

The Newsletter



October 2020

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Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Ecumenical Services To Ring Out The Old Year, And Ring In The New

The year AD2020 has been a difficult year for many, and there are still three months left to go. Three months that may yet herald renewed restrictions, social distancing and lockdown.

Nobody wants to wish their life away because life is a precious gift, and life is for living. With all of these factors involved, an Ecumenical service based on our traditional Advent service of Seven Lessons and Carols is planned to take place in St Fintan's Roman Catholic Church in Mountrath on Sunday 20th December at 7pm.

If by then singing is permitted in churches, the service will be in the exact format of our traditional service with scripture readings and hymns.

However, if the restrictions on singing in church are not lifted, then the service will be in the form of scripture readings, reflections and some seasonal music. Rev. Victor, Fr. Joe and Fr. PJ are very keen to end 2020 on a prayerful, hopeful, and joyous high note.

With God's help and blessing, 2021 will herald the dawn of a wonderful, healthy and prosperous new year.

~Rev. Victor

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Mervyn Harvey (Roskelton) on the recent death of his dear brother **Richard (Arthur) Harvey**, late of Abbeyleix, who died peacefully at home on Monday 31st August surrounded by his loving family. Arthur was laid to rest following his funeral service in St Michael and All Angels Church, Abbeyleix.

Yvonne Shaw (Seir Kieran) on the death of her beloved mother **Elizabeth (Betty) Eades** (née Ardill), late of Seffin, Birr, Co. Offaly, who died peacefully at home on Friday 11th September. Her funeral was held in St Brendan's Church, Birr, and she was laid to rest in Clonoghill Cemetery.

Jennifer Lalor (niece) and Willie Clegg (first cousin) on the death of **Anna Margaret (Joan) Bradley**, formerly of Ballycoolan, Stradbally, Co.Laois, who died on Monday 14th September. Her funeral Service was held in the Presbyterian Church, Adelaide Road, Dublin, followed by burial in St. Mogue's Church, Timogue, Co. Laois.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Baby Joy!

We welcome baby **Matthew James**, first born child of **Linda and William Carter**. Matthew's recent birth makes grandparents of Lisa's proud mum and dad, **Margaret and Tommy McKay** and proud grandmother **Peg** is now a great-grandmother.

We also extend another very warm welcome to another new baby, at time of going to press **Emily and Frank Jackson** received joyous news that they have another granddaughter when **Edel and Niall Jackson** announced the birth of a healthy **baby girl**, a little sister for their boys **Rory and Matt**.

We thank God for the safe delivery of these two bouncing babies and we extend hearty congratulations to both families.



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.



Ecumenical St Fintan's Day Service At Clonenagh Monastery

In the spirit of unity and cooperation that will mark our ecumenical service at the end of 2020, we will gather together on the evening before February 17th 2021, which is St Fintan's feast day, and in 2021 it will also be Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent.

To mark the occasion, Rev. Victor, Fr. Joe and Fr. PJ will lead an ecumenical pilgrimage to Clonenagh Monastery on the Portlaoise Road.

Clonenagh Monastery is one of the most ancient and important monastic foundations of early Christian Ireland, and was founded by St Fintan.

There will be an Ecumenical Prayer Service in the monastery on the eve of the Saint's feast day (Tuesday 16th February) at 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Stay Alert!:

- * 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.

General Vestries 2020

At last we were able to have our Easter General Vestry meetings, and may I extend a very warm thank you to Borris-in-Ossory Rector's Churchwarden Heather for all her kind help and support since I arrived in the parish, who is now stepping down after many years dedicated service to the parish in a variety of capacities.

May I also thank Ivan, the People's Churchwarden, who has very kindly accepted the appointment as Rector's Churchwarden in Borris.

I would also like to give hearty thanks to Stan (Annatrim), Moira (Lacca), Emily (Mountrath), Phyllis (Roskelton) and William (Seir Kieran) who have very graciously agreed to continue as Rector's Churchwardens in their respective parishes.

I also extend a very sincere thanks to Joyce Wharton who stepped down as Honorary Secretary of Borris-in-Ossory / Seir Kieran after many dedicated years in the role, and our thanks

to Ian Colbourne for stepping in to the post.

We also bid a very fond farewell to Florence Peavoy who has been Honorary Treasurer of Clonenagh for many, many years. Florence gave a great deal of time and energy to her role, and we wish her successor, Shiree Birney, the best of luck as she takes on the position. Indeed, to all of our Churchwardens, Glebewardens and Vestrymembers may I extend a very sincere thanks for all of your dedicated service, assistance and hard work on behalf of the parish.

~Rev. Victor

Comhaltas: The Living Tradition Spoke To Young Lacca Parishioner Recently

It was Stephen Conroy – that doyen of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in Camross, Co. Laois – who first brought Robert Harvey to my attention. He was then a young boy taking his first tentative steps into the wonderful world of our traditional music. Robert's journey since then has been marked with many milestones of achievement and academic success.

It came as no surprise to me that Robert Harvey would be the one to delve into the unique realm of whistling – that much underestimated musicianship. Yet, whistling like liltin and sean-nós dancing fascinates audiences and very often gets rapturous applause.

