

# The Newsletter

November 2023

**Rector:**

*Rev'd Victor Fitzpatrick,  
Clonenagh Rectory,  
Portlaoise Road,  
Mountrath.*

*Phone: 057-8732146 /086-3974035*

**Diocesan Reader:**

*Mabel Peavoy,  
Shannon Road,  
Mountrath.  
Phone:057-8732331*

**Parish office:** [clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org](mailto:clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org)



***Diocesan Reader Mr. Tommy Cooke,  
arriving at Lacca for the Harvest Service***

*(Image kindly provided by Rev'd Victor)*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## The Signs Of The Times

November heralds the end of the Church's liturgical year, and on the last Sunday of the month we will celebrate The Kingship of Christ, with December bringing us into the season of Advent. At this time of year our scripture readings focus on the end times, the end of days. This year we have been using Matthew's Gospel, and in chapter 24:29 he tells us:

*"Immediately after the distress of those days  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."*

Very powerful words indeed from Jesus. He also lists out the terrible things that are going to happen; people will deceive them, there will be wars, earthquakes and revolutions. There will be great chaos.

When we turn on our television sets, open our newspapers, or read online, we may well begin to believe that everything that Jesus said is coming true. Earthquakes and other terrible natural disasters have claimed thousands of lives recently. Ukraine is in a state of war, there is dreadful violence on our streets and elsewhere, and we have been numbed by the explosion of terrorist attacks in Israel. What then are we to make of these words and warnings from Jesus as we look around us at the events in today's world?

Jesus encourages us to stand firm in our faith and persevere. Jesus never said that following him and believing would be easy – there are times and experiences in all our lives that have been painful and sadly many difficult days may lie ahead for us. These are times when Jesus asks us not to lose hope, nor to think that we can just rely on ourselves, but to look to him for strength. No matter what we go through we are reassured: "But not a hair on your head will perish." (Luke 21:18).

Jesus reminds that we are to find meaning in this life now, and secure everlasting life by being faithful to him. Through our perseverance we discover that what we believed to be the end is actually a new beginning; God's gift of everlasting life to those who do their best to be faithful in the face of daily struggles and setbacks.

While we live in and do our best to enjoy this earthly life, let us not take our eyes off Jesus, nor forget that he is with us no matter what we go through, and put him at the centre of our lives, that everything we do or say may be inspired and guided by him.

*~Rev'd Victor*

## November – The Month Of Remembrance

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*~Major John McCrae*

## Requiescant In Pace

We extend our sincere condolences to:

Jennifer Cooper (formerly of Coolrain), and the whole Cooper family, on the tragic death of her dear daughter **Kim Damti**, who was killed by terrorists at a music festival in Israel and laid to rest on Thursday 12th October in Gederá, Israel.

*May her memory be a blessing*

Annie Clegg (Roskelton) on the death of her cousin **Ena (Charlotte) Wallace**, née Stephenson, late of Clonbrook House, Crettyard, Co. Laois and formerly of Knockpatrick, Castledermot, Co. Kildare who died peacefully at home on Saturday 14th October surrounded by her loving family.

Tim and Marguerite Drennan (Knocknagad) on the sudden death of their dear son **Joe Drennan**, who died in a road traffic accident at a bus stop in Limerick. Joe was laid to rest on Wednesday 18th October.

*May they rest in peace, and rise in glory*

## Parish Notes

### Annatrim Church Renovations

The parish of Offerlane are making an appeal to anybody who would like to donate to their fundraising efforts to fund the recent works completed at Annatrim Church. Perhaps you are originally from the area or have a fondness or connection with Annatrim Church or Offerlane Parish? Please contact the parish treasurer Stan Lalor by email at offerlane@gmail.com if you would like to donate. Any contribution, big or small, would be warmly appreciated.

### Confirmation 2024

If your son or daughter is interested in being Confirmed in the new year, please do let the Rector know in due course. So far five of our young parishioners have indicated their desire to be Confirmed in 2024.

### Fellowship Service

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

### Home Communions

Please 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.

The next meeting of the **Mothers' Union** will take place on Monday 23rd October at 8pm in the Parochial Hall. Eileen Senior will be displaying her crafts. All welcome.

Mervyn Tomb has organised a "**Sleepover**" for those aged 8-10 years at the Faith Mission Centre Durrow, Friday 27 October 7.30pm - Saturday 28 October at 6.00pm. The cost is €30 per child and booking is still available at

<https://form.jotform.com/212647365796368>

Contact Mervyn on 0860575462 for more information.

**GFS dates:** Friday 10th and 24th November, 7.15-8.45pm, Parochial Hall, Mountrath.

**Enrolment Service** Sunday 26th November, Mountrath Church, 11.30am.



# Services & Readings

<b>November</b>						
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> <i>All Saints' Day</i>	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 34: 1-10 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12	<b>Mountrath</b> 8.00pm Holy Communion				
<b>Sunday</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Fourth Sunday before Advent</i>	Joshua 3: 7-17 Psalm 87 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13 Matthew 24: 1-14	<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</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Remembrance Day</i>	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 4 Revelation 1: 1-7 Matthew 5: 1-12	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>Sunday</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Second Sunday before Advent</i>	Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 4.00pm Service of the Word
<b>Saturday/Sunday</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Sunday before Advent (The Kingship of Christ)</i>	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 7.00pm Holy Communion	<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

### October

23rd Monday.....Mothers' Union Meeting  
 27th Friday.....GFS Halloween Party  
 27th Friday.....Bible Club Sleepover

### November

**6th Monday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**  
 9th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service  
 10th Friday.....GFS meeting  
**22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for December 2023 Newsletter**  
 24th Friday.....GFS meeting  
 26th Sunday.....GFS Enrolment Service

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