

The Newsletter

July/August 2021

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Digitalis purpurea
common foxglove

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Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

The Good Listener

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is part of a conversation between Jesus and an expert in the law. They talk about eternal life and the essentials of Scripture but the expert of the law is interested in specifics and asks, "If I'm expected to love God and love my neighbour then who is my neighbour?" Rather than a list, set of criteria or additional rules, Jesus tells the story of a crime: a traveller is attacked, robbed and beaten to the point of near-death.

Two people with religious standing notice the man and do nothing. One person who comes from the wrong side of the tracks sees him, takes pity on him, tends his wounds and takes him somewhere to recuperate. This story is used to illustrate to an expert of the law what God desires and commands from us but there is no explicit mention of faith in the story.

Responding to people in the way God would respond to them seems to be at the heart of this parable. We help because people are in distress. This does not make our help any less a faithful act. There is no judgement expressed in the parable from the Samaritan. No sense of whether the beaten man was wise to travel at that time of day or whether he was being overly conspicuous with his valuables. His plight moved the Samaritan.

Non-judgemental listening is incredibly powerful. To listen to someone where they are at, rather than review their route into difficulty, is more impactful than we often credit. The Samaritan helps but does not do it all. The donkey does the carrying and the innkeeper does the longer-term caring. With the hand of God to uphold us we do what we are able to do for one another. A listening ear; a cup of tea; saying a prayer; might be all we are able to do in a particular moment for someone in need, notwithstanding, '*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*' (Matthew 25:40) (Redacted from exter.anglican.org)

Requiescant In Pace

We extend our most sincere condolences to:

Vicky and Roy Wallace (Mountrath) on the sudden and tragic death of their beloved son **Trevor John Wallace**, Ringstown, Mountrath, who died on Saturday 22nd May at his home. Trevor was a darling brother of Stephen, Hazel and Derrick. Deeply regretted by his parents, brothers, sister, sisters-in-law Sanja and Kathleen, Hazel's partner Mark, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives, and his many good friends and neighbours.

Mary and Sam Chambers (Lacca) on the sudden and unexpected death of their son-in-law **Robert (Bobby) Mulhall**, late of Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, who died on Tuesday 25th May at his home. Deeply missed by his beloved daughter Jenalee, son Dylan, his loving Jane, his dear mother Kathleen and other family, aunts, uncles, relatives, and a large circle of friends and neighbours.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

A Return To Public Worship

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, and thank you 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!

Thank You For Your Good Wishes

Last Friday week I was admitted to Portlaoise hospital because of hand tremors that have made writing, shaving and typing quite difficult, if not near impossible at times. It turns out that I have cerebellar atrophy and benign essential tremors. I'll need many return visits to Portlaoise and will also be attending neurology in Tallaght to manage and control both conditions, and I thank you all most sincerely for the support of your prayers and good wishes both now and for the road ahead. However let us all take heart, for as the Prophet Isaiah wrote: "*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*" (Isaiah 41:10, ESV)

~Rev. Victor



A delightful bouquet of flowers from Clonenagh National School's Board of Management, and a lovely get well soon card from the staff and students of the school for the Rector's recent spell in hospital — very gratefully received!

Parish Notes

Fellowship Service

The fellowship service in Lacca Church takes place on the second Thursday of the month and returns for July on Thursday 8th and August on Thursday 12th at 8pm. All welcome.

Lacca Church Sunday School

The Sunday School in Lacca has returned at the 10.30am first Sunday of the month celebration of Holy Communion. All school age children are welcome!

Summer Day Camps

I just want to let you all know about our Summer "Day" Camps which we have just launched. For those aged 8 and older. (If they are nearly 8, that would still be ok.) Interest is good and early booking is advised. More info and booking form at:

<https://form.iotforme.u.com/80855695426368>

Have a good summer break. ~Mervyn

Book Launch —"Reaching Children In The Church - Ten Minutes At A Time" by Robert H. McFarland.

Robert H. McFarland is a father (3), grandfather (7), and great-grandfather (5). Ordained to the gospel ministry over 60 years ago, he has been a pastor and interim pastor in 12 different congregations in the Reformed Presbyterian Church. He has always felt called of God to "put cookies on the lower shelf" so that all may understand. Using children's talks through the years has been an enjoyable part of his ministry.

