerlane** (Annatrim Church).

Please do try to attend if you are able. It is important that you remember to send apologies to the relevant Honorary Secretary if you can't be there.

The **General Synod of the Church of Ireland** takes place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 16, 17 and 18 May at the Millennium Forum in Derry. There will be an audio broadcast during Synod for those who cannot attend in person, but who are eager to follow the proceedings. Please visit the Church of Ireland website for more details. The hashtag **#coigs** will be used for Facebook and Twitter as well as other social media outlets. General Synod 2020 will take place in the Croke Park Meetings and Events Centre, on 7, 8 and 9 May.

Thursday Bible Club is now in recess for the summer months. Our thanks to Mervyn and Rachel, and their helpers, whose kind dedication, commitment and talents made the club such a success for the young participants. The Club will return after the school holidays later this year.

Our final **Confirmation class** will be held on Friday 3 May at 6.15pm in St Peter's Church in Mountrath. The bishop will meet with the eight young Candidates the next day on Saturday 4 May in Portlaoise at 10.30am for a practice run through of the service, and for an opportunity to chat with each of the Candidates. The confirmation service itself will take place in Annatrim Church on Sunday 12 May at 11am. Please do continue to keep our young Candidates in your prayers as they prepare for this special moment in their life of faith.

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.

Young Debaters: Congratulations to Miriam Senior (a Mountrath parishioner) and her team from St Paul's N.S., Mountmellick, on winning the Laois Education Centre's Inter-Schools' Debating Competition. This is Miriam's second year in a row to be on the winning team in this competition. Well done Miriam!

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee will be holding the **2019 Golf Classic** in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday May 10th.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or entering a team please contact Mrs Mabel Peavoy on 057-8732331.

There will also be a raffle on the night so donations for this would be much appreciated. Parishioners are most welcome on the night for the prize giving and raffle which will take place around 9pm.

Fundraising Committee meeting to finalise arrangements at 8.30pm on May 7th in the Parochial Hall.

Mothers' Union will finish the season with a service of Holy Communion in St Peter's Church Mountrath on Monday April 29th at 8pm. Phyllis Foot will give a brief report on Spring Council meeting followed by a cup of tea, in the parochial hall.

The **Lacca Ladies Dinner** was well attended on the 12th of April, and a very enjoyable night was had by all. Thanks to Mountrath Golf Club for the lovely food and hospitality.

Family fun day + Vintage / Modern Tractor and Car run

5th of May 2019 Raheen

.6K Walk / Run .Car/Bike/Tractor run

.Stalls .Kids Area

.Raffle on the night

Registration for 6k 10am ,walk starts at 11am

Registration for Cars/Tractors 12pm , starts at 1.30pm

Live music on the field from 3pm with Rock on Paddy

Music and dancing that night in Eamon A'Chnoics Raheen

with Misty Blue & Saddletramp

Raffle on the night

In aid of Lalor House Restoration Project
Tenakill, Raheen, Co.Laois
Part of Laois and Irish Heritage



As atheist China shuts down churches, Christians pray in secret. Even the Bible is being re-translated by the government

In a run-down block of flats in north Beijing, up flights of bare concrete stairs, you can hear them singing hymns behind a closed door.

Inside, nine people are gathered round a table, it's what's known as a home or underground church – one not sanctioned by the Chinese communist party. Pastor Xu is the pastor since the Tiananmen Square Massacre. He's been to prison or re-education through labour camps three times for his beliefs. But these are the darkest days he's ever known, as the party stamps down on any version of religion that does not acknowledge its supremacy.

State-sanctioned churches do exist, but the power and glory belong to the party. Worshipers in these churches must register with the authorities, CCTV cameras keep watch in the churches.

Even the Bible is being re-translated by the government to ensure what it call "correct understanding" of the text. "Our leader is God, we are following God" Pastor Xu says. In September, Beijing Zion Church in Beijing – one of the largest in the country – was closed by police. It had refused to install CCTV cameras for government surveillance.

The Church pledged to hold a prayer meeting in a public square in Beijing. We (Sky news) went along to observe. Undercover police closed the square and threatened to revoke our visas if we filmed.

"We can't stop praying just because we are afraid of being jailed" Pastor Xu says. "Compared with our predecessors, they were jailed for life or sentence to death" But they persisted – "So will we".

Sky News Report on Prime Minister Teresa May's Easter Speech – where she highlighted the persecution of Christians in the world today.

Mrs May said "The UK must stand up for the right of everyone, no matter what their religion, to follow their beliefs. The Prime minister used her Easter message to highlight the "dangers" facing Christians. She said this particularly special time is used to "remember the powerful message at the heart of our Christian faith."

Sri Lanka Bombing on Easter Sunday

There were 359 people killed in Churches and Hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday. There are also 500 injured. 110 were killed in St Sebastian's Church alone.

Sri Lankan officials claim bombings are retaliation over the New Zealand mosque attack.

Please pray for the grieving and the injured.

