

The Newsletter

March 2020

Rector:

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Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Lent Explained

The word Lent comes to us from an Old English word meaning "Spring". Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal, and this is why it gave its name to the Christian season of renewal and reflection. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. It is a solemn time of prayer and preparation before the joyful celebration of Christ's triumph over death at Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate our Saviour's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Ultimately the purpose of Lent is giving the Christian believer time to examine his/her life and prepare themselves for Easter through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, and almsgiving. Lent is observed in the Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed and Roman Catholic Churches.

~Rev. Victor

Parish Notes

Baby Joy!

Congratulations to proud parents **Ben & Tiffany Montgomery** who are delighted to present **Carter Scott** to the community in Sier Kieran, where they were married in 2018. Born on 10th January, his big brother **David** is already his best friend!

We also send hearty congratulations to **Brian & Rosemary Holmes** who have become grandparents again with the arrival just five weeks ago of the latest addition to their family, baby **Luke Alexander**.

Congratulations to one and all, and we give thanks to God for the safe delivery of happy, bouncing babies.

Wedding Joy!

Our very warmest congratulations and best wishes to **Hazel Williams & Nigel Peavoy** who were married in The Merion, Dublin on Friday 3rd January. Every joy to the happy couple!

Girls Friendly Society

We look forward to seeing everyone again and welcoming some new members. Girls age 4 years 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 086 818 5644. 7.15-8.45pm in the Parochial Hall.

Lacca Church Sunday School

The normal Sunday School schedule has resumed, 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.

Fellowship Meeting

The Fellowship Meeting takes place on the second Thursday of every month in Lacca Church at 8pm. All welcome!

Requiescant In Pace



We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of **Fr John Lalor**, late Parish Priest of Camross. Fr Lalor was much loved and will be deeply missed by all, especially in our own parish, where he was a familiar sight at many community events, funerals, and fundraisers. He was well known for his ready wit and humour, and his loss will be widely felt. We keep his parishioners and colleagues in our prayers at this sad time.

We extend our most sincere condolences to Rosemary Holmes on the recent death of her dear cousin **Rodney Penton**. Rodney became ill over Christmas and had been in failing health since.

We also extend our most sincere condolences to Joe Shirley and Averil Treacy on the recent death in Canada of their dear uncle, **Jackie Shirley**.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Thursday Bible Club

Thursday Bible Club meets in St. Peter's Hall in Mountrath and continues until Easter. All children of national school age are welcome to come along and admission is free. There are bible stories, games, crafts, action songs, quizzes, and prizes, plus lots more. For more information please contact Mervyn or Rachel on (086) 057 5462. 1st & 3rd Thursdays 6.30pm-7.45pm. Dates for your diary are: 27th February, 12th March and 26th March.

Bishop Michael To Visit Borris-in-Ossory

Bishop Michael will visit St Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory where he will celebrate Holy Communion on the evening of Saturday 14th March at 7pm. All welcome!

Safeguarding Trust Parish Policy Documents

The **Church of Ireland Safeguarding Board** is authorised by Standing Committee to ensure that those within Church ministry are aware of their special duty of care towards children and adults at risk and therefore a culture of collective responsibility to work in partnership with other statutory, community and voluntary organisations is encouraged.

The Safeguarding Board promotes human rights which are embedded in both our Gospel values and within international and domestic laws to protect those at risk of harm. The Safeguarding Board is committed to improvement and to monitoring and challenging the effectiveness of the Church of Ireland's safeguarding arrangements.

In accordance with best practice, each parish must adopt an **Anti-Bullying Policy**, a **Code of Conduct Policy** and a **Communications Policy**.

The Select Vestries of the Clonenagh Group have recently met and approved our three policies. These will from the first Sunday in March be made available and displayed in all six of our churches and our parish halls.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, 26th February in St Peter's Church in Mountrath at 8pm. All welcome.

Lent

Evening Prayer with a Lenten reflection will take place on **Tuesday evenings at 8pm** during the weeks of Lent, beginning at St Matthew's Church in **Roskelton** on 3rd March.

The dates for your diaries are:

3rd March **Roskelton**,
10th March **Lacca**,
24th March **Annatrim**,
31st March **Seir Kieran**.