Robert, through his own impressive knowledge of our native music and his keen observation and respect for what is unique and special, was the one to place whistling on the pedestal it justly deserves.

I have always cherished whistling as it can be so spontaneous, without encumbrance, and very often reflects the mood of the whistler at a given mo-

ment. When I was young, I thought I was destined for whistling greatness. An Bráthar Bric heard me whistling in the school yard and must have thought – as no one else did – that I had some special talent. He reported his discovery to An Bráthar Ó Nualáin, the music teacher. I was summoned to his class to give a grand performance but not a note would pass my lips! So ended my dream but not my regard for whistling.

Comhaltas, from its earliest days, recognised the significance of whistling and included it in Fleadh competitions. Dublin County Board and Meitheal also appreciated whistling and knew that Robert Harvey was the one to give it due and scholarly recognition.

Tá sé fíor nach féidir a bheith ag feadail agus ag ithe mine! Ach tá sé fíor freisin go dtugann an feadaire an-phléisiúr do dhaoine go bhfuil meas acu ar ár gceol traidisiúnta. Tá éacht déanta ag Robert Harvey agus táimid go léir faoi chomaoin aige.

~Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Lacca Church Sunday School

We are delighted to announce that the Sunday School in Lacca has been able to resume in its usual time during the 10.30am first Sunday of the month celebration of Holy Communion in Lacca Parish Hall. All school age children are welcome. A very sincere thanks to Anne, Clive and Joanna for their time, hard work and dedication in running the Sunday School for the children of the parish.

Thursday Bible Club

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are very much looking forward to restarting Thursday Bible Club on Thursday nights at 6.30pm – 7.45pm. There have been some recent

changes in attendance limits. Presently we are NOT limited to twelve children. So new children are welcomed and should prebook online. (Link is below) However if the level changes from level 2 to 3, then we will have to restrict numbers to twelve children. In this changed environment some aspects of the club will be a little different. Some of the changes are highlighted below.

- There is no need for parents to enter the hall, and parents should maintain social distancing when waiting outside.
- Children do not need to wear face coverings.
- Children should sanitise their hands on entering and exiting the hall.
- Games which are played may involve less physical contact.
- Children will be seated at 1m distancing.
- The children are not allowed to sing at club.
- Children should bring their own Bible, only if they have one.

Planned dates until Christmas:

24 September, 8 October, 22 October, 5 November, 19 November, 3 December

See you on Thursday!

~Mervyn

Link to booking form:

<https://form.jotform.com/202526397463359>



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 as fully as we have been able to do in previous years this year. We can of course gather in church to pray and give thanks, but it will be with God's help that we may 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. So far four young parishioners have expressed their desire to be Confirmed next year.

Home Communions

Socially distanced home communions have now recommenced in the first two weeks of the month. Everything possible will be done to ensure that everyone is kept safe and well. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.



Mountrath Girls Friendly Society

Unfortunately we are unable to recommence GFS Meetings until a later date as we need to comply with guidance provided by Central Office following a National Survey. We will review monthly and look forward to recommencing later in the year.

There will be no All Ireland Handcraft or Bible Study completions this year .

Well done to all members who submitted Diocesan Handcraft and Bible Study entries last year. Certificates will be given to all girls for their entries .

Congratulations to the following prize-winners In the Diocesan Competitions:

3-5yrs Handcraft: Chloe Hargroves 1st prize

5-7yrs Handcraft: Sophie Telford Highly Commended

9-11yrs Handcraft: Rebekah Clegg 2nd Prize, Amy Lalor 3rd Prize

11-13yrs Handcraft: Miriam Senior 3rd Prize

11-13yrs Bible Study: Miriam Senior 1st Prize, Jane Lalor Highly Commended

If anyone has any small light Irish Items eg bookmarks, crochet, pencils, tea towels, key rings, etc, that they would like to donate to us for the GFS Junior delegate to take to World Council in 2021 they would be greatly appreciated
Any queries to Jennifer 086 8185644

Keep Safe everyone!

Roy Campanella was a catcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Tragically, he was in a car accident which left him paralyzed from the waist down.

A CREED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do great things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing I asked for – but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among men, most richly blessed.

This poem was written on a plaque in the rehabilitation centre that was used by Roy Campanella. He found it an inspiration as he worked through his rehabilitation and ultimate acceptance that he would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life. In spite of his physical condition, Roy Campanella saw himself as “richly blessed.”

This creed is hung on a wall at the waiting room of Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, 400 East 34th Street, NYC.

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

Items for the November 2020 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY October 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, October 25th.

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

September		
Tuesday 29th <i>Saint Michael and All Angels</i>	<i>Genesis 28:10-17 Psalm 103:19-22 Revelation 12:7-12 John 1: 47-51</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm

October						
Sunday 4th <i>The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46</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 11th <i>The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 18th <i>The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Service of the Word
Saturday/ Sunday 24th/25th <i>The Fifth Sunday before Advent</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46</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	
Wednesday 28th <i>Saint Simon & Saint Jude</i>	<i>Isaiah 28: 14-16 Psalm 119: 89-96 Ephesians 2: 19-22 John 15: 17-27</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				

Parish Diary

October

4th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 5*)

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

8th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)

21st Wednesday.....Closing date for November 2020 Newsletter

22nd Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)