

The Newsletter

September 2020

Rector:

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Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Safely Returning To Worship In Our Churches

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

(James 5:13-18, NIV)

A very sincere thank you to our churchwardens and all of our volunteers who came together as one, and gave so much of their valuable time and energy to get all six of our churches ready for reopening for services. The work done in cleaning, vacuuming, polishing, roping off pews, guiding the parishioners through the new approaches needed in returning to worship and attending meetings has been phenomenal and largely unseen. It would not have been possible to reopen our churches without the cooperation and good will of all of you.

It has been a sad and unsettling blow to see counties Laois, Offaly and Kildare return to Lockdown and our churches closed again. It's also very worrying to feel we are going backwards in our fight against COVID-19, but with God's help it will help concentrate minds again on just how deadly and dangerous this virus is, and lead to a renewed vigour and vigilance in combatting it. So please, all of you, stay safe. May I also say a special word of thanks to Ivor for doing such a professional job on our signage and church notices, and indeed to you, the parishioners, for bearing so patiently with the guidelines and restrictions.

You might know that the bishops have recently amended their own guidelines and now earnestly recommend the wearing of masks or face coverings in church, however they are fully aware that for various reasons some people are unable to wear masks, so do bear this in mind if you see people not wearing masks.

Please remember!:

- * 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 wear a mask or face covering if you are able to do so.
- * Please maintain 2 metres social distancing both inside and outside of the church, and when entering and leaving.
- * Please bring your own prayerbook.
- * Please use the hand gel provided.
- * Please understand that singing in church is presently not permissible due to Government and Diocesan guidelines.
- * Please 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!

~Rev. Victor

Parish Notes

Beautifully Illustrated Holy Bible

Donated To Seir Kieran

During the recent easing of the Coronavirus COVID-19 restrictions, before the sad and distressing return to Lock-down, parishioners in Seir Kieran were delighted to receive the anonymous donation of a beautifully illustrated and illuminated King James Bible.

The anonymous donor, a Galway native but whose father had connections to Clareen and was a frequent visitor to Seir Kieran, obtained the Bible when a bookshop known to him closed down. The Bible is brand new and was still in its original packing when our donor came into possession of it, although it had lain unsold in the bookshop for several decades. Purchased at minimal cost, the donor instead made a significant donation to homeless charities in lieu of the listed price of the Bible.

The Rector was delighted when contacted by the donor about gifting something to Seir Kieran in honour of his late father and grandparents.

The Bible was dedicated at the 7pm Saturday service of Evening Prayer in July, and makes for a wonderful addition to our worship in the church and will no doubt continue to be used there for many, many years to come.

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7, KJV)



(Image kindly provided by Rev'd Victor Fitzpatrick)

General Vestries 2020

Owing to government restrictions on the size of meetings the dates of our General Vestries have yet again had to be altered. I'm terribly sorry for this inconvenience.

Clonenagh: Tuesday 15th September, Parochial Hall, Mountrath

Offerlane: Thursday 17th September, Annatrim Church

Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran: Tuesday 22nd September, Seir Kieran

All meetings at 8.00pm. Please do try to attend if you are able. It is most important that you remember to send apologies to the relevant Honorary Secretary if you can't be there.

Baptism Joy!

We welcome in holy baptism baby **Ross** who was 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**. The ceremony was attended by his parents and sponsors only, and socially distanced. We pray God's blessing upon baby Ross, his proud parents, and his sponsors as he begins his journey in faith.

Wedding Joy!

Congratulations and every happiness to **Sinead Hanlon** and **Stuart Cooper** who were married on Thursday 13th August in the Radisson Hotel in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Like many couples tying the knot in 2020, Sinead & Stuart had to cope with the restrictions placed on them due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but thankfully this didn't prevent them celebrating their wonderful day together. We pray God's blessing upon the happy couple and we wish them every joy.

Sláintecare

The Living Well Programme

The Living Well programme is a Sláintecare-funded programme, and is a free group online Self-Management programme for adults with long term health conditions. For more information please contact Ciara on 087 408 8325 or email: SelfManagementSupportsSECH@hse.ie The website is: www.hse.ie/LivingWell

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 12 weeks, regrettably means that the Rector will have limited availability on Wednesdays until the course finishes.

Holiday Cover

The Rector would like to thank The Venerable John Murray, the Reverend Kenyon Homfray, John Bailey, Mabel Peavoy and James Bennett who very graciously assisted with services in the Group during his recent staycation, and to Canon Peter Tarleton who provided emergency pastoral cover.

Sunday Services 30th August

There will be two church services on Sunday 30th August, which is the fifth Sunday of the month. The Rector will celebrate Holy Communion at 9.30am in Annatrim Church and Emma Purser will lead Morning Prayer at 11am in St Peter's Church, Mountrath. Due to present guidelines, two services cannot take place in the same church until a period of 72 hours has elapsed, hence the use of the two churches. Rev. Victor will be attending a diaconate ordination in St Finn Barre's Cathedral, Cork, that day and is very grateful to Emma for taking the 11am service.

