

The Newsletter

October 2019

Rector:

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

Phone: 057-8732146 /086-3974035

Diocesan Reader:

*Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.*

Phone:057-8732331

Parish office: clonagh@ossory.anglican.org



*The Clonagh National School Harvest Thanksgiving
Service took place on Wednesday 18th September*

Clonagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

The Harvest Moon

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

It is the Harvest Moon! On gilded vanes
And roofs of villages, on woodland crests
And their aerial neighborhoods of nests
Deserted, on the curtained window-panes
Of rooms where children sleep, on country lanes
And harvest-fields, its mystic splendor rests!
Gone are the birds that were our summer guests,
With the last sheaves return the laboring wains!
All things are symbols: the external shows
Of Nature have their image in the mind,
As flowers and fruits and falling of the leaves;
The song-birds leave us at the summer's close,
Only the empty nests are left behind,
And pipings of the quail among the sheaves.

(The harvest moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox, which was 23 September this year, making the full moon on 13 September the Harvest Moon. Historically, the word harvest is significant because farmers used the light of the full moon to work into the night and gather ripened crops).

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

(Psalm 8:3-4)

~Rev. Victor

Parish Notes

Ecumenical groundskeeping works at Seir Kieran

A very sincere and well deserved thanks to William Whitten, Churchwarden at Seir Kieran, for organising a monumental ecumenical ground clearing and grounds maintenance endeavour at the Seir Kieran monastic site beginning on Saturday 7 September. The site is home to our church there. Saighir Chiaráin is officially recognised by the Irish State on the List of National Monuments in Co. Offaly, yet despite its historical significance, receives no assistance with groundskeeping works. Thus we are entirely reliant on voluntary workers and parish funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. It was very heartening that the call for volunteers was so generously answered on a Saturday (all day) and on two Wednesday evenings by so many members of the Roman Catholic parish of Seir Kieran as well as our own parishioners.

Volunteers from the Roman Catholic parish of Seir Kieran were:

Tom Connors and his sons Kieran and Thomas. Sean Dooley and his grandson T.J. Joe Bergin and his sister Annie. Duke Makim, Paddy Connors and Ann Marie Tierney.

Church of Ireland volunteers were:

William Whitten and his son Glenn. Yvonne Shaw with her husband Billie and their son Keith and grandson Darrah. Ian Coleburn, Margaret Grant, Joyce Warton, Randal Stanley and Mark Shaw.

Thank you one and all!

Confirmation 2020/21

Do you have a son or daughter who is interested in being Confirmed in 2020? So far just one of our young parishioners has expressed an interest in being Confirmed next year. She is, however, happy to wait until 2021 if there are more children of Confirmation age who wish to be Confirmed in 2021. Please let the Rector know by the first week in October when he will be meeting with Bishop Michael to discuss Confirmation numbers in the parish for the coming year (or two).

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.

Lacca Church Roof Restoration Fund

Sincere thanks to everyone who has responded with such generosity of spirit in assisting with the fund raising efforts for the Lacca Church Roof Restoration Fund. To those who have given of their time in organising fund raising events: Valerie Hancock for arranging the line sales and draw, to Roger Shore for organising the church envelope collection, to Moira Harvey for all her work with putting the Traditional Irish Music Evening in Camross together. A sincere thanks to all who have contributed so generously to the fund raisers in so many ways: buying lines/tickets, donating raffle prizes, supporting the envelope collections and the special harvest collections, and to all who lent of their magnificent talents, young and old, singers and musi-

cians, entertainers and raconteurs, to the Traditional Irish Music Evening. We're particularly grateful to Fr John Lawlor and the Camross Community Hall Committee for the use of the hall. God bless you all!

