

# The Newsletter

May 2021

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*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*  
common bluebell

Image sourced from Wikimedia Commons

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## Pentecost – The Power Of The Holy Spirit

As we begin the month of May; as vaccinations gather apace; as finer weather arrives; our spirits are at long last beginning to lift, but we need something even greater still to help us: the power of the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the frightened and wavering Apostles, giving them hope and courage to proclaim the Risen Lord to all the nations.

The Virgin Mary witnessed too first-hand the power of the Holy Spirit. Each and every one of us has been, and continues to be, living through an extremely stressful time because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Let us invite the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and lift from our shoulders: financial worry; work stress; health fears; family trauma; despair.

No matter what the anxiety is, we can call on God through the power of His Holy Spirit, to assist us in our time of need.

As St Paul wrote: "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." (*Romans 15:13, NLT*)

## Easter General Vestries 2021

For the first, and hopefully the last time, our Easter General Vestries were held online on the Zoom application.

My sincere thanks to our diocesan secretaries Elizabeth and Rita who facilitated us three times with the use of the Diocesan Zoom account over the course of two days – if we had not had access to the Diocesan Zoom account it would not have been possible for people without internet access to connect by telephone to the meetings.

May I extend a very warm thank you to Annatrim's Rector's Churchwarden Stan, who is now stepping down after two years in the role, but remains on the Offerlane Select Vestry in his capacity as Treasurer.

May I also thank Albert, who has very kindly accepted the appointment as Rector's Churchwarden in Annatrim.

I would also like to give hearty thanks to Ivan (Borris-in-Ossory), 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. 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.

To our organists Mabel, Joan, Margaret and Serena; to Gillian and Emma Purser, Mabel Peavoy, John Bailey, James Bennett and Mervyn Tomb for their tremendous assistance each month with assisting with services, and a special thanks to Mervyn for providing online services on the fourth Sunday of the month; to Ivor for his hard work in putting the Newsletter and service sheets together so efficiently; and to all of our parishioners for the patience and forbearance during these extraordinary times.

Not many of our groups have been able to meet and function as normal over the past year, but to all involved in Thursday Bible Study, Mothers' Union, GFS, Sunday Club and the Fellowship Meeting, my thanks and good wishes for your time and energy which you give so generously on behalf of the parish. Hopefully we will return to some degree of normality soon

~Rev. Victor

## Requiescant In Pace

We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Brian Holmes (Annatrim) on the recent death of his dear aunt **Joy Gutsell** (née Caldbeck) from Kilmarnagh, Co. Kilkenny, but had lived most of her life in England. Joy suffered the sudden and tragic loss of her grandson, James, on 30th December 2020.

The family of the late **Christina Armitage** who died peacefully on Tuesday 20th April in her 99th year. Christina was a very active member of the parish during her years spent living in Camross.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

# Parish Notes

## 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

Hopefully with the planned easing of lockdown restriction from Tuesday 4th May it will be possible for our Home Communion to return to their regular schedule on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month, beginning with the month of May. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

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## If Jesus Came To Your House

*by Lois Blanchard Eades*

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there -

That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder - if the Savior spent a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?

Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?

Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?

Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do

If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

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

# Services & Readings

## May

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <i>The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	Acts 8: 26-40 Psalm 22: 25-31 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday</i>	Acts 10: 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Ascension Day</i>	Acts 1: 1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Luke 24: 44-53	<b>Mountrath</b> 8.00pm Holy Communion				
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Sunday after the Ascension Day</i>	Acts 1: 15-17 Psalm 1 1 John 5: 9-13 John 17: 6-19	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 4.00pm Service of the Word
<b>Saturday/Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</i>	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b Acts 2: 1-21 John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	<b>Lacca</b> Sunday 10.30am Family Service	<b>Annatrim</b> Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8: 12-17 John 3: 1-17	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.00am Holy Communion				

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

At the time of going to press, ALL of the above dates and times are published in the hope that the Government MAY relax regulations prohibiting gathering for group worship at some point during the month.

Please treat them as **PROVISIONAL INFORMATION** only, and all are liable to change or cancellation!

**In particular, the Services listed for Sunday 2nd are most unlikely to proceed.**

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 before attempting to attend any Service.

## Parish Diary

### May

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

19th Wednesday.....Closing date for June 2021 Newsletter

Items for the June 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday May 19th **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, May 23rd.

**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, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 057-8621277/087-2522162

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