Boosting Your Brain Power

Do you feel that your brainpower has slipped into the slow lane? The latest science has revealed ways to keep your mental satnav on track according to Professor R. Pickard, professor of neurobiology. Information travels around the brain like a car navigating the road network. If you don't use your learning pathways regularly, your brain forgets the routes and they fall into disrepair. Luckily the capability of the brain isn't down to the number of cells. Mental sharpness is all about synapses, which are the functions between cells. Every time a "car" carrying a piece of information reaches one of these synapse roundabouts, data is transferred from an electrical signal to a chemical one, directed around the roundabout to the correct exit and converted back to an electrical signal to continue its journey. When you start to learn something you open a little lane onto that roundabout, and if you keep rehearsing the arrival and exit of a car, the brain responds by changing its circuitry. The access road gets bigger and the system for chemical transmissions gets more efficient. What starts off as a country lane in your teenage years turns into a four-lane highway. However, if a learning pathway is not used regularly, the synapse breaks the link to the roundabout and forces our brain to explore side roads around the roundabout. Anything that affects our brain's neurotransmitters—the chemical messengers that regulate these roundabouts, will boost our memory and cognition. So that's the science bit, now what actually helps?

LANGUAGE- Studying a language is particularly rejuvenating for the brain because it opens up new junctions. (Doing crosswords and puzzles helps? Prof Pickard says that's a myth)

LIFESTYLE- What's good for the heart is good for the head, so regular exercise and a healthy diet protect against cognitive decline possible due to better blood flow and reduced oxidative damage.

SUPPLEMENTS- Ginkgo and ginseng are plants with a history of use as mental stimulants with both improving cerebral blood supply (always check first with the Doctor)

FAT FACTS- Omega-3 fatty acids, found in oily fish, are vital for cognitive function.

ALCOHOL- One of the few toxins that can cross the blood-brain barrier protecting our brain. Those most at risk are people with the most erratic drinking style.

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

Items for the June 2019 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY May 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, May 26th.

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@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

The rector's Sunday sermon was 'Forgive Your Enemies'.

Toward the end of the sermon, he asked the congregation, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?"

About half held up their hands.

He repeated his question.

This time about three quarters held up their hands.

He then repeated his question again.

All responded, except one small elderly lady.

"Mrs. Jones?" inquired the rector, "are you not willing to forgive your enemies?" "I don't have any." she replied, smiling sweetly.

"Mrs. Jones, that is most unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-three," she replied.

"Oh Mrs. Jones, what a blessing and a lesson to us all you are. Would you please tell the congregation how a person can live ninety-three years and not have an enemy in the world?"

The little sweetheart of a lady stood up, turned to face the congregation, and said: "I outlived the old whole lot of them!"

Mr. Green peered over his fence and saw that little Jimmy was in the back garden filling in a hole.

Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said.

Patting down the last bit of earth, little Jimmy replied, "That's because it's in your cat!"

Little Jimmy was in church one Sunday with his mother, when he started feeling sick.

'Mammy,' he whispered, 'can we leave now?'

'No,' his mother replied, 'the service isn't over yet.'

'Well, I think I'm going to throw up.' Jimmy announced.

'Then go out of the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush.' said his mother.

After about sixty seconds, Jimmy returned to his pew, alongside his mother.

'Did you throw up?' she asked quietly.

'Yes,' Jimmy answered, embarrassed.

'How could you have gone all the way out to the back of the church and returned so quickly?' she demanded.

'I didn't have to go out of the church, Mammy. They have a box next to the front door that says, "For the Sick".'

Little Jimmy was spending the weekend with his grandmother, who decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother commented, 'Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?'

'Yes,' replied Jimmy, 'God did it and he did it left-handed!'

Puzzled, his grandmother asked, 'What makes you say God did this with his left hand?'

'Well,' said Jimmy, 'we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand.'

Services & Readings

May						
Sunday 5th <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 9: 1-6, (7-20)</i> <i>Psalm 30</i> <i>Revelation 5: 11-14</i> <i>John 21: 1-19</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion with baptism	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12th <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 9: 36-43</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Revelation 7: 9-17</i> <i>John 10: 22-30</i>	Seir Kieran 9.00am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 19th <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 11: 1-18</i> <i>Psalm 148</i> <i>Revelation 21: 1-6</i> <i>John 13: 31-35</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of The Word		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 16: 9-15</i> <i>Psalm 67</i> <i>Revelation 21: 10, 22-22: 5</i> <i>John 14: 23-29</i>	Borris-in-Ossory 9.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Friday 31st <i>The Visitation of Mary</i>		Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				

Parish Diary

April

29th Monday.....Mothers' Union Service & meeting (*page 3*)
30th Tuesday.....Clonenagh Easter General Vestry (*page 2*)

May

1st Wednesday.....Borris-in-Ossory/Seir Kieran Easter General Vestry (*page 3*)
3rd Friday.....Final Confirmation class (*page 3*)
4th Saturday.....Confirmation Rehearsal (*page 3*)
5th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 3*)
5th Sunday.....Family Fun Day-Vintage Tractor/Car Run (*page 4*)
6th Monday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
7th Tuesday.....Offerlane Easter General Vestry (*page 3*)
7th Tuesday.....Fundraising Committee meeting (*page 3*)
10th Friday.....Clonenagh Parish Golf Classic (*page 3*)
12th Sunday.....Confirmation Service (*page 3*)
16th-18th Thurs-Sat...General Synod (*page 3*)
22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for June 2019 Newsletter

June

8th Saturday.....Pentecost Eve Service (*page 2*)