Visit of Rev. Amos & pastoral visit of Bishop Michael

On Sunday 7 September Lacca church was delighted to welcome back Rev. Amos Nsengiyumva, originally from Rwanda and now studying in Amsterdam. Amos spent many happy months among the people of Clonenagh Group of Parishes, and much of that time was spent living and working with the community in Lacca. He was overjoyed by the opportunity to have a flying visit to Lacca, literally as he had a plane to catch following his visit and celebration of Holy Communion, and to meet up with old friends. He also took the opportunity to thank the community for their kind and generous support and hospitality when he was in Ireland. We continue to keep Amos in our prayers and wish him every blessing in his ministry.

Lacca church was also delighted to welcome **Bishop Michael Burrows** during his pastoral visit to Offerlane recently. Sunday 15 September was set by the Church of Ireland as Vocations Sunday and Bishop Michael was very pleased to mark the day in one of his parish churches. We pray that many more women and men will receive the inspiration they need in discerning a call to the ordained and non-ordained ministries.

Harvest Services 2019

A very sincere thanks to everyone who helped to ensure that our harvest services were so successful. A very big thank to those who gave of their time and talents in decorating the churches, to our readers, to our churchwardens, to

Ivor for the service sheets, to our visitors and visiting speakers, and most of all to our organists Mabel, Margaret and Joan. Thank you all very much!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Lacca Church's Harvest Thanksgiving Service takes place on Sunday 20 October at 4pm with guest preacher Rev. Kenyon Homfray. Refreshments will follow the service in the parish hall. All welcome!

Thursday Bible Club for children of school age recommenced on Thursday 12 September at the Parochial Hall in Mountrath, running from 6.30pm—7.45pm, and will be held on alternate Thursdays at the same time until Christmas (12 & 26 September; 10 & 24 October; 7 & 21 November; 5 & 19 December). This year we have a junior worker whom we welcome to the team, Reuben Lyons, who has just completed two years of Bible College training in Edinburgh. Reuben will be assisting Mervyn with the Thursday Bible Club this year. Admission is free and as always there are bible stories, games, crafts, quizzes, prizes, action songs and lots, lots more.

November Synagogue Visit

Our planned visit to the Synagogue in Terenure, Co. Dublin, has had to be rescheduled for Saturday 9 November as sadly September was proving too problematic. So far we have fifteen interested persons and two of our younger parishioners would also like to come along with their parents. All are welcome to join with us on our visit with our Jewish friends, and brief stop at Dundrum Town Centre before returning home. Please pass on your full names to the Rector ASAP and remember to bring ID with you on the day — security is a very sad but ever present reality for Ireland's Jewish community. Coach costs can be dis-

cussed as soon as we have a final figure for intending travellers.

Clonenagh Parish Golf Classic

A most sincere thank you to Mabel Peavoy and all the team who together helped to run, organise, advertise and to ensure another hugely successful Golf Classic. The Golf Classic took place on 10 May in Mountrath Golf Club, who have been a great supporter of this event over the years, and raised €7,845 which included sponsorship of €3,800 from local businesses and individuals who have once again been extremely kind and generous in their support of the Golf Classic. A very big thank you to every one for donating raffle prizes, collecting raffle prizes; to the teams, the donors and volunteers. Thank you very much each one of you without whom this event would not have been possible.

Lacca Roof Restoration Fund Trad Concert

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Trad Concert in Camross Community Hall on Saturday the 14th of September

I would like to thank Fr John Lalor, Breda Doran and the hall committee for the use of the hall.

To Catherine Conroy Lalor and Camross C.C.C for their musicians and dancers and also to Catherine for being M.C. on the night.

To all our other musicians, Emer Dunne, Robert and James Harvey, Aaron and Ciara Mackassey, Ademar O' Connor, Leo Brophy: thank you so much for making it such an enjoyable night.

Thanks also to all who donated raffle prizes, we had up to twenty prizes on the night with top prizes being a meal voucher from Paddy and Hannah Roundwood House, a bouquet of flowers from Imelda Floral Visions and a meal for two in Castle Durrow compliments of Betty Carter.

