

# The Newsletter

December 2022

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***Rev'd Victor and Bishop Adrian at Seir Kieran***

*(Photo kindly provided by Jacqui Wilkinson)*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## Reflecting With An Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths are one of the most iconic symbols of Advent. As a symbol of Christ's eternal presence, it is a beautiful one. Apart from being lit on each Sunday of Advent, the deeper meaning of each candle is often lost or overlooked. It is a pity because there is a richness to the wreath that offers real opportunities for prayerful reflection leading up to Christmas. In order to understand how we might use an Advent Wreath for reflection, let's first recall its origins.

It was in the Middle Ages that the Advent wreath first appeared in homes and churches. During the dark and cold winter, candles and greenery were symbols of light and life in pre-Christian Germanic and Scandinavian cultures. It has always been a circular evergreen wreath with either four red candles, or three purple candles (and one rose) and also sometimes with a central white candle for Christmas Day.

The candles symbolise the light of Christ coming into the world. The evergreen symbolises renewal and the circular shape the completeness of God. The candle colours come from the traditional liturgical colours of Advent: (red and purple) and Christmas: (white). Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, each candle is lit on the appropriate Sunday. Over the years each candle was given a name and linked to a particular part of the Advent story...

Candle 1. Hope (red or purple)

Candle 2. Peace (red or purple)

Candle 3. Joy (red or rose)

Candle 4. Love (red or purple)

Praying with a focus on each candle can really help us to reflect as we journey through Advent. Just taking a quarter of an hour each day to pray can enrich our appreciation of the season which so often can be overtaken by the need to shop, bake, and the general hectic rush of getting things done before Christmas. Simply giving a short period of time allows us to pause and refocus on why we are doing all this preparation in the first place.

~Rev'd Victor (drawn from various sources)

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# Parish Notes

## Carol / Christmas / New Year Services 2022-23

*Sunday 4th December:*

11.30am HC with Carols, Mountrath

4pm Carol Service, Lacca

*Sunday 11th:*

9.30am HC with Carols, Seir Kieran

11am HC with Carols, Annatrim

*Sunday 18th:*

11am HC with Carols, Borris-in-Ossory

3pm Bicentennial Service with Carols, Roskelton

*Saturday 24th: Christmas Eve*

6pm Holy Communion, Seir Kieran

8pm Holy Communion, Borris-in-Ossory

9.30pm Holy Communion, Lacca

*Sunday 25th: Christmas Day*

9am Holy Communion, Roskelton

10.15am Holy Communion, Annatrim

11.30am Holy Communion, Mountrath

*Sunday 1st January, 2023: New Year's Day*

11am Holy Communion, Mountrath

## St Matthew's Church, Roskelton Bicentennial. 1822 - 2022

The Year of Our Lord 2022 marks a magnificent milestone in the history of St. Matthew's Church, Roskelton, as the parish marks two hundred years since its construction.

The Parishioners of Roskelton invite all of the Clonagh Group's Parishioners to a **combined Carol Service and Commemoration** of the Bicentennial of the building of St. Matthew's Church, Roskelton, on **Sunday, 18th December 2022, at 3pm.**

The Right Rev. Adrian M. Wilkinson, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, will be joining us at St. Matthew's for this occasion. Refreshments will be served in the Church after the Service. All welcome!

**Leprosy Mission** boxes should be returned to Olga Telford by December 5th so that the money can reach the charity before Christmas.

### **Welcome Bishop Adrian!**

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Adrian and his wife Jacqui to the Clonenagh Group of Parishes on Sunday 6th November, when he visited Seir Kieran and celebrated Holy Communion there. This occasion marked Bishop Adrian's first pastoral visit to one of his many new parishes, and his very first celebration of Holy Communion with his flock. This is a wonderful joy for our parish, especially as Seir Kieran is one of our six parishes and the ancient seat of the bishops of Ossory.

### **Holy Land of Israel Tour 2023**

The Rev'd William Bennett is hosting a tour of the Holy Land of Israel beginning on Saturday 25th March, returning to Ireland on Monday 3rd April 2023.

Further information can be obtained from Rev'd William at 087 948 0317 or [bennettwilliam1@gmail.com](mailto:bennettwilliam1@gmail.com). Cost €2,300 pps ex-Dublin with Turkish Airlines. Book soon, places are filling fast!

A very sincere thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the **2022 Poppy Appeal**.

The **Fellowship Service** takes place in Lacca Church on the second Thursday of every month at 8pm. All welcome.

Our **Home Communions** take place during the first, second and third weeks of the month. Please do contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list or would simply just like a visit and a chat.

**Thursday Bible Club** continues in the Parochial Hall on 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6.30-7.45pm. The dates for your diaries are: 8th December. There will be Bible stories, games, quizzes, crafts and lots of fun. New children are always welcome. Parents should pre-register their children by following this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/202526397463359>

**Girls Friendly Society** has recommenced in Mountrath Parochial Hall. We're delighted to be welcoming back girls and meeting some new members. Girls in Senior Infants or older are welcome to join us. Girls have opportunity to participate in badgework; crafts; cookery; Bible study and trips. Membership forms available and need to be completed by a parent. Annual Membership is 25 euro each or 45 euro for two children or 60 euro for three children. This can be paid over a few months if required.

If anyone is willing to help or has any queries about GFS please contact Jennifer on 0868185644 (after 7 pm).

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## **Clonenagh National School News**

Clonenagh National School is delighted to announce the return of the **Annual Tractor Run** on Wednesday 28th December 2022, following a two-year break from the event. The Tractor Run will take place along with the **Family Fun Run/Walk** and the **Monster Auction** in Coolrain Village. The event promises to be an exciting day out for all of the family.

Registration for the Family Fun Run/Walk is at 11am in Sheeran's Pub, Coolrain, and the Run will start at 11.30am. Registration for the Tractor Run will be at 1pm and the tractors will set off at 2pm.

The event will finish with the Monster Auction in Sheeran's Pub at 9pm with many impressive lots to be auctioned on the night. There will be music and refreshments in Sheeran's Pub throughout the day.

Clonenagh National School will be participating in the **Tesco Community Fund** from Monday 28th November to Sunday 26th February. If you're shopping in Tesco don't forget to collect a blue token when you checkout and pop it into the Clonenagh National School donation box which is located by the exit. The more tokens we get then the more money we will raise for the school. Thank you for your support!

# Services & Readings

<b>December</b>						
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <small>Holy Communion with Carols</small>	<b>Lacca</b> 4.00pm <small>Carol Service</small>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 35: 1-10 Canticle: Magnificat James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <small>Holy Communion with Carols</small>		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am <small>Holy Communion with Carols</small>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am <small>Holy Communion with Carols</small>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	<b>Roskelton</b> 3.00pm <small>Bicentennial Carol Service</small>	
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-20</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 6.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>		<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 8.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	<b>Lacca</b> 9.30pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-20</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>				
	<i>Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 1-20</i>	<b>Annatrim</b> 10.15am <small>Holy Communion</small>				
	<i>Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1: 1-18</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>				

## Parish Diary

### December

- 6th Tuesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes  
 8th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club  
 8th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service  
 18th Sunday.....Bicentennial Commemoration, Roskelton  
**21st Wednesday.....Closing date for January 2023 Newsletter**  
 28th Wednesday.....Clonemagh NS Tractor Run/Fun Run-Walk/Auction  
 November 28th - February 26th...Clonemagh NS Tesco Community Fund

**Items for the Christmas 2022 - January 2023 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday December 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday/Christmas Day, December 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@clonemagh.com](mailto:newsletter@clonemagh.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.clonemagh.com](http://www.clonemagh.com)