

The Newsletter

June 2021

Rector:

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*Congratulations to Annie Lalor who celebrated her
80th Birthday on Wednesday 19th May*

(Image kindly provided by Jennifer Lalor)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

June Reflection — We live in hope

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."

(from "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" by Paul Gerhardt)

John tells us that on arriving to capture Jesus, Judas and a group of soldiers and officials sent by the authorities announce that they are looking for him. Jesus answers in Greek, "I am" (which in English is translated as "I am he"). Naturally this might merely have been an admission that yes, that is I, or perhaps, and more deliberately, Jesus was actually revealing his divine name: I AM.

Nonetheless, what happens next is almost comical. At once and in unison, the group of soldiers and officials falls to the ground in a heap. Jesus, with just a couple of words from his mouth, reduces a company of soldiers to a pile of bemused and head-scratching men. Eventually they get back to their feet, presumably stunned and needing to dust themselves off. However, they did then arrest him, with John recording this humorous little piece in his Gospel — which often goes overlooked — so that you the reader might in all seriousness understand that Jesus went willingly to meet his fate.

Jesus Christ is Lord, and could have walked away quite easily, if he had so wished. Nobody, no power, and no thing, can force God to act against his will. In going with this ludicrous rabble, Jesus was ultimately choosing to die on the cross. Our Saviour shed beads of bloody sweat and he felt real, human fear, yet he didn't use his power to avoid arrest or to defend himself. His death was a genuine sacrifice.

Paul would himself write, "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (*Romans 5:7-8, NIV*).

Remember: your God died for you. Bring before him in prayer your worries, your stresses, your fears, and your anxieties. Jesus did not flee from distress or allow his human feelings and fears to dictate his course of action; he faced it head on. Pray unceasingly for his help, guidance, and inspiration in facing yours. He will never abandon you.

A Return To Public Worship

A most sincere thank you to our churchwardens and all of our volunteers who came together as one, and gave so much of their valuable time and energy to get all six of our churches ready for reopening for services. The work done in cleaning, vacuuming, polishing, roping off pews, and guiding the parishioners through the approaches needed in returning to worship has been phenomenal and largely unseen. It would not have been possible to reopen our churches without the cooperation, commitment and good will of you all.

Despite the vaccination rollout, the fight against COVID-19 continues, but with God's help minds will be concentrated again on just how deadly and dangerous this virus is, and lead to a renewed vigour and vigilance in combatting it. So please, all of you, stay safe. May I also say a special word of thanks to Ivor for doing such a professional job on our signage and church notices which have weathered the long lockdown, and indeed to you, the parishioners, for bearing so patiently with the guidelines and restrictions..

Please remember!:

- * Please don't come to church if you feel unwell.
- * Please heed the advice and guidance of the church wardens on entering and leaving the church.
- * Please wear a mask or face covering if you are able to do so.
- * Please maintain 2 metres social distancing both inside and outside of the church, and when entering and leaving.
- * Please bring your own prayerbook.
- * Please use the hand gel provided.
- * Please understand that singing in church is still not permissible due to Government and Diocesan guidelines, but music is permitted.
- * Please keep praying for God's help in seeing us all safely through this time of pandemic.

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Online Services / Assemblies

My thanks to you all for the very kind feedback and appreciation of my online services during the lockdown, I'm very glad that they brought some spiritual comfort and support to the housebound throughout the pandemic church closures. I'm also extremely grateful to Mervyn Tomb for the thoughtfulness, skill and efforts he put into his online Fourth Sunday services which were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our younger parishioners and their parents. My online school assemblies will continue until the end of term.

~Rev. Victor

Parish Notes

Fellowship Service

The Fellowship Service in Lacca Church takes place on the second Thursday of the month, and returns on Thursday 10 June. All welcome.

Lacca Church Sunday School

The Sunday School in Lacca Church will return in June at the 10.30am first Sunday of the month celebration of Holy Communion. All school age children are welcome!

Thursday Bible Club

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 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 possible.

Home Communions

It will be possible for our Home Communions to return to their regular schedule on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month, socially distanced, beginning with the month of June. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.



