

# The Newsletter

September 2021

**Rector:**

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## A prayer for Afghanistan

For those who are  
fleeing: sanctuary

For those who are  
staying: safety

For those who are  
fighting: peace

For those whose hearts  
are breaking: comfort

For those who see no  
future: hope

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## A Harvest Reflection – by Ronald Annett

In Jeremiah 8, we find ‘the weeping prophet’ reflecting on his home country, Judah. As he considers how the people have turned their backs on God’s love and grace, and with the threat of Babylonian invasion coming ever closer, he declares: *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved (Jer.8v20).”*

Just like the people of Judah, we can lose sight of God’s goodness all too easily. The seasons come and go, crops are sown and harvested, yet we can forget the One who gives life to the seed, who sends the heat and rain, and without whom our labouring in the fields is in vain. Harvest thanksgiving provides us with an opportunity to reflect on just that.

Yet Jeremiah wasn’t so concerned about God satisfying our physical hunger, nor even the pending threat of invasion. His longing was that his friends and neighbours would look to God to satisfy their spiritual hunger – the result of sin – by confessing that sin and trusting in Him for their salvation.

Jeremiah did not live so see God’s salvation plan ultimately worked out through the death of His only Son, Jesus Christ. But we all share in that privilege, and His free gift of saving grace is offered to everyone, should we choose to accept it – have you?

~Rev. Victor

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## Parish Notes



### We Welcome In Holy Baptism

We give thanks to God as we extend our most sincere best wishes and a hearty welcome to baby **John William Burnell**, son of Melissa and Brian, who was baptised in St Peter’s Church, Mountrath, on Saturday 7th August.

### Wedding Joy

We send our very best wishes to **Avril Graham** and **Ivan Austin** who will be getting married on Friday 10th September in Holy Trinity Church, Bilboa, Co. Kilkenny. We pray God’s blessing on the couple and we wish them every happiness together.

### Fellowship Service

The fellowship service in Lacca Church takes place on the second Thursday of the month 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!

### Confirmation 2021

Our eleven 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. Dates for September and October are: 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.

### Harvest 2021

Saturday 25th September 7pm – Seir Kieran  
Sunday 3rd October 7pm – Roskelton  
Sunday 10th October 11am – Borris-in-Ossory  
Sunday 17th October 4pm – Lacca  
Sunday 24th October 11am – Annatrim  
Sunday 31st October 11am – Mountrath

### **Dates For Your Diary 2021**

Sunday 17th October 6.30pm, Confirmation Service, Mountrath

Sunday 21st November 4pm, Gideon Service, Lacca

### **Home Communions**

Our Home Communions will take place on the second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of September owing to the Rector's holidays. Please contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

### **Retirement of Dr. Patrick O'Dwyer**

We wish Dr. Patrick O'Dwyer all the very best in his (Covid pandemic delayed!) retirement. Dr. O'Dwyer has been a much loved and respected caregiver for the people of Mountrath and surrounding areas for many years, through good times and bad, and his reassuring professionalism and innate kindness and empathy will be fondly remembered by his many grateful patients.

### **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 is interested in purchasing a copy (£10/€12), the author's granddaughter Eleanor Lamberton can be contacted via email and she will be visiting the Parish with copies in early September.



### **Sod Turning at Clonagh National School**

Thursday 5th August dawned a very wet and dreary day, but the grey clouds soon parted and the Sun shone through the clouds as the sod was turned on Clonagh National School's new Special Needs Classroom. Construction is now well under way on the new state of the art classroom, with a hoped for completion date of mid-2022.

*(Image kindly provided by Clonagh N.S.)*

# Services & Readings

September						
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7: 24-37</i>	<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 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Proverbs 1: 20-33 Psalm 19 James 3: 1-12 Mark 8: 27-38</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Proverbs 31: 10-31 Psalm 1 James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7-8a Mark 9: 30-37</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Service of the Word	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Saturday/Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</i>	<i>Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22 Psalm 124 James 5: 13-20 Mark 9: 38-50</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 7.00pm Harvest Service	<b>Lacca</b> Sunday 10.30am Family Service	<b>Annatrim</b> Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer		<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion

## Parish Diary

### September

5th Sunday.....Lacca Sunday School (page 2)

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

9th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service (page 2)

22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for October 2021 Newsletter

Items for the October 2021 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday September 22nd **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, September 26th.

**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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