Fellowship Service

The fellowship service in Lacca Church will take place as usual on the second Thursday of September, please note the change of day back to Thursday 10th September as there will now be no clash of dates with General Vestries.

Lacca Church Sunday School

We are delighted to announce that the Sunday School in Lacca will be able to resume in September in its usual time during the 10.30am first Sunday of the month service in Lacca Parish Hall. All school age children are welcome!

Harvest Thanksgiving Services 2020

With the ongoing Government and Diocesan restrictions on: the numbers attending church; socialising over tea and coffee; singing in church; maintaining 2 metres social distancing; and the need to protect the weak and vulnerable; it is

deeply regrettable that we will be unable to celebrate our Harvest Thanksgivings this year, but with God's help we will all look forward to once again gathering as a community and celebrating our Harvest Thanksgivings with renewed joy and hope in 2021.

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.

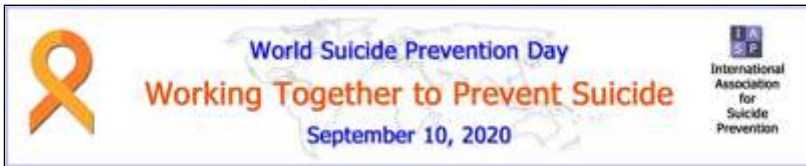
Home Communions

Socially distanced home communions will recommence in the first week of September. The Rector will be in contact with those on the visitation list to arrange a suitable day and time, if they feel comfortable with a house call. Everything possible will be done to ensure that everyone is kept safe and well.



*Nigel Peavoy and Hazel Williams on their wedding day
with their proud sons*

(Image kindly provided by Hazel Williams)



It takes work to prevent suicide. Joining together is critical to preventing suicide and preventing suicide requires the efforts of many. It takes family, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials and governments.

Every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths, which equates to one suicide every 40 seconds.

Every life lost represents someone's partner, child, parent, friend or colleague. For each suicide approximately 135 people suffer intense grief or are otherwise affected. This amounts to 108 million people per year who are profoundly impacted by suicidal behaviour. Suicidal behaviour includes suicide, and also encompasses suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. For every suicide, 25 people make a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide. Preventing suicide is often possible and you are a key player in its prevention! You can make a difference - as a member of society, as a child, as a parent, as a friend, as a colleague or as a neighbour. There are many things that you can do daily, and also on World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), to prevent suicidal behaviour. You can raise awareness about the issue, educate yourself and others about the causes of suicide and warning signs for suicide, show compassion and care for those who are in distress in your community, question the stigma associated with suicide, suicidal behaviour and mental health problems and share your own experiences. This is the third year that the WSPD theme is "Working Together to Prevent Suicide." We have chosen this theme as it highlights the most essential ingredient for effective global suicide prevention- collaboration. We all have a role to play and together we can collectively address the challenges presented by suicidal behaviour in society today.

Reference: <https://www.iasp.info/wspd2020/> (The International Association for Suicide Prevention)



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



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

Services & Readings

August			
Sunday 30th <i>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 3: 1–15</i> <i>Psalm 105: 1–6, 23–26, 45c</i> <i>Romans 12: 9–21</i> <i>Matthew 16: 21–28</i>	Annatrim 9.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.00am Morning Prayer

September						
Sunday 6th <i>The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 12: 1–14</i> <i>Psalm 149</i> <i>Romans 13: 8–14</i> <i>Matthew 18: 15–20</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>The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 14: 19–31</i> <i>Psalm 114</i> <i>Romans 14: 1–12</i> <i>Matthew 18: 21–35</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 20th <i>The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 16: 2–15</i> <i>Psalm 105: 1–6, 37–45</i> <i>Philippians 1: 21–30</i> <i>Matthew 20: 1–16</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	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 26th/27th <i>The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 17: 1–7</i> <i>Psalm 78: 1–4, 12–16</i> <i>Philippians 2: 1–13</i> <i>Matthew 21: 23–32</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	
Tuesday 29th <i>Saint Michael and all Angels</i>	<i>Genesis 28:10-17</i> <i>Psalm 103:19-22</i> <i>Revelation 12:7-12</i> <i>John 1: 47-51</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm				

Parish Diary

September

- 6th Sunday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**
 6th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 5*)
 10th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (*page 5*)
 10th Thursday.....World Suicide Prevention Day (*page 6*)
 15th Tuesday.....Clonenagh General Vestry (*page 4*)
 17th Thursday.....Offerlane General Vestry (*page 4*)
 22nd Tuesday.....Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran General Vestry (*page 4*)
23rd Wednesday....Closing date for October 2020 Newsletter