

# The Newsletter

June 2020

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***Clonenagh National School was recently awarded  
the Travel Flag***

*Photograph kindly provided by Clonenagh National School*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

If one thing is certain in this life, it's that there are days when nothing seems to go right for us. Have you ever got up out of bed and experienced that sinking feeling that it's going to be one of those days? And if something else is a certainty it's that one calamity always follows another. Murphy's Law states that: "Anything which can go wrong will go wrong." You get up, bang your head on the bathroom door; you drop your toothbrush; you can't find your car keys; the car won't start; there's heavy traffic on the motorway; someone's taken your car space at the office; and if all that wasn't enough, you arrive home to find you've left a tap running.

My brother and his family in Virginia have gone through one of these times quite recently as I sit here and write. My sister-in-law has had health scares. In fact there have been family health issues galore, with several visits to the Emergency Room with my niece and nephews, and quite a few other issues which I won't elaborate on purely because space and time won't allow for it in this piece, but rest assured as per the Law of the aforementioned Murphy, they were popping up all at once. One after another.

On top of everything else, like we here in Ireland, my brother David and his family have been trying to cope with the dreadful Coronavirus pandemic, and everything which that entails. Their small community has been plagued with cases of Covid-19: neighbours have been seriously ill; a close friend and neighbour has died; further down the Interstate my aunt Eleanor is cooing and she too has had the virus on her doorstep, but miraculously all of my American relatives have so far avoided catching this awful virus.

The Coronavirus has left its mark on our community and our parish too. It most certainly is not fun to deal with, and woes of dropping the toothpaste cap pale microscopically when compared to Covid-19. Indeed there cannot be any comparison between the two. However, my light-hearted, mirthful look at Murphy's Law above serves as some small, token reminder that life was by no means perfect before the arrival of the Coronavirus on our shores and life will be by no means be perfect when the virus is a distant memory.

When we find our faith tested we can gain strength and encouragement in the words of the Bible. God has exhorted and encouraged us many, many times that if we believe in him he will give us strength, no matter what we're dealing with, no matter what is troubling us. From the innocent and — to us — seemingly trivial worries of a child; to teenage angst; to the near never ending anxieties and stresses of adults; and finally to the sadness and loneliness which can afflict our more senior citizens. None of these emotions or experiences are trivial or unimportant to our Heavenly Father, but it is not neither his desire nor his wish to see us weighed down by fear.

I hope that these following few scripture verses which have given me encouragement in the past and present might speak to you too and that you may find hope, strength and consolation in them. All verses are from the ESV translation.

**Deuteronomy 31:8** It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

**Psalms 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Psalms 121:1-2** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**Isaiah 49:13** Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

**Matthew 6:34** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

~Rev. Victor

### Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences:

To William Whitten (Seir Kieran) on the death of his mother-in-law **Gladys Alexander** (93), late of Shinrone Nursing Home.

To Brian Holmes (Annatrim) on the death of his aunt, **Ruby Holmes**, who celebrated her 100th birthday last October.

To Betty Thompson, (Lacca) on the death of her beloved husband **Joe Thompson**, late of Coolrain, who died after a short illness.

To Cecil, Victor, Robert, Margaret and Sylvia on the death of their dear mother **Evelyn Hodgins**, née Parr, late of Moneygall, Co. Offaly.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

# Pentecost Sunday Service

On Sunday 31st May Fr Joe Brophy is very graciously offering me the use of St Fintan's Church, Mountrath, at 3pm for a live radio/webcam broadcast of Holy Communion. Those of you listening in on the radio or watching the service online may like to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. The service, from the Church of England Book of Common Prayer, is printed here and will be used by kind permission of Bishop Michael Burrows. An Act of Spiritual Communion may be made by a Communicant member of an Anglican church where illness, civil unrest or natural disaster prevents them from attending a celebration of Holy Communion. Please retain this text for use during the service on Pentecost Sunday. The service will be simulcast on 104.5FM and via webcam on the St Fintan's live Webcam Stream (MCN Media Live Streaming Laois) <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-fintans>

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## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

*If on any Sunday or other Day of Obligation (see Tables and Rules for the Movable and Immovable Feasts in the front part of the Prayer Book), you are prevented from making your Communion, make an Act of Spiritual Communion, after the following manner:*

*Kneel down, and say:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

*Then read the Collect for the day, the Epistle, and the Holy Gospel.*

*Rise and say the Nicene Creed.*

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

*Kneel and read the Confession*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against Thy Divine

Majesty, Provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings: The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please Thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of Thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then say:*

The Almighty and merciful Lord, grant me pardon and absolution of all my sins. Amen.

