

The Newsletter

February 2021

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(Image kindly provided by William Whitten)

*Offaly County Council JCB following resurfacing
the driveway and carpark at Seir Kieran*

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Clonenagh and St Fintan

Fintan was a Leinster man, born in AD524. He received his religious formation in Terryglass, Co. Tipperary under St Columba, whose rule was quite severe, ascetic, and penitential. This would later greatly influence Fintan when he ultimately made his own foundation in Clonenagh, Co. Laois.

He chose Clonenagh because of its proximity to the ancient Slí Dála, the route of which is followed to this day by the old N7 (R445) road. St Fintan's monastery at Clonenagh would go on to enjoy a reputation for its austerity; so much so that St Comgall of Bangor and the founders of the Céilí Dé (Spouses of God) monastic reform movement had their training there.

Fintan's life was one of solitude, prayer and deep penance and he was said to live solely on a diet of barley bread and 'clayey' water. The monks hadn't even one cow and went without milk, cream and butter, and so complained that they couldn't do hard work on such a meagre diet. A deputation of local clergy headed by Canice of Aghaboe came to urge Fintan to improve it.

He agreed to improve the monks' diet, but elected to keep to the strict regime himself. Yet despite his very rigorous expectations he attracted many like-minded followers from across Ireland and beyond.

St Fintan was well known for his many miracles and prophesies and died in AD594. *(Taken from various sources)*

~Rev. Victor

Requiescant In Pace



We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Joe, Charlie and Billy Peavoy on the death of their brother-in-law **Alec Baldwin**, late of Tramore, Co. Waterford, who died recently. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Chrissie and his children Bill and Betty.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Notes



Engagement Joy

Our warmest congratulations to Annatrim parishioner **Ivan Austin**, and his fiancé **Avril Graham** who announced their engagement recently. We wish the couple every joy and happiness, and we hold them and all couples intending to get married this year in our prayers at this time of uncertainty, with the Coronavirus impacting on so many long laid plans. God bless you both!

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. Coronavirus restrictions permitting, 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!

Ash Wednesday & Lent 2021

Our Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday 17th February with a celebration of Holy Communion in St Peter's Church, Mountrath at 8pm. Evening Prayer with a Lenten reflection will take place on Wednesday evenings at 8pm during the weeks of Lent, Coronavirus restrictions permitting. Beginning at St Matthew's Church in Roskelton on 24th February, we will hopefully be able to

move from church to church. The dates for your diaries are:

24th February Roskelton,

3rd March Lacca,

10th March Annatrim,

17th March Seir Kieran (Wednesday

17th March is St Patrick's Day and there

will be a celebration of Holy Communion

in Seir Kieran at 11am instead of Even-

ing Prayer),

24th March Borris-in-Ossory.

Holy Week 2021

Evening Prayer for Holy Week will take place on Monday, Tuesday and

Wednesday (31st March, 1st & 2nd

April) at 8pm in:

St Matthew's Church, Roskelton

(Monday),

Annatrim Church (Tuesday).

and St Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory

(Wednesday).

On Maundy Thursday night there will be

a celebration of Holy Communion of The

Lord's Supper in St Peter's Church,

Mountrath at 8pm.

Easter Services 2021

Good Friday: 10am Roskelton to The Hollow Ecumenical Pilgrim Walk

3pm Ante Communion, St. Peter's Church, Mountrath

8pm Hymns & Readings, Lacca Church

Easter Eve: 6pm First Eucharist of Easter, Seir Kieran

8pm The Easter Vigil, Annatrim Church

Easter Day: 8am First Eucharist of Easter Morning, St Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory

9am Holy Communion I, St Matthew's Church, Roskelton

10.15am Holy Communion I, Lacca Church

11.30am Holy Communion of Easter Day, St Peter's Church, Mountrath

Welcome Bishop Michael

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael Burrows and his wife Claire to Seir Kieran and St Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory on Christmas Eve. Bishop Michael was very pleased to be able to celebrate Holy Communion in both churches because normally at this time of year owing to so many other commitments, it is very rare for him to be available to celebrate a Christmas service in a parish church.