Thanks to Tommy Ferns for the excellent sound.

Thanks too to our own Offerlane committee for all their help and support and to Rev Victor for his encouragement, and to the wider community who bought tickets, gave donations, and helped in any way. Your support is greatly appreciated .

~Moira



Thanks to everyone who sold and bought lines for the **Lacca Church Restoration Fund Draw**.

1st Prize of a €100 voucher for Delaney's, Ballaghmore, was won by Breda Delaney;

2nd Prize of a €100 voucher for Enda Kenny was won by Amber Gilligan;

...and 3rd Prize of Lamb to the value of €100 from Brian Handcock was won by Edward Doheney.

14 Prizes were won in total.

The Collection taken at the **Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Lacca Church** on the 20 October is going towards the Lacca Roof Restoration Fund. Please give as generously as you can, thank you.

Opening service of **Mothers' Union** will be held in St Peters Church on Monday night September 30th at 8pm.

This will be followed by a short meeting and a cuppa in the parochial hall.

Girls Friendly Society

We look forward to seeing everyone again and welcoming some new members.

Girls age 4 yrs and over have the opportunity to participate in crafts games bible study and badge work. All welcome. If anyone requires further information give Jennifer a call on 086 8185644.

Diary dates: 4th and 18th October, 7:15-8:45pm, in the Parochial Hall.

Clonenagh National School News

The pupils of Clonenagh NS have settled back very well into the new school year. We opened on the 29th August and we happily welcomed twelve children into Junior Infants and one new child into Second Class. This brings our enrolment up to 73.

The school football team has been busy training with our coach and Mr Noonan. We set a high standard for ourselves last year and the team are once again extremely committed. As a school, we have always relied on our parents to help provide the team with lifts. Once again, they have stepped up to the mark! Thank you to all as this spares us from the cost of transport.

As PE and sport play such an important role in our school, we are collecting stickers from Aldi to help us win a lot of money to go towards this area of school life. We would appreciate all of your help by asking for these stickers and dropping them into us. We are on a mission.

As we are a Green School, we make conscious decisions about how our actions can affect the environment. On Thursdays, we are **Single Use Plastic Free**. Even in the staff room!

The children have been as busy as bees preparing art and poetry to decorate the church for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service which took place on Wednesday 18th September. We are thrilled with our efforts and we hope you all are too! The children performed a new song called the "Harvest Samba". It was very energetic and entertaining. Well done boys and girls!



Laura Grant of Seir Kieran, with her coach Denis Dooley, celebrating second place in the lady's events at the National Ploughing Championships in Fenagh, Co. Carlow.

*Laura ploughed her first all Ireland in 2012 at the age of 16 .
Since then she has come in third place twice and then went on to win Gold in 2016, and now in 2019 has come second.
Well done Laura!*

Services & Readings

October						
Sunday 6th <i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Lamentations 1: 1-6 Psalm 137: 1-6 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10</i>	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 <i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 Psalm 66: 1-11 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Friday 18th <i>St. Luke's Day</i>	<i>Isaiah 35: 3-6 Psalm 147: 1-7 2 Timothy 4: 5-17 Luke 10: 1-9</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				
Sunday 20th <i>18th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31: 27-34 Psalm 119: 97-104 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5 Luke 18: 1-8</i>	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 Harvest Service
Saturday/Sunday 26th/27th <i>5th Sunday before Advent</i>	<i>Joel 2: 23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14</i>	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

September

26th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)
30th Monday.....Mothers' Union Service & Meeting (*page 6*)

October

4th Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting (*page 6*)
6th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 3*)
6th Sunday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
10th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)
18th Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting (*page 6*)
20th Sunday.....Lacca Harvest Thanksgiving Service (*page 4*)
23rd Wednesday.....Closing date for November 2019 Newsletter
24th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 4*)

Items for the November 2019 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY October 23rd AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, October 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