

The Newsletter

January 2021

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



Image sourced from Microsoft Creative Commons

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

The Rector Writes

New Year Greetings

I would like to send my sincere thanks to John Bailey, Mervyn Tomb, Gillian Purser, Mabel Peavoy and James Bennett for kindly giving of their time, gifts and hard efforts in arranging and leading worship services in our churches throughout 2020, and to Mabel, Joan, Margaret, Serena and Robert for giving their time and talents in playing the organ and other musical instruments. A big thanks too to Ivor for all his help with the newsletters and service sheets, to Lionel for his kind help in driving me places, and to all our readers, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Vestry members, choirs, flower arrangers, church decorators and helpers. Thank you too to the many parish and community organisations who so kindly and thoughtfully invited both my mum and I to the many social events over the past year, many of which were regrettably cancelled due to the Coronavirus restrictions. And to the parishioners of our six churches, God bless you all and every good wish for 2021 to come.

~Rev. Victor

“Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past.”

~Rev. Henry Ward Beecher (1813 - 1887)

Looking Back On The Old Year, And Forward To The New

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

(1 Chronicles 16:11-12)

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to:

John Bailey on the death in November of his dear aunt **Deborah (Violet) Faulkner** (91). Late of Virginia, Co. Cavan, Violet died peacefully at home in the care of her family.

Betty Carter and Robert Caldbeck on the recent death of their dear uncle, **Tom Caldbeck** (96). Formerly of Ringstown, Mountrath, Tom died peacefully in the loving care of Oghill Nursing Home, Monasterevin, and was laid to rest in Rathangan.

Trish Colbourne (Seir Kieran) on the death of her dear father **Charlie O'Connor**, late of Eadestown, Naas, Co. Kildare, who died suddenly and unexpectedly but peacefully at home on 5th December.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Baby Joy!

Congratulations to **Melissa and Brian Burnell** on the birth of a bouncing baby boy, **John**, who was born on 22nd December — just in time for Christmas!

Online Services

With the return to lockdown on St Stephen's Day, Rev. Victor will record Sunday and weekday services and they will be available to view on his YouTube page at: 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.

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 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 counselling 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)

Lacca Church Handrail

Our thanks to Lacca parishioner Roger Shore and Mountrath parishioner Robert Senior for arranging and overseeing the installation and fitting of a new assistance rail in the church's front door area. The new hand rail is sleek and blends in very well with the existing church building, and the rail, very generously provided by Gladys Danne, will be there to provide assistance to anyone who needs an additional bit of support when entering or leaving Lacca Church for years to come.



(Image kindly provided by Rev'd Victor Fitzpatrick)

continued on Page 6...



A Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland

'And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness could not overcome it.' John chapter 1 verse 5

2020 is a year which we will never forget. It is a year in which the gathering darkness sometimes seemed as though it might overcome the way we live. Darkened and deserted streets, shuttered up shops and businesses, even closed places of worship. Fears that our health services might be overwhelmed or that we might not have the resolve or the resilience to organise ourselves against a deadly enemy. But the darkness has not overcome us and the brightness of the incarnation of the Son of God shines more brilliantly still against a dark background. Now we can begin to see the darkness scattering. God's coming into the world at Christmas time is the sure witness and foundation of his love for us, and the redemption of the whole creation.

Covid-19 has stripped away the layers of what is impermanent in our lives and revealed just how fundamental the central messages of the Gospel are for the good of our world. To love God and to express that love in the love for our neighbour. All over this island, our parishes and our people have worked to be lights set on a hill, in solidarity with all people of goodwill. And we will continue in his strength to do so as this shared time of hardship continues.

And we have experienced those hopeful acts of service as the privileges of our calling as disciples of the incarnate Lord. Sometimes it has been difficult to be with those who needed us in the way we would have wished to be; in the way that God came to be with us. The frustration of being apart has been keenly felt across our countryside, towns and cities. But we have prayed, and persevered and hoped and loved, and trusting and following him has seen us through. Many of us had little to endure. Some have had much. We are all in the debt of those who kept us well, or who cared for the sick, or who comforted the fearful, bereaved, and those whom we have lost to

death in these months.

We have had to learn again the lessons of our dependence on one another and of the interdependence of the whole world. The frontline kept expanding and we found that there were simple things – even washing our hands, maintaining our distance, and covering our faces – that each of us could do for the benefit of others.

The star of Bethlehem attracted people of wisdom to the infant Jesus. The star symbolised the bright moment when God became part of his own creation and inseparable from it in his fatherly love. Through the presence of his Holy Spirit in our world today, the brightness of the star remains, illuminating the work of scientists and researchers, and providing inspiration still for many who find their motivation in working for the good of others.

We hope and pray that you will be able to make this a Christmas you will never forget, in deepening commitment to the Lord of the Church, joyful in the warmth of his presence, and with those who can safely be with you.