Clonemagh National School would like to wish our 6th class well in this very exciting time in their lives as they move from primary to secondary school

(Image kindly provided by Clonemagh N.S.)

Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School are collecting second-hand or unwanted clothes, hand-bags, belts and shoes (in pairs) as a fundraiser for the school.

The collection is part of a Cash for Clobber Scheme which exports reusable items of suitable quality to developing countries, and at the same time, provides funds to the school, linked directly to the weight collected.

Items can be dropped off in black bin bags to the Parochial Hall, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath between 2pm-6pm on Sunday 13th June 2021.

Note: Pillows and duvets cannot be accepted for hygiene reasons

All donations greatly appreciated!



CASH FOR CLOBBER

Clonenagh National School, Mountrath
Fundraiser

Drop Off: Sunday 13th June 2021, 2pm-6pm

The Parochial Hall,

Portlaoise Road, Mountrath

All donations greatly appreciated

Second-hand or unwanted clothes, hand-bags, belts and shoes (in pairs)
can be donated in black bin bags.

Note: Pillows and duvets cannot be accepted.



The Oak Tree

by Johnny Ray Ryder Jr

A mighty wind blew night and day
It stole the oak tree's leaves away
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark

But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around
The weary wind gave up and spoke.
How can you still be standing Oak?

The oak tree said, I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two
Carry every leaf away
Shake my limbs, and make me sway

But I have roots stretched in the earth
Growing stronger since my birth
You'll never touch them, for you see
They are the deepest part of me

Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure
But now I've found, with thanks to you
I'm stronger than I ever knew

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

Consider It Cakes!

'Consider It Cakes' is looking to brighten up residents' days with a simple but generous gesture: baked goods. The Laois branch was just set up & are now looking for volunteers.

Background

Since the project was set up last summer, over 500 cakes & other baked goods for various occasions have been delivered to people living in direct provision with over 300 people currently volunteering to bake and deliver cakes to centres across the country. As well as giving people a boost with a special delivery, organisers also hope it will let residents know there are people in the wider community who care for them - especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The reactions are priceless and since we started this initiative it has brought so much joy into our lives because we feel like we can really make a change.

How it works

1) Anyone who is homeless, asylum-seeking or simply cannot afford a cake because of their current situation is eligible can request a cake (whatever the occasion) for a child, partner or friend. All flavours of cakes are available, and people can choose a theme/favourite toppings etc which they otherwise might not be able to afford.

2) The order is then passed on to a volunteer - simply someone who likes to bake.

3) That volunteer then sets aside some of their free time to make and deliver the cake. Children also get a little wrapped present for their birthday, such as a stuffed animal or a book.

We also like to celebrate events with special "treat days", for example, Christmas, World Mental Health Day, International Women's Day & so on.

Laois Branch

You can visit 'Consider it Cakes' on Instagram, Facebook or the website for contact details or for further information. To get involved with the Laois branch, you can also contact Jamie Deery directly on jamie.deery@hotmail.com.



Services & Readings

June						
Sunday 6th <small>The 1st Sunday after Trinity</small>	1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-20 Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1 Mark 3: 20-35	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 2nd Sunday after Trinity</small>	1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17 Mark 4: 26-34	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 3rd Sunday after Trinity</small>	1 Samuel 17: 57 - 18: 5, 10-16 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41	Roskelton 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Lacca 10.30am <small>Service of the Word</small>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>
Saturday/ Sunday 26th/27th <small>The 4th Sunday after Trinity</small>	2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43	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>
Tuesday 29th <small>St' Peter's Day</small>	Ezekiel 3:22-27 Psalm 125 Acts 12:1-11 Matthew 16:13-19	Mountrath 8.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>				

Parish Diary

June

- 6th Sunday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
- 6th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 4)
- 10th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (page 4)
- 13th Sunday.....Clonenagh N.S. Cash-For-Clobber fundraiser (page 4)
- 23rd Wednesday.....Closing date for July/August 2021 Newsletter

Items for the July/August 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday June 23rd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, June 27th.

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

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www.clonenagh.com