Tuesday 17th March is St Patrick's Day and instead of Evening Prayer there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in St Peter's Church, **Mountrath** at 11am*. (*Time might change owing to St Patrick's Day parade).

Holy Week 2020

Evening Prayer for Holy Week will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (6th, 7th & 8th April) at 8pm in St Matthew's Church, **Roskelton** (Monday), **Annatrim Church** (Tuesday) and St Mark's Church, **Borris-in-Ossory** (Wednesday). On Maundy Thursday night there will be a celebration of Holy Communion of The Lord's Supper in St Peter's Church, **Mountrath** at 8pm.

Easter Services 2020

GOOD FRIDAY:

10am **Roskelton** to The Hollow Ecumenical Pilgrim Walk

3pm Prayer at the Cross, St. Peter's Church, **Mountrath**

8pm Hymns & Readings, **Lacca Church**
EASTER EVE:

6pm First Eucharist of Easter, **Seir Kieran**

8pm The Easter Vigil, **Annatrim Church**
EASTER DAY:

8am First Eucharist of Easter Morning, St Mark's Church, **Borris-in-Ossory**

9am Holy Communion I, St Matthew's Church, **Roskelton**

10.15am Holy Communion I, **Lacca Church**

11.30am Holy Communion of Easter Day, St Peter's Church, **Mountrath**

Easter General Vestries 2020

Offerlane: Tuesday 21st April, Annatrim Church

Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran: Thursday 23rd April, Seir Kieran

Clononagh: Tuesday 28th April, Parochial Hall Mountrath

All meetings at 8.00pm.

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.

St Ciarán's Day Vehicular Pilgrimage

The Rector of Baltinglass and Vicar of Cumann Breandán Naofa, Máirt Hanley, is organising a "vehicular pilgrimage" to mark St Ciarán's Day on Sunday 8th March 2020. Cumann Breandán Naofa, or the Community of Brendan the Navigator, is a community within the Church of Ireland which seeks to promote pilgrimage, contemplative prayer, and retreat.

The St Ciarán's Day pilgrimage will begin at Aghaboe at 3.30pm and make its way on to Roscrea, and conclude with a special bilingual celebration of Holy Communion led by Bishop Michael at Seir Kieran at 6.00pm.

As walking this journey would not be feasible, the pilgrimage will be a vehicular one. All are welcome to come along for all or part of the pilgrimage!

2020 Senior Bishop's Medal Essay Competition

This is a competition open to any students in fifth or sixth year in any secondary school in the United Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory. Candidates are not required to be members of the Church of Ireland nor do they have to be

attending a Church of Ireland school.

They will be asked to write, usually in 75 minutes, an essay from a list of unseen titles. They are invited to write their essay on Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7.00 pm in Kilkenny College; Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew; or Newtown School, Waterford, by kind permission.

An awareness of current affairs in Church and society is helpful.

First prize is the 2020 Senior Bishop's Medal and €200. There are two further prizes of €100 each.

Further information may be had from Canon Patrick Harvey (057) 8731243; or by email at patrickharveyone@gmail.com.

A **Fundraising Committee Meeting** will be held in the Parochial Hall on Wednesday March 4th at 8pm to arrange the 2020 Golf Classic

Women's World Day Of Prayer Service

The theme for the Women's World Day of Prayer for 2020 is "Take up your mat and walk." The service program has been put together for us by WWDP Committee in Zimbabwe. The service this year will take place on Thursday 12th March at 8pm in St Fintan's Church in Mountrath.

"RISE - TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK!"
Women's World Day of Prayer
2020 from Zimbabwe

Service takes place:
Date: Thursday, 12th March
Time: 8 p.m.
Venue: St. Fintan's Church
Mountrath.

Robert Harvey Congratulations

Congratulations to Lacca parishioner Robert Harvey who launched his album Feochán on St Valentine's Day to a full house in the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Culturlann in Monkstown Co. Dublin.

The title track is named after a beautiful Tommy Peoples slow air of the same name—The Gentle Breeze—and Robert told a lovely story about how he came to learn that tune from Tommy himself.

This first-class album reflects Robert's virtuosity as a performer, teacher and academic and he is joined on the album by other first-class musicians such as Eilís Lavelle on harp, Conal O'Kane on guitar, Tadhg Ó'Meachair on piano/harmonium and Ciarán Maguire on bodhrán.