The Most Revd John McDowell

Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All
Ireland

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson

Archbishop of Dublin, Bishop of Glendalough
& Primate of Ireland

The Most Revd Pat Storey

Bishop of Meath and Kildare

The Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton

Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows

Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke

Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry

The Rt Revd Dr Ferran Glenfield

Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh

The Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon

Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe

The Rt Revd Andrew Forster

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

The Rt Revd David McClay

Bishop of Down and Dromore

The Rt Revd George Davison

Bishop of Connor

Welcome Bishop Michael

We welcome Bishop Michael Burrows to Seir Kieran and Borris-in-Ossory on Christmas Eve. Bishop Michael will be celebrating Holy Communion in both churches, and it's a delight for us to have our bishop with us for Christmas, most especially in Seir Kieran which is the mother church of our Diocese.

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!

Thursday Bible Club

Coronavirus restrictions permitting, the Thursday Bible Club will be held in the Parochial Hall, Mountrath, on the second Thursday of the month from 6.30pm to 7.45pm. Please contact Mervyn for further information.

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 five 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 take place in the first two weeks of the month, Coronavirus restrictions permitting. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

Clonagh National School enrolments for September 2021 are now taking place.

Please contact the school on 057-87325216 or email

clonaghns@gmail.com

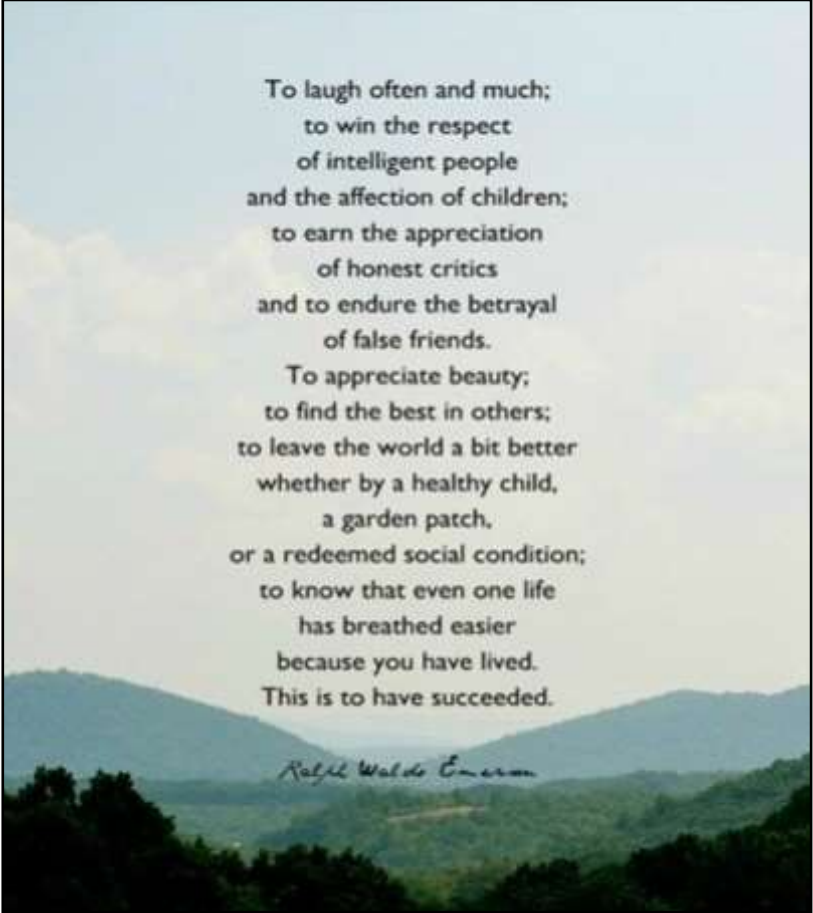
and a **Notification of Intention to Apply for Enrolment Form** will be sent to you.

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



Definition of Success

by Ralph Waldo Emerson



To laugh often and much;
to win the respect
of intelligent people
and the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation
of honest critics
and to endure the betrayal
of false friends.
To appreciate beauty;
to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
to know that even one life
has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Services & Readings

January						
Sunday 3rd <i>The Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Psalm 147: 13-21 Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: (1-9), 10-18	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 10th <i>The First Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Annatrim 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	
Sunday 17th <i>The Second Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51	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>
Saturday/ Sunday 23rd/24th <i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	Lacca Sunday 10.30am <small>Family Service</small>	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am <small>Morning Prayer</small>		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>
Sunday 31st <i>The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	Mountrath Sunday 9.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Annatrim 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>		

Parish Diary

January

- 3rd Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 6)
6th Wednesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
 14th Thursday.....Fellowship Service (page 6)
 14th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (page 6)
20th Wednesday.....Closing date for February 2021 Newsletter
 22nd Friday.....Closing date for Clonenagh N.S. Enrolment Applications

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

At the time of going to press (December 23rd), the country is going into Covid-19 Level 5 lock-down for an as yet unknown duration, from midnight of December 26th, St. Stephen's Day. Given the uncertainty in regard to future restrictions, all of the dates and times provided in this Newsletter are **PROVISIONAL** and are liable to change or cancellation. The Parish will make every effort to communicate any changes as quickly and as widely 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 Service or Parish event.

Items for the February 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday January 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, January 24th.

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