

The Newsletter

January 2024

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



Snowdrops

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Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Before We Make New Year Resolutions...

This weekend 2023 draws to a close, and 2024 approaches, but before we begin to make new year resolutions, and draw up our plans for the year to come, let's take time to reflect on the year that is drawing to a close and tie up whatever loose ends we have; that is, let's make peace with our past.

One of the most difficult things in life is leaving things behind us and moving forward to what lies ahead. St. Paul said: "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." (Philippians 3:13, NIV). This is easier said than done, especially if we've had a difficult year and are struggling to feel positive about what might be ahead of us.

However, through Christ, all things are possible. That means that no matter what the past year held for you, Christ is able to walk alongside you to help you to move forward with confidence. This doesn't mean that we should just cast our thoughts and feelings aside in an attempt to hurry and get over them for the sake of a new year. Rather, we must let go and let Christ, that he may reign and rule over our lives, submitting to his wisdom and the plans he has made for us, and trust him to help us in whatever way we need while we move forward with hope. Amen.

~Rev'd Victor

Parish Notes

The Rector's Installation

The Rector's installation as a Canon of St. Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny will take place at 3pm on Sunday 11th February, 2024, at Choral Evensong. All welcome!

Christmas Services Collections

The Offertory Plate collections at Christmas Services, aside from the envelopes of course, will go towards the Parish Sustentation Fund,

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.

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.

Thursday Bible Club

Thursday Bible Club restarts on Thursday 11 January, 6.30-7.45pm in the Parochial Hall. It continues on the following dates: 25 January, 8 & 22 February, 7 & 21 March. Contact Mervyn Tomb on 0860575462 for more information.

Jane Bakes!

Jane's Bakes is open Saturdays outside The Cosy Café, Mountrath, from 10am-12pm selling baked goods. (Instagram/Facebook: janes_bakess).

Fellowship Service

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

Home Communions

A reminder to those who normally receive Communion during the first week of the month, that there will be no Home Communions for the first week in January. If the Rector hasn't already rescheduled with you, he'll be in touch. Please do contact the Rector if you or a loved one would like to be added to the monthly Home Communion list or would simply just like a visit and a chat.



Social Dancing

Social dancing in the Parochial Hall, Abbeyleix, every Tuesday night from 7.45pm to 9pm. €5 per head, beginners very welcome. Great craic assured! Contact Arthur at 087 687 2055 for more details.

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 6 km **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 6 km **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 being auctioned on the night. There will be music and refreshments in Hogan's Pub throughout the day.

This year, there is also an exciting addition to the day's events. A pupil from the school, Richard Lalor, has agreed to shave his mullet on the day to raise funds for the school. You can sponsor Richard by donating at the following link or by scanning this QR code:

www.idonate.ie/cause/ClonenaghNS



Services & Readings

January						
Sunday 7th <i>The First Sunday after The Epiphany: The Baptism of Christ</i>	<i>Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11</i>	Roskelton 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Lacca 10.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Mountrath 11.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 14th <i>The Second Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>		Annatrim 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	Mountrath 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	
Sunday 21st <i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20</i>	Roskelton 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	Mountrath 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Lacca 4.00pm <i>Service of the Word</i>
Saturday/ Sunday 27th/28th <i>The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm <i>Holy Communion</i>	Lacca Sunday 10.30am <i>Family Service</i>	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am <i>Morning Prayer</i>		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>

Parish Diary

December

28th Thursday.....Clonenagh N.S. Tractor Run

January

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

11th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club

11th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

24th Wednesday.....Closing date for February 2024 Newsletter

25th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club

Items for the February 2024 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday January 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, January 28th.

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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