

The Newsletter

February 2023

Rector:

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Snowdrops

(Photo sourced from Microsoft Creative Commons)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Springtime

*"They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain."
(Job 29:23)*

The dark days of winter are surely coming to an end, and as the days lengthen, the dawning of Spring is on the horizon. In this season of renewal and hope, we pause to appreciate the beauty of the world around us, to give thanks to God for our many blessings, and to reflect on life's changes and challenges.

Thus, as we set out in faith and hope into a new year, we do so fully conscious of our fears and hopes; worries and aspirations; our sorrow and our joys. As we look with hopeful hearts to the new season ahead, we celebrate the rebirth of the world around us – just as Jesus rose from the tomb and was born again in the light of God's love for us all.

~Rev'd Victor

There is real wisdom, Lord, in the adage...

"It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God."

*Springtime is a season of optimism and hope,
and the Christian lives a faith centred on hope.*

*Winter, with its cold dark days has gone,
just as Good Friday as passed to Easter and beyond.*

We live a resurrection life

reflected in the new life springing up around us.

*Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring,
the renewal that you bring,*

both to this world and to our hearts and lives. (Anon.)

Requiescant In Pace

December 2022 and January 2023 has seen a lot of deaths in the community, and our parish has sadly witnessed the deaths of three of our oldest and senior parishioners.

Mary McKay was laid to rest on St. Stephen's Day, followed by **Betty Harvey** who was laid to rest on New Year's Eve. The new year began with the sad news that **Vera Bennett** had died on the Day of Epiphany. All three ladies were in their 90s and had been part of the social and worship-life of the Clonenagh Group of Parishes for decades.

Mary, Betty and Vera were very dutiful churchgoers and were loyal supporters of their respective churches, both in St Peter's, Mountrath, and St Matthew's, Roskelton. These three lovely ladies touched many hearts and souls during their long lives among us and were a wonderful inspiration to our youth by giving witness to their faith in Jesus Christ and through their faithful attendance at church.

We were also deeply saddened by the death of Lynn Clegg's dear dad, **Edward (Eddie) Culbert**, late of Athy and Portlaoise, and by the death of William Treacy's sister, **Marion Edwards**, late of Kimmage and The Pike.

We ask you Lord to comfort Lynn, William, and the McKay, Harvey and Bennett families in their great grief at this time.

May Mary, Betty, Vera, Eddie and Marion rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Parish Notes

Birthday Celebration

Gladys Danne has great pleasure in inviting the community to join her in celebrating her **90th Birthday** on Sunday 19th February at 4pm in Lacca Church. Festivities commence with a special hymn-packed Service of the Word, followed by a reception in Lacca Parish Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Please, no presents, but donations to Lacca Church would be greatly appreciated.

Mothers' Union

Meeting Monday 30th January, in the home of Mabel Peavoy at 8.00pm. Recipes will be exchanged and shared, all are welcome. Please note, subscriptions are now due!

Home Communion

Home Communion take place during the second, third and fourth 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.



Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School will commence accepting applications for Junior Infants in the 2023/2024 school year.

Enrolment Forms are available by emailing us at clonenaghns@gmail.com, phoning us on 05787 32516 or by visiting our website at www.clonenaghns.ie.

Clonenagh National School is participating in the **Tesco Community Fund** until 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 located by the exit.

Fellowship Service

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

Thursday Bible Club

Thursday Bible Club continues on: 2 February, 16 February, 2 March, 16 March, 30 March.



Girls' Friendly Society

GFS 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. If anyone is willing to help or has any queries about GFS please contact Jennifer on 086 818 5644 (after 7 pm).

Services & Readings

February

Sunday 5th <i>The Third Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Isaiah 58: 1-9a Psalm 112: 1-10 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 Matthew 5: 13-20</i>	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 12th <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Isaiah 49: 8-16a Psalm 131 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5 Matthew 6: 24-34</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 19th <i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Exodus 24: 12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9</i>	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Service of the Word
Wednesday 22nd <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 58: 1-12 Psalm 51: 1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				
Saturday/ Sunday 25th/26th <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11</i>	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	

Parish Diary

January

30th Monday.....Mothers' Union Meeting

February

2nd Thursday.....Bible Club

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

9th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for March 2023 Newsletter

16th Thursday.....Bible Club

Items for the March 2023 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday February 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, February 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

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.

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