Sing Out For Christmas

Congratulations to young Mountrath parishioner Andrew Senior for participating in the Sing Out for Christmas 2020 musical initiative organised by DCO Margaret Hawkins and the Director of Music at St Canice's Cathedral, Bartosz Thiede. The initiative involved parishioners of all ages from across the Diocese singing verses of the well-loved Christmas carol It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, which was edited together into a magnificently uplifting video. There is a link to the video from our parish Facebook page if you haven't yet seen the video.

Seir Kieran Carpark Works

A very special word of thanks to William Whitten for all his patience and efforts for many, many months now in getting the carpark and driveway at Seir Kieran resurfaced by Offaly County Council. Over the past number of years the driveway in particular has disintegrated, opening many potholes and causing a nuisance to drivers and pedestrians accessing the church. The newly resurfaced carpark and driveway makes for a much safer and pleasant environment for all, and it is right and fitting that a

national monument of such importance as Seir Kieran presents worshippers, pilgrims, and visitors with a safe and welcoming vista. Thank you William and thank you Offaly County Council.

Safeguarding Trust

The Rector recently attended an online Zoom workshop on drafting a parish Child Safeguarding Safety Statement / Risk Assessment led by Robert Dunne. The Church of Ireland recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The bishops, clergy, volunteers and staff are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities. All parishes, dioceses and other bodies operating under Safeguarding Trust will conduct a specific written risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in Church activities. The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to alleviate the risks, and this has now been done in the Clonenagh Group.

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.

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 for the period of lockdown, with services on the fourth Sunday of the month during lockdown broadcast online by Mervyn Tomb. Links to Mervyn's services will be made available via the WhatsApp group.

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 this year and it is hoped the ceremony will take place in mid-2021, but no date has yet been set. Classes will commence as soon as there is some clarity regarding the date of the ceremony.



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.

Newsletter Distribution During This Time Of Pandemic

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues and the country at Level 5 Lockdown with no great prospect of relaxation in the reasonably near future, it is becoming more and more difficult for those who distribute this Newsletter to do so in compliance with regulations and advice regarding social distancing, unnecessary travel, the 5Km travel limit which the Gardaí are currently enforcing more strictly, and with due care for their own safety and health and that of their vulnerable family members.

It would greatly ease this difficulty if as many readers as possible undertook to acquire the Newsletter by alternative means.

Every edition is available to view or download at www.clonenagh.com, usually before it's available in paper form, and perhaps readers might consider printing off a copy of this for a less Internet-able family member or neighbour?

Alternatively, anyone wishing to receive the Newsletter by post can do so by forwarding stamped & addressed envelopes to the editor at the address in the notice on the back page.

Please let your usual Newsletter distributor know if you can assist them with this, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Spring and hope are intertwined in the mind, body, and soul

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ie/blog/hope-today/201203/why-spring-is-the-season-hope>

Hope has been compared to light and heat. Karl Menninger called hope the "indispensable flame" of mental health. English writer Martin F. Tupper wrote, "though the breath of disappointment should chill the sanguine heart, speedily it glows again, warmed by the live embers of hope".

Spring also brings added light and heat, sometimes so suddenly that we speak of a virtual "spring fever". The first day of spring marks the vernal equinox, a balance of daylight and darkness. With increased light come a host of direct and indirect effects that improve mood and engender hope. Most directly, increased serotonin is produced. Serotonin is a major excitatory neurotransmitter in the nervous system, and the target of many antidepressant drugs.

Hope has been touted as "the best medicine". Norman Cousins opined "the patient's hopes are the physician's secret weapon. They are the hidden ingredients in any prescription." While anecdotes outnumber rigorous empirical studies, there is enough evidence to suggest that a hopeful attitude has a real and measurable impact on health.

The healing potential of spring is undeniable, from effecting the remission of Seasonal Affective Disorder to the increased production of Vitamin D. Once ignored, Vitamin D has become a staple of annual physical exams and a critical part of the healing regimen for cancer survivors. Vitamin D is involved in promoting bone health, proper cell differentiation, and boosting immunity.

