

# The Newsletter

February 2024

**Rector:**

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***Michelