

The Newsletter

July 2020

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A Prayer of Thanksgiving on the Reopening of our Churches

Almighty God,
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you in your house of prayer:
and we pray that all who seek you in our churches may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

+Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Returning To Worship In Our Churches

It is a great joy to be able to return to worship in our churches beginning the first Sunday in July. However we do so with caution: the Coronavirus Covid-19 is still in existence both in Ireland and abroad, and we must be careful to continue taking what precautions we can to protect ourselves—and most importantly—our vulnerable friends, relatives and fellow parishioners.

With that in mind:

* Please do not come to church if you feel in any way unwell. Sunday Services will continue online for the benefit of those who cannot come to church.

* Please only attend your regular church. ie do not travel to services in other churches.

* Please heed the advice and guidance of the church wardens on entering and leaving the church.

* Please maintain 2 metres social distancing both inside and outside of the church.

* Please bring your own prayerbook.

* Please use the hand gel provided.

* Please keep safe and well, and keep praying for God's help in seeing us all safely through this time of pandemic.

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Online Services & School Assembly Thank-yous

It's incredibly heartening to hear how much you enjoyed the online services and found them a consolation. They would not have been possible without the help of Ivor Clegg who very kindly allowed me make use of his technological know-how on many occasions in getting the services uploaded to YouTube, sometimes at very short notice due to the vagaries of the Rectory broadband! I'm also very grateful to Roger Shore for his helpful advice re the broadband. Thanks too to Mrs Burnell for her encouragement with the School Assemblies, which proved a hit with the children. It all really has been a steep technical learning curve for me, but a most rewarding one thank God. May I also extend on behalf of the whole parish my sincere thanks to Fr Brophy for so thoughtfully allowing me the use of St Fintan's Church with its radio transmitter and webcam to broadcast services from there. Fr Brophy and I wish to end the year together with an ecumenical carol service in December, and hopefully it will herald a much better year for us all. More details of this service and a planned ecumenical pilgrim walk to St Fintan's monastery in 2021 to follow soon.

~Rev. Victor

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to Joanne Bennett on the death of her beloved mother **Beatrice Mary Brown** (née O'Hare), who died peacefully at Nicholson House, Lisburn aged 82 years on 17th June.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Lacca Parishioner in The Irish Blessing

An ancient religious blessing of protection recorded by 300 Christian groups to protect frontline workers battling Covid-19 was launched on social media for Pentecost. The Irish Blessing was a recorded version of Be Thou My Vision organised by Philip McKinley an Ordinand in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute with Fr Martin Magill, a parish priest in Belfast. Philip is no stranger to this part of Ireland, being Canon Horace McKinley's son, but he may be better known to our younger parishioners as a former chaplain in DCU. It was a wonderful joy for us to see Lacca parishioner Robert Harvey taking part in this tremendous initiative with Christians from all corners of Ireland, including the monks of Glenstal Abbey and the choir of Solid Rock Pentecostal Church in Dublin. So moved was he by the beauty of the piece that The Most Rev Dr John Sentamu played the Irish Blessing at his retirement service on 7th June.

Fellowship Service

The monthly fellowship service in Lacca Church returns on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm. All welcome!

Confirmation 2021

If you have a son or daughter who would like to be Confirmed in 2021, or know of anyone who might be interested, please let the Rector know in due course.

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>

New children, who have not attended our summer camps before, are particularly welcome. Mervyn.

Diocesan Eco Committee Bird Survey

A big thanks to the many children and their families from across the Group who kindly participated in the Bird Survey, and who spent some of the lockdown keeping a close eye on our feathered friends. For those who would still like to take part details are on the Diocesan website. Get counting!

First Wednesday Home Communion

As the Rector is hoping to be away in early August, it is his intention to resume home communions and regular visitation (safe guidelines permitting) in the first week of September.

Items for the August 2020 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY July 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, July 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

Sunday & Feast Day Readings

July					
Sunday 5th <i>The Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 24: 34–38, 42–49, 58–67</i> <i>Psalm 45: 10–17</i> <i>Romans 7: 15–25a</i> <i>Matthew 11: 16–19, 25–30</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer
Sunday 12th <i>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 25: 19–34</i> <i>Psalm 119: 105–112</i> <i>Romans 8: 1–11</i> <i>Matthew 13: 1–9, 18–23</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer		Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th <i>The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 28: 10–19a</i> <i>Psalm 139: 1–11, 23–24</i> <i>Romans 8: 12–25</i> <i>Matthew 13: 24–30, 36–43</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Saturday/Sunday 25th/26th <i>The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 29: 15–28</i> <i>Psalm 105: 1–11, 45b</i> <i>Romans 8: 26–39</i> <i>Matthew 13: 31–33, 44–52</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm Evening Prayer	Lacca Sunday 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer

Parish Diary

July


- 6th Monday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**
- 9th Thursday.....Fellowship Service (page 3)**
- 13th-17th July.....Summer Zoom Clubs (page 3)**
- 22nd Wednesday....Closing date for August 2020 Newsletter**


If the COVID-19 virus was your teacher, it would be interesting to ask yourself what it has taught you so far? Could you pause, breathe and take a moment now to consider this question and also to reflect upon what you are most looking forward to when this is all over? Is there something in particular on the list here today that you can identify as something you once took for granted but now something you will cherish and view as a luxury? It is interesting how this crisis, as awful has it has been is paradoxical in it's function. It has taken so much from us and yet it has handed us an opportunity of a lifetime to begin again in appreciating the simplest of pleasures. It has opened a space for us to recalibrate our perspective, our thoughts and our awareness. In the midst of the stress and sadness is a gift. How strange it is that in the darkest of times, we find a lesson and within this teaching is a blessing. Go gently, go lightly this Tuesday.

May we never again take for granted:

- Evenings with friends and family
- Birthday celebrations
- The roar of a crowded stadium
- Mornings at the gym
- Going to a concert or movie
- A night at the theatre
- Packed dance floors
- Coffee with a friend
- Happy hour
- A hug
- Life itself.

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