

# The Newsletter

December 2023

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***The recently installed 'Rectors of Annatrim Church' board***

*(Image kindly provided by Canon Victor)*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## Congratulations Canon Victor

Thank you very much to so many of you for your good will, and kind words congratulating me on being appointed as an honorary Canon of St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. Canons are appointed in recognition of their service to the Diocese, and it has come as a wonderful joy and a tremendous honour to me to take up the vacant prebendal stall of Killamery.

I joined Cashel, Ferns & Ossory Diocese in 2013 when I became rector of Kilcooley, and I'm now in my tenth year of ministry in the diocese, having become rector of Clonenagh in 2018. It is an immense joy to minister in this diocese – the clergy are tremendously collegial and congenial; the people are enormously supportive and encouraging; and both Bishop Michael Burrows and his successor Bishop Adrian Wilkinson have been an immense source of gentleness, understanding and compassion.

St Nicholas's Church, Killamery, was built in 1815 and was a place of worship for almost a century in our diocese. It remains standing today as a reminder that nothing stays still: transformation and change are facts of life.

Things change, people come and go, but our faith in Jesus Christ remains rock-solid throughout the ages, and although everything around us may change "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (*Hebrews 13:8*).

Thank you all for the marvellous support you have shown to my mum, Pauline, and I since arriving in Clonenagh and God grant us our health to see through many, many more years of ministry here; and so I finish with, "To Him be the glory to all generations forever and ever." (*Ephesians 3:21*). God bless us all, this day and always. Amen.

~Rev'd Victor

## Carol / Christmas / New Year Services 2023-24

### **Sunday 3rd December:**

11.30am Holy Communion with Carols, **Mountrath**

### **Sunday 10th:**

9.30am Holy Communion with Carols, **Seir Kieran**

3pm Holy Communion with Carols

& Service of Dedication, **Annatrim**

### **Friday 15th:**

7pm Carol Service, **Seir Kieran**

### **Sunday 17th:**

9.30am Morning Prayer with Carols, **Roskelton**

11am Holy Communion with Carols, **Borris-in-Ossory**

4pm Carol Service, **Lacca**

### **Saturday 23rd:**

7pm Service of Seven Lessons & Carols, **Mountrath**

### **Sunday 24th: Christmas Eve**

10am Morning Prayer, **Mountrath**

6pm Holy Communion, **Seir Kieran**

8pm Holy Communion, **Borris-in-Ossory**

9.30pm Holy Communion, **Lacca**

### **Monday 25th: Christmas Day**

9am Holy Communion, **Roskelton**

10.15am Holy Communion, **Annatrim**

11.30am Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

### **Sunday 31st: New Year's Eve**

11am Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

Items for the January 2024 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday 20th December **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday (Christmas Eve), December 24th.

**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

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](http://www.clonenagh.com)

## Requiescant In Pace

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late **Frank Jackson**, most especially to his beloved wife Emily and his dear sister Olive. Frank died peacefully in the early morning of Wednesday 8th November, surrounded by his family and friends at his home in Kilbricken.

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

## Parish Notes

### Annatrim Church Renovations

The parish of Offerlane continue their fundraising efforts to fund the recent works completed at Annatrim Church.

The collection at the Holy Communion with Carols & Service of Dedication in Annatrim on Sunday 10th at 3.00pm will go to the Renovation Fund, and the Carol Service in Lacca on Sunday 17th at 4.00pm will be followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies, also in aid of the Renovation Fund.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend either or both of these Services, and any contribution, big or small, would be most appreciated.

### Confirmation 2024

The Confirmation Ceremony will take place on Sunday 21st April, 2024, at 11am in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath. 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.

### Poppy Appeal 2023

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported this year's Poppy Appeal in our churches.

### Fellowship Service

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

### Thursday Bible Club

...continues in the Parochial Hall. New children of national school age are most welcome. Contact Mervyn Tomb on 086 057 5462 for more information.

**Mountrath Mothers' Union** members were kindly invited to attend a Christmas themed flower arranging demonstration by Enda Thompson Phelan on Monday 20th November in Rathdowney Parochial Hall.

A very entertaining evening was had by all and our grateful thanks to Rathdowney Mothers' Union for having us.

A very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas to all our members.

**Social dancing** in the Parochial Hall Abbeyleix, every Tuesday night from 7.45 to 9. €5 per head, beginners very welcome. Great craic assured!

Contact Arthur at 087 6872055 for more details.

### Lacca Parishioner Goes The Extra Mile

A Lacca parishioner who goes the extra mile for customers at a busy Mountrath supermarket has won a special award from national retailer Centra.

Caroline Senior of Martyn's Centra received the sought-after 'Extra Mile' accolade at the national Pride of Centra awards, which were held in the Mansion House, Dublin on 8th November.

The Extra Mile award recognises those who 'go above and beyond' to support their Centra store, its people and the local community.

Judges commented: "Worthy winner Caroline Senior not only displayed exceptional skills in customer service but undertook an admirable charitable approach to her life and work at Centra, with an amazing attitude that is an inspiration to her colleagues."

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## Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School is delighted to announce the return of the Annual Tractor Run on Thursday 28th December 2023 in Coolrain Village. As with previous years, the Tractor Run will take place along with the Family Fun Run/Walk and the Monster Auction. 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 Hogan'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 Hogan's Pub at 9pm with many impressive lots to be auctioned on the night. There will be music and refreshments in Hogan's Pub throughout the day.

# Services & Readings

<b>December</b>						
<b>Saturday Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>The First Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 64: 1-9 Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 7.00pm Evening Prayer	<b>Roskelton</b> Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Lacca</b> Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion with Carols
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion with Carols		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Annatrim</b> 3.00pm Holy Communion with Carols & Service of Dedication	
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Seir Kieran</b> 7.00pm Ecumenical Carol Service				
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer with Carols	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion with Carols	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 4.00pm Carol Service	
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>Mountrath</b> 7.00pm <i>Service of Seven Lessons &amp; Carols</i>				
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Magnificat Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 10.00am Morning Prayer				
<b>Sunday 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 Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 8.00pm Holy Communion		<b>Lacca</b> 9.30pm Holy Communion	
<b>Monday 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 Holy Communion				
	<i>Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 1-20</i>	<b>Annatrim</b> 10.15am Holy Communion				
	<i>Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1: 1-18</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion				
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:10 - 62: 3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.00am Holy Communion				

# Parish Diary

## December

**6th Wednesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**  
**14th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service**  
**20th Wednesday.....Closing date for January 2024 Newsletter**