This book is partly history because of the years that are covered. But most importantly, it is a record of how the Word of God applies to everyday life. There are many children all over the world, many now grown up, that will remember these lessons and maybe even

still have some of the objects he gave to them to help them remember from week to week.

If anyone would be interested in purchasing a copy (£10/€12), the author's granddaughter Eleanor Lamberton can be contacted via email (selamberton@outlook.com), and she will be visiting the Parish with copies in early September.

Mothers' Union Greeting Cards

A wide selection of Mothers' Union greeting cards suitable for all sorts of occasions (Baptism, Confirmation, Wedding, Birthday, Sympathy, etc) are available to purchase from Phyllis Foot (087-6318711).

Confirmation 2021

Our eight young Candidates look forward to being Confirmed by bishop Michael Burrows on Sunday 17th October at 6.30pm in St Peter's Church. Confirmation classes will be held in St Peter's Church on Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Beginning with our first class on Sunday 8th August; 15th; 22nd; *no class 29th August*; 5th September; 12th; 19th; 26th; 3rd October and finally Sunday 10th October. The Rector will provide all the handouts, copies, pens, New Testaments and any other materials etc. At least one parent is kindly requested to sit in on each class.

Home Communion

Our Home Communion take place on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month, socially distanced. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

Clonenagh National School News

Retirements

This year we are saying goodbye to Gerry O'Malley and to Ber McWey. Gerry has been a bus escort to the pupils from Mr Noonan's class for almost 5 years and has been part of their school lives, he will be greatly missed by both pupils and staff.

Ber is also retiring at the end of this school year after dedicating 18 years to Clonenagh N.S. She has been a presence in many pupils' lives and has been a steady support to those she worked alongside. It has been a pleasure to work with Ber and she will be greatly missed by all.

We would like to wish Gerry and Ber the very best of luck as they embark on the next chapter.

Farewell

Jenny Galbraith will also be leaving Clonenagh N.S. at the end of this school year. We would like to thank Jenny for all her hard work and dedication and we wish her well.

Thank You

A big thank you also to Ms O'Mahony and the staff for looking after the school in Mrs Burnell's absence.



Some of our Sixth Class at the Cosy Cafe ,Mounrath for a special breakfast on their last day of primary school. A very special group of children.

(Image kindly provided by Clonenagh N.S.)

The Goose Story

When you see geese flying along in "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone — and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What messages do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally — and this is important — when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.



Author Unknown

Image sourced from <http://thedanishway.com/the-geese-story/>

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



Ann Roe's 80th Birthday Memorial Fundraiser for Laois Hospice

The Roe Family would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated to this very worthy cause in their mum, Ann's, memory. Laois Hospice was a charity very close to Ann's heart and as such it was an easy and very fitting one to choose. The fantastic total of €1,000 was raised through the GoFundMe page which surpassed all expectations and her family are humbled that their mum is still so fondly remembered by so many. Whilst the official fundraiser has closed there is still an opportunity to donate to help the wonderful work of the Laois Hospice through their website: www.laoishospice.ie/donate



Parish Diary

July

4th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 4*)

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

8th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (*page 4*)

August

1st Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (*page 4*)

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

12th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (*page 4*)

18th Wednesday.....Closing date for September 2021 Newsletter

Items for the September 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday August 18th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, August 22nd.

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

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

This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from www.clonenagh.com

Services & Readings

July						
Sunday 4th <i>The 5th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 Mark 6: 1-13	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 11th <i>The 6th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 18th <i>The 7th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Psalm 89: 20-37 Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th <i>The 8th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	Lacca Sunday 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion

August						
Sunday 1st <i>The 9th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 11: 26 - 12: 13a Psalm 51: 1-13 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 8th <i>The 10th Sunday after Trinity</i>	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2 John 6: 35, 41-51	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 15th <i>The 11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Saturday/Sunday 21st/22nd <i>The 12th Sunday after Trinity</i>	1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	Lacca Sunday 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th <i>The 13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Mountrath 11.00am Holy Communion				