

The Newsletter

August 2020

Rector:

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Safely Returning To Worship In Our Churches

- * Please don't come to church if you feel unwell.
- * 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, and when entering and leaving.
 - * Please bring your own prayer book.
 - * Please use the hand gel provided.
- * Please understand that singing in church is presently not permissible due to Diocesan guidelines.
 - * Please keep praying for God's help in seeing us all safely through this time of pandemic.

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Gone Fishing

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” (*Matthew 13:47-51*)

I don't like fish, so I've never tried fishing. Admittedly I'll occasionally eat a cod but I couldn't describe what one looked like. All I do know about fish and fishing is that if you throw a net into a river you'll probably haul in a shopping trolley or an old tyre – it's better to use a rod. Jesus and his fishermen disciples knew full well that when a net is thrown into the sea it catches every fish that can't get through. A net doesn't pick and choose, it takes everything it can. The church is like a net thrown into a sea of humanity, and rightly so, because on the noticeboards it says: All are welcome; rich or poor, black or white, sinner and non-sinner. All are welcome to enter our church. Jesus asks the disciples if they have understood him, and they reply “Yes.” Thus Jesus wants us to be clear on what it means to fish with a net: invite everyone to enter our church. Let us leave judgment to the Lord, for who we are to judge, and let's leave the sifting out to the angels who will sort the evil from the righteous at the end of the age. As our churches begin to reopen, let us humbly continue to cast our nets and hopefully guide people into our church, and let us share our love of the Lord with them. Ultimately we pray that we will live out our faith with the goal in mind that we will lead others to eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

~Rev. Victor

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to:

The family and friends of **John Carter** (Roskleton) on his recent sudden and unexpected death on 15th July. John, late of Ardlea, was in his 81st year having just before the Coronavirus lockdown turned 80, and is survived by his sisters Charlotte and Alice. He was laid to rest in Roskelton on Sunday 19th July.

Serena Senior (Lacca) on the death of her beloved mother **Florence Rowan** (née Lambe), late of Clonreher, Portlaoise. Florence died on July 19th surrounded by her loving family, and was laid to rest on Wednesday 22nd July following her funeral service in St Peter's Church, Portlaoise.

Martin Meade, General Manager of Telfords Mountrath (and well known to many in the community for his work as Chairperson of the Mountrath Community Forum) on the death of his dear mum **Betty Meade**. Betty, née Fitzpatrick, is late of Ringstown, Mountrath.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Baptism Joy!

We welcome in holy baptism **baby Ross** who will be baptised in Annatrim Church on Saturday 22nd August. Ross was born just before Christmas on 19th December--what a Christmas present!--to Averil and Roy Treacy. We pray God's blessing upon baby Ross, his proud parents, and his sponsors as he begins his journey in faith.

General Vestries 2020

Offerlane: Thursday 3rd September, Annatrim Church

Clonenagh: Tuesday 8th September, Parochial Hall Mountrath

Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran: Thursday 10th September, Seir Kieran

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.

Rector's Training Course

The Rector is participating in a **Team Leadership Course** at St Luke's Education Centre, Cork, which began on Wednesday 22nd July. The course, which runs for 10 weeks until late September, regrettably means that the Rector will have limited availability on Wednesdays until the course finishes.

Happy Holidays

The Rector will be on **stacycation** from Monday 27th July until Monday 10th August. Canon Peter Tarleton (Portlaoise) will provide emergency cover. Please contact Canon Peter on (057) 868 8432.

Fellowship Service

There will be no fellowship service in Lacca Church for August and will return on **FRIDAY 11th September**, for that month only.

Lacca Church Sunday School

There will be **no Sunday School** in Lacca for August. It is hoped that the normal Sunday School schedule will be able to resume in September, however this is not certain.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services 2020

With the present Government and Diocesan restrictions on: the numbers attending church; socialising over tea and coffee; singing in church; maintaining social distancing; and the need to protect the weak and vulnerable, it remains unclear if or how we will be able to celebrate our Harvest Thanksgivings this year, but with God's help we will have some clarity soon.

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.

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 always, the rector remains available for anyone who would like a visit or wishes to see him, however scheduled home communions and regular visitation (safe guidelines permitting) will not recommence until September at the earliest. Owing to his Team Leadership Course which takes place on Wednesdays, home communions will instead be changed to the first Thursday of September.

Golden Wedding Anniversary!

We extend our most hearty congratulations and good wishes to **Mabel and Charlie Peavoy** who on Wednesday 22nd July celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. We pray God's blessing upon them both as they cherish 50 years of happy memories and look forward to many more together.

Services & Readings

August						
Sunday 2nd <i>The Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 32: 22–31 Psalm 17: 1–7, 16 Romans 9: 1–5 Matthew 14: 13–21</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 9th <i>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 37: 1–4, 12–28 Psalm 105: 1–6, 16–22, 45b Romans 10: 5–15 Matthew 14: 22–33</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 16th <i>The Tenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Genesis 45: 1–15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1–2a, 29–32 Matthew 15: [10–20], 21– 28</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Saturday/ Sunday 22nd/23rd <i>The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1–8 Matthew 16: 13–20</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	
Sunday 30th <i>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 3: 1–15 Psalm 105: 1–6, 23–26, 45c Romans 12: 9–21 Matthew 16: 21–28</i>	Mountrath 11.00am Morning Prayer				

Parish Diary

August

6th Thursday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes

19th Wednesday....Closing date for September 2020 Newsletter

Items for the September 2020 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **WEDNESDAY August 19th AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the **Fourth Sunday, August 23rd**.

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