Like spring, hope is a potent ally in sustaining health and recovering from illness. This is because hope is made collectively from the same bio-psycho-social "stuff" that investigators have separately associated with wellbeing (perceived control, social support, self-regulation, and spirituality). A survey of oncologists revealed that more than 90 percent cited hope as the primary psychological factor that impacts mortality.

Spring calls us back to nature, fills our sails with warmer winds, soothes our weary bones, and lifts our spirits. Spring is full of psychic potential because it satisfies the four basic motives that underlie hope. Perhaps this is what prompted Bern Williams to offer one of most succinct reflections on hope and spring: "The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring."

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

Smiles

The curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell and the door was answered by the vicar's very attractive teenage daughter.

"Is the vicar in?" the curate managed to whisper hoarsely.

"No," she whispered back, "Come on in!"

* * *

The curate went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you perhaps got a field at the back of your garden?"

* * *

A hospital patient's comment about the new curate: "He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week."

* * *

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded forcefully.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the minister gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

* * *

The doctor sat his patient down: "I have some good news and some bad news."

The patient said, "Give me the good news."

The doctor said, "They're going to name a disease after you."

A burglar broke into the a clergyman's house in the small hours of the morning, and was confronted by the clergyman.

"Don't give me any trouble and you'll be fine, I'm just looking for money." said the burglar.

"Let me put on a light, and help you," said the clergyman, "I've been looking for money around here for ages, and never had any success."

* * *

A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, it's called research."

* * *

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

* * *

A vicar in a small country church was looking forward to an important visit from his bishop, which would involve the bishop staying overnight at the vicarage after the service. His young son became very excited, as he had never spoken to a bishop before.

The vicar decided that his young son should be allowed to knock the bishop's door in the morning, and bring him in his morning tea. His father gave him instructions: "First, knock on the door of the bishop's room and then say loud and clear: "It's the boy, my Lord, it's time to get up."

The young son was very excited and rehearsed his lines, repeating them over and over. In due course, the bishop came and spent the night. Next morning came and the young lad went to the door, knocked and cried loudly: "It's the Lord, my boy, your time is up!"

Services & Readings

February						
Sunday 7th <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Hosea 2: 14-20 Psalm 103: 1-13, 22 2 Corinthians 3: 1-6 Mark 2: 13-22</i>	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 14th <i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Annatrim 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	
Wednesday 17th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 58: 1-12 Psalm 51: 1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>				
Sunday 21st <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-9 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15</i>	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 27th/28th <i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38</i>	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>

Parish Diary

January

- 6th Saturday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
- 7th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 4)
- 11th Thursday.....Closing date for Clonenagh N.S. Enrolment Applications
- 11th Thursday.....Fellowship Service (page 4)
- 11th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (page 5)
- 24th Wednesday.....Closing date for March 2021 Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Given the uncertainty in regard to Covid-19 lockdown 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 March 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday February 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, February 28th.

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

Clonenagh National School ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE

in respect of admissions to the 2021/2022 school year

Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the 2021/ 2022 is available as follows: –

To download at: www.clonenaghns.ie

On request: By emailing clonenaghns@gmail.com or writing to : Clonenagh NS, Mountrath, Co Laois

PART 1 - Admissions to the 2021/2022 school year

Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2021/2022

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants/First Year (delete as appropriate)

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	21st Jan 2021
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	11th February 2021
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is	4th March 2021
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	18th March 2021

Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy.

Special Class Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2021/2022 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Special Class which caters for children with [insert details of category/categories of SEN catered for in the class] -

The school will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on	Class is full
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on	N/a
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is	N/a
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	

***Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn**

Number of places being made available in 2021/2022

The number of places being made available in junior infants is	12
The number of places being made available in the special class* catering for children with ASD is	We currently have no places in our ASD class.

PART 2 - Admissions to the 2020/ 2021 school year

(This section should only be completed if your school intake group/ special class was oversubscribed in the previous school year)

In respect of the 2020/2021 school year , the total number of applications for admission received by the school which the admission notice applies was 6

Breakdown of places allocated for the xx/xx school year:	
Number of places available:	10
Number of applications received:	6
Number of Offers made and accepted under each criteria:	Priority Category One- 3 Priority Caetgory Two- 3
Total number of offers made	6
Number of names placed on waiting list for the school year concerned.	0