*Read the Comfortable Words, Preface. and Sanctus.*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to Him. Come unto Me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matt. xi. 28.*

So God loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John iii. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous; and He is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John ii. 1, 2.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore praising Thee, and saying,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory: Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

*Then say:*

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that may always be united to Thee. And since I can not now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate Thee from me. May I live and die in Thy love. Amen.

*Spend a few moments in meditation upon the fact that God so loved you that He sent His Only-Begotten Son into the world for you.  
Recite the Lord's Prayer and afterward say:*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with me always. Amen.

# Parish Notes

## Online Church Services

Until the reopening of churches, currently scheduled by the government for Monday 20th July, church services are available on the Rector's YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/prayspot>

The usual weekly calendar of services available is: Sunday: Morning Prayer or a Service of the Word; Tuesday: Late Evening Office or Compline; Thursday: an occasional School Assembly; and Friday: Evening Prayer.

## Church Reopening and Home Communions

As mentioned above, the government has stated that communal worship in our churches will be permitted from Monday 20th July. This means that our first services of communal praise, fellowship and worship in many months will — God willing — be held on the weekend of 26th/27th July. However, presently, the guidance of the bishops and health officials mandates: the continuation of two metres social distancing at church services; no congregational singing; no congregational reception of consecrated wine from the chalice; no shaking hands and full disinfection of the church following each service. These guidelines mean that it may yet be some time before church services return to normal and there is much to be done to prepare for the reopening of our six churches. It is the Rector's hope to recommence Home Communions, if possible, on the first Wednesday of September.

## Summer Zoom Clubs

Dear Parent or Guardian, as we see the way ahead for the summer, we are now inviting children to book in for our Summer Zoom Clubs. These are online Zoom events, which will have Bible teaching, as well as other educational and engaging elements. You never know what will happen! These are planned for 13th-17th July.

Full details and the booking form are at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/201347540209044>

Please do pass on the link to others. New children, who have not attended our summer camps are particularly welcome.

~Many thanks, Mervyn.

## Diocesan Youth Table Quiz

It is unfortunate that over the last two months we have had to cancel two diocesan youth events (Holiday Club Training Weekend and the Confirmation Retreat) and a lot of us have had to cancel many other youth events in our own parishes, such as youth group, annual trips, and holiday clubs.

Because of this the Bishop Youth Advisory Committee have decided to organise an online Diocesan Youth Table Quiz.

The table quiz will take place at 7pm on the 30th May and will be done through Zoom. Our quiz will follow the new guidelines that the Church of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Youth Department have adopted from the Church of England's Guidelines for Social Media and Video Conferencing with Young People.

This means that the teen will have to sign into the Zoom event through their parent or guardian's email address, the meeting will be a private event and will also have its own Meeting ID and password, along with following safeguarding trust policies and procedures (1:8 +1) and having parents fill out an online consent form.

While the members of Youth Advisory Committee will be attending the event, we will also need adults (either Youth Leaders or Clergy) to log in and be present to make sure we are in line with SGT, so I ask you to organise this within your parishes if you have teens attending.

So I am asking you to let those in your parishes that may be interested in the event know that this is happening and send them on this online consent form:

<https://forms.gle/8imeTwAfg5EL4ZKf7>

Any questions feel free to give me a shout.

~Emma Purser (0851623725)

## Participants Required for Thesis Research

My name is Rachael Kinkead, and I am based in the parish of Wicklow and Killiskeek (my husband Jack is the rector here). I am a primary school teacher and a part-time Master's student at U.C.D., where I am undertaking the course MA: Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge. For the purpose of my thesis I would like to invite a small number of young adults (aged 18-30) from the Church of Ireland tradition to articulate their perspectives on Irish language and Irish identity in the context of their minority faith community. Thus, I am contacting you to ask if you might facilitate me in this endeavour.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could include the this in your next parish newsletter. By so doing, I hope that potential candidates will see these details, be willing to partake in a brief online interview with me, and contact me directly at the e-mail address provided.

