

# The Newsletter

April 2021

**Rector:**

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*Primula veris*  
common cowslip

*Image sourced from Microsoft Creative Commons*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## Easter Reflection

There is lots to love about bunny rabbits and chocolate eggs, but Easter Day holds a much deeper meaning. Under normal circumstances, the long weekend and improving Spring weather provides families with an opportunity to gather with one another: grandparents welcoming their children and grandchildren; aunts and uncles visiting with siblings and their nephews and nieces; and for many, the sad task of visiting and tending graves of deceased loved ones. Yet on Easter Day, the primary reason for our celebrations is the love Christ displayed for humanity when he gave his life – the ultimate sacrifice – for each one of us. He has risen, death has no power over us; indeed we most assuredly have a reason to celebrate!

However, Easter Day should by no means be the only day on which we remember and give thanks for Christ's sacrifice. In fact, because the date of Easter changes each year and isn't fixed on the calendar like Christmas Day is, it actually serves to remind us that the joy of Easter is not exclusive to one single day.

The resurrection of Christ from the dead is the kernel of our faith; we know that, through faith in Christ, death can be defeated, and we look forward to everlasting life. Christ's resurrection gives us a reason to live not only for today, but to sustain hope in our future, no matter how difficult the circumstances we currently face. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

~Rev. Victor

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## Parish Notes

### Online Holy Week & Easter Services

<http://www.youtube.com/c/prayspot>

**Maudy Thursday:** Family Service of the Word: The Lord's Supper

**Good Friday:** Children's Stations of the Cross

Traditional service of Ante Communion

**Easter Eve:** The Easter Vigil

**Easter Day:** Family Service of Morning Prayer of Easter Day

Zoom if Coronavirus restrictions are not eased. For those without internet access, Zoom allows for participants to connect by telephone. As soon as possible details of how these meetings will happen will be issued. Please do try to attend if you are able. It is important that you remember to send apologies to the relevant Honorary Secretary if you can't be there.

### Easter General Vestries

**Offerlane:** Tuesday 13th April, Annatrim Church

**Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran:** Thursday 15th April, Seir Kieran

**Clonenagh:** Tuesday 20th April, Parochial Hall Mountrath

All meetings at 8pm, socially distanced and in person **if at all possible**. However, as our Easter General Vestries **must** take place as scheduled, it may be necessary to meet online via

### Online Services

With the return to lockdown, 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](http://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.

## Requiescant In Pace

We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Eileen Senior and the Senior family on the recent death of Eileen's sister-in-law, **Violet Moorhead** late of Silvermines, Co. Tipperary, who died peacefully on Wednesday 3rd March in University Hospital Limerick.

Bella Garrett (Borris-in-Ossory) on the death of her dear sister **Merlyn St Ledger**, née Howard, late of Roscrea and Eyrecourt, Co. Galway. Merlyn died peacefully at her home on Saturday 20th March in the care of her loving family.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### Baby Joy!

Hearty congratulations to Annatrim parishioners **Sinead and Stewart Cooper** on the birth of their firstborn child, **Brian**, who was born in February;

...and to **Gillian and Peter Doyle** (Seir Kieran) who celebrated an extra special Mothering Sunday with the birth of their baby **Odhrán**.

Every blessing on the new-borns and their proud families!

### Outdoor Easter Market

Come along to get your Easter Sunday goodies in Mountrath town at the Mountrath Community Forum Outdoor Easter Market. To ensure lots of safe social distancing, the Easter Market will be held in the grounds of BloomHQ (the Convent) on Saturday 3rd April from 11am until 1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all there!

### 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 seven young people have expressed their desire to be Confirmed this year and Bishop Michael has indicated his hope that Confirmation ceremonies in the Diocese will be able to take place in late October, throughout November and into early December. Dates of Confirmation classes will be set as soon as there is greater clarity regarding the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions.

### Home Communion

At time of going to press it looks increasingly likely that there will be no socially distanced home communions permitted in April, but hopefully they will be able to take place in the first two weeks of May, again Coronavirus restrictions permitting. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.



*Iris Honner & Vera Bennett proudly welcome their new grandson/great-grandson!*

# Sunday Readings

<b>April</b>			
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Easter Day The First Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Page 188 of The Word of the Lord (the blue book)</i>	<i>Acts 10: 34-43 Canticle: Easter Anthems 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Mark 16: 1-8</i>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Page 195</i>	<i>Acts 4: 32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2 John 20: 19-31</i>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Page 202</i>	<i>Acts 3: 12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48</i>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Page 209</i>	<i>Acts 4: 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18</i>

## Parish Diary

**April**

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

**21st Wednesday.....Closing date for May 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 May 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday April 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, April 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](mailto:newsletter@clonenagh.com)**

Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mounrath, Co. Laois. 057-8621277/087-2522162

To receive the Newsletter by post, please forward stamped addressed envelopes to this address.

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