

The Newsletter

December 2020

Rector:

*Rev'd Victor Fitzpatrick,
Clonenagh Rectory,
Portlaoise Road,
Mountrath.*

Phone: 057-8732146 /086-3974035

Diocesan Reader:

*Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.*

Phone:057-8732331

Parish office: clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org



Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Start A New Family Christmas Tradition

Beginning on 1st December, why not encourage your children to read St Luke's Gospel one chapter a night? There are twenty-four chapters in St Luke's Gospel which means that by Christmas Eve your son or daughter will have read the entire account of Christ's life and mission, beginning with his joyful birth in the City of David, Bethlehem, right up to his sorrowful yet ultimately triumphant death on the Cross. It will give your child a wonderful start to Christmas morning, and enable them to appreciate whom we celebrate and why. You might even enjoy reading along with them yourselves. Start a whole new family Christmas tradition!

Christmas and New Year Greetings

To all of our Parishioners in the Clonenagh Group of Parishes: to your families, children, loved ones and friends, I wish a very peaceful and health-filled Christmas and a happy New Year 2021 and I hope that all of your goals and aspirations will be reached with love and peace, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. To those of you who were bereaved in 2020, I pray that our Lord God will wrap you in his loving arms to console you every day of your life. Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

~Rev. Victor

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Rev. Victor on the death of his uncle, **Jim Fitzpatrick**. Jim, a former director of Bohemians F.C. and owner of a men's fashions business, had been seriously ill for some considerable time now and has been in the care of St Joseph's Hospice in Raheny, Dublin, for almost two years. He was laid to rest in Skerries, Co. Dublin, on 2nd November.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Christmas Eve / Day Services 2020

Thursday 24th December

Holy Communion, Seir Kieran, 6.00pm
Holy Communion, Borris-in-Ossory, 8.00pm
Holy Communion, Lacca, 9.30pm

Friday 25th December

Holy Communion, Roskelton, 9.00am
Holy Communion, Annatrim, 10.15am
Holy Communion, Mountrath, 11.30am

Sunday 27th December

Holy Communion, Mountrath, 11.00am

Ecumenical Christmas Service

The planned Ecumenical service based on our traditional Advent service of Seven Lessons and Carols which was planned to take place in St Fintan's Roman Catholic Church in Mountrath on Sunday 20th December has regrettably been cancelled due to the uncertainties surrounding the Coronavirus.

Ecumenical St Fintan's Day Service At Clonenagh Monastery

Wednesday 17th February 2021 is St Fintan's feast day and it is also Ash Wednesday. In a spirit of hope and joy Rev. Victor, Fr. Brophy 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.

Online Services

For the time of lockdown, Rev. Victor is recording Sunday and weekday services and school assemblies which are available to view on his YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/prayspot> and services on the fourth Sunday of the month during lockdown will be broadcast online by Mervyn Tomb. Links to Mervyn's services will be made available via the WhatsApp Group.

Online Disaster Seminar

A free online half-day seminar on Disaster Planning organised by the Irish Georgian Society will commence at 10am on Wednesday 9th December with an opening address by Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D., followed by a number of short presentations to include the following speakers: Margaret Quinlan, FRIAI (keynote speaker); Paul Collins, Ecclesiastical Insurance (consideration for insuring historic buildings); and case studies by Alicia Parsons (Birr Castle) and Gavan Woods (St. Patrick's Cathedral). The purpose of the seminar is to help owners and custodians of an historic property, where possible, to prevent or reduce the risk of disaster striking their property by fire, floods, storms, lightning strikes or vandalism, and to lessen the damage caused should disaster occur. The seminar will outline how an owner can produce a disaster risk management plan or 'Disaster Plan'. The seminar is free but advanced registration is required. Please go to the Irish Georgian Society's website <https://www.igs.ie/events/disaster-advice-seminar> for more information on the programme and how to join the seminar which will be delivered live online through Zoom.

Online Marriage Counselling

In these stressful times, there can be even more strain on relationships than usual and the Church of Ireland Marriage Council is keen to reassure people that marriage coun-

selling services are still available. Working from home can be very convenient in terms of cutting down on commuting but it can also become difficult to balance work, childcare and relationships, all from the one space. In these circumstances of part-isolation and social distancing, the Marriage Council's panel of counsellors continue to offer counselling online. A full list of our counsellors is available on our website: <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/our-faith/how-do-i/marriage>

*~Aisling Sheridan
(Church of Ireland Marriage Council)*

Fellowship Service

Coronavirus restrictions permitting, the fellowship service in Lacca Church takes place on the second Thursday of the month. All welcome.

Lacca Church Sunday School

Coronavirus restrictions permitting, the Sunday School in Lacca will be held during the 10.30am first Sunday of the month celebration of Holy Communion. All school age children are welcome. A sincere thanks to Anne, Clive and Joanna for their time, hard work and dedication in running the Sunday School.

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 as soon as possible. So far four young parishioners have expressed their desire to be Confirmed next year and it is hoped the ceremony will take place in mid-2021.

Home Communions

Socially distanced home communions will recommence in the first two weeks of December. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

Clonenagh National School enrolments for September 2021 are now taking place. Please contact the school on 057-87325216 or email:

clonenaghns@gmail.com and a Notification of Intention to Apply for Enrolment Form will be sent to you.

Closing date for receipt of forms is Friday 22nd January 2021.

Services & Readings

December

Sunday 6th <small>The Second Sunday of Advent</small>	Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8	Roskelton 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Lacca 10.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>
Sunday 13th <small>The Third Sunday of Advent</small>	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Benedictus 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Annatrim 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	
Sunday 20th <small>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</small>	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38	Roskelton 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Lacca 4.00pm <small>Service of the Word</small>
Thursday 24th <small>Christmas Eve</small>	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20	Seir Kieran 6.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>		Borris-in- Ossory 8.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	Lacca 9.30pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	
Friday 25th <small>Christmas Day</small>	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20	Roskelton 9.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>				
	Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 1-7, 8-20	Annatrim 10.15am <small>Holy Communion</small>				
	Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-4 John 1: 1-14	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>				
Sunday 27th <small>The First Sunday of Christmas</small>	Isaiah 61:10 - 62: 3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	Mountrath Sunday 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>				

Parish Diary

December

- 6th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 3)
6th Sunday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
 10th Thursday.....Fellowship Service (page 3)
21st Monday.....Closing date for January 2021 Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

At the time of going to press (November 21st), the Covid-19 6-week Level 5 lockdown is due to expire on December 1st. Given the uncertainty in regard to future restrictions, all of these dates and times are **PROVISIONAL** and are liable to change or cancellation. The Parish will make every effort to communicate any changes as quickly and as broadly as possible, but PLEASE consult with the Rector, the Church Wardens, or any member of the Select Vestry or event organisers before attempting to attend any Parish event.

Items for the January 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by **MONDAY December 21st AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for distribution at the Christmas Services.

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