Robert was joined on stage for the launch by a number of his current and former students, including David Vesey and Conor Thompson from Laois.

Robert himself has represented Laois Comhaltas and his own branch Camross Comhaltas with great distinction for many years at Fleadh Cheoil.

Robert's album is highly recommended and is available to purchase online now. We look forward to hearing him play here in Laois soon, please God.

www.robertharveymusic.com

The **Mothers' Union** held their opening meeting of the new year on Monday 27th January in the home of Jean Treacy. The guest speaker on the night was Deidre Kelly, a Reflexologist & Aromatherapist. It was a thoroughly relaxed, enjoyable and rewarding evening, and very well attended.

Mothers' Union next meeting will be held Monday February 24th at 8pm in the Parochial Hall. Guest speaker is Mary Doyle (Keenan) who will speak on gardening etc.

Parish Diary

February

- 24th Monday.....Closing date for Clonenagh N.S. enrolment applications
- 24th Monday.....Mothers' Union meeting (*page 6*)
- 27th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 3*)

March

- 1st Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 2*)
- 4th Wednesday.....Fundraising Committee Meeting (*page 5*)
- 6th Friday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**
- 8th Sunday.....St Ciarán's Day Vehicular Pilgrimage (*page 4*)
- 12th Thursday.....Fellowship Meeting (*page 2*)
- 12th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 3*)
- 14th Saturday.....Visit of Bishop Michael Burrows to Borris-in-Ossory (*page 3*)
- 18th Wednesday.....Closing date for April 2020 Newsletter**
- 18th Wednesday.....2020 Senior Bishop's Medal Essay Competition (*page 4*)
- 26th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 3*)

DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

MAX EHRMANN

Desiderata was written in 1927 by Max Ehrmann, a poet and lawyer from Terre Haute, Indiana (www.desiderata.com>[desiderata-history](http://www.desiderata.com)). The sentiments expressed therein are as appropriate today as they were nearly a hundred years ago.

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

Items for the April 2020 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY March 18th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, March 22nd.

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

NOTICE regarding photographs submitted for publication in the newsletter:

In compliance with the current **Parish Communication Policy**, the Editor will in future note the name of the contributor/owner of the photo, and will take it in good faith that they have secured permission to publish from all readily identifiable persons in the image, particularly those to be named in the caption.

Services & Readings

February

Wednesday 26th	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion
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March

Sunday 1st <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 2: 15–17; 3: 1–7</i> <i>Psalm 32</i> <i>Romans 5: 12–19</i> <i>Matthew 4: 1–11</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
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Tuesday 3rd	<i>Evening Prayer with a Lenten Reflection</i>	Roskelton 8.00pm				
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Sunday 8th <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 12: 1–4a</i> <i>Psalm 121</i> <i>Romans 4: 1–5, 13–17</i> <i>John 3: 1–17</i>	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 6.00pm Holy Communion with Bishop Michael		
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Tuesday 10th	<i>Evening Prayer with a Lenten Reflection</i>	Lacca 8.00pm				
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Saturday/Sunday 14th/15th <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Exodus 17: 1–7</i> <i>Psalm 95</i> <i>Romans 5: 1–11</i> <i>John 4: 5–42</i>	Borris-in-Ossory Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion with Bishop Michael	Roskelton Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer	Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca Sunday 4.00pm Service of The Word
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Tuesday 17th	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	Mountrath 11.00am <i>(time may change subject to St. Patrick's Day Parade)</i> Holy Communion				
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Saturday/Sunday 21st/22nd <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	<i>Exodus 2: 1–10</i> <i>Psalm 127:1–4</i> <i>2 Corinthians 1: 3–7</i> <i>Luke 2: 33–35</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	Lacca Sunday 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion	
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Tuesday 24th	<i>Evening Prayer with a Lenten Reflection</i>	Annatrim 8.00pm				
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Sunday 29th <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Ezekiel 37: 1–14</i> <i>Psalm 130</i> <i>Romans 8: 6–11</i> <i>John 11: 1–45</i>	Mountrath 9.00am Holy Communion		Lacca 11.00am Holy Communion		
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Tuesday 31st	<i>Evening Prayer with a Lenten Reflection</i>	Seir Kieran 8.00pm				
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