The concise points of information are as follows:

**What:** Thesis title: 'As Irish as the Irish Language?: Perspectives on the in-

terplay between Irish language and Irish identity within the Church of Ireland community'.

**Who:** Participants are eligible if they:

- are Irish citizens
- are practising members of the Church of Ireland
- are aged 18-30
- are currently residing in county Laois
- have resided in the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Carlow, Laois, Kilkenny or Wexford during their primary and secondary school years
- studied Irish to Leaving Cert level

**Where:** Interviews will take place through a video-conferencing platform.

**When:** Interviews will be organised at a time that suits the participant, and will take no longer than 60 minutes.

**How:** Eligible and willing participants are encouraged to contact me at [rachael.kinkead@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:rachael.kinkead@ucdconnect.ie) for further correspondence.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries you might have. Thank you so much for your help in this matter.

*~Kind regards, Rachael Kinkead*

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## Clonenagh National School News

Our children continue to work hard and we as teachers are unbelievably proud of their efforts and of their parents' attentiveness to their progress. Thank you.

We were delighted to find out last week that we have been awarded the Travel Flag. Our school did not have a lot to change because so many of our children travel by bus. A big word of thank you goes to Miss O'Mahony and her hardworking Green Schools Committee. We are enormously proud of Clonenagh's commitment to helping improve the world around us. Well done boys and girls.

At present, we are running an interesting competition in the school. The children are invited to create a Bug Hotel. This is a man-made structure created to provide shelter for insects. The competition is divided into three different categories:

- Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class
- 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class
- 5th and 6th Class

There will also be a Special Recognition prize.

We are really hoping to see some creative hotels!! Photographs of entries will be emailed to us after the June Bank Holiday. Excellent prizes will be sent by post. We are so excited!

*~Take care, Mrs Burnell*

# Sunday & Feast Day Readings

June			
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Page 244 of <i>The Word of the Lord</i> (the blue book)	<i>Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a</i> <i>Psalm 8</i> <i>2 Corinthians 13: 11–13</i> <i>Matthew 28: 16–20</i>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Saint Columba.</i> <i>Abbot of Iona. 597</i>	Page 488	<i>Micah 4: 1-5</i> <i>Psalm 34: 9-15</i> <i>Romans 15: 1-6</i> <i>John 12: 20-26</i>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Saint Barnabas</i>	Page 489	<i>Job 29: 11-16</i> <i>Psalm 112: 1-9</i> <i>Acts 11: 19-30</i> <i>John 15: 12-17</i>
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The First Sunday</i> <i>after Trinity</i>	Page 267	<i>Genesis 18: 1–15, [21: 1–7]</i> <i>Psalm 116: 1, 10–17</i> <i>Romans 5: 1–8</i> <i>Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8, [9–23]</i>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>The Second Sunday</i> <i>after Trinity</i>	Page 276	<i>Genesis 21: 8–21</i> <i>Psalm 86: 1–10, 16–17</i> <i>Romans 6: 1b–11</i> <i>Matthew 10: 24–39</i>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Third Sunday</i> <i>after Trinity</i>	Page 287	<i>Genesis 22: 1–14</i> <i>Psalm 13</i> <i>Romans 6: 12–23</i> <i>Matthew 10: 40–42</i>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Saint Peter</i> <i>(transferred from Monday 29<sup>th</sup>)</i>	Page 494	<i>Ezekiel 3: 22-27</i> <i>Psalm 125</i> <i>Acts 12: 1-11</i> <i>Matthew 16: 13-19</i>

## Parish Diary

### May

30th Saturday.....Diocesan Youth Zoom Table Quiz (page 6)

31st Sunday.....Radio & online Pentecost Sunday Service (page 4)

### June

28th Wednesday.....Closing date for July/August 2020 Newsletter

**Items for the July/August 2020 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY June 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, June 28th.**

**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](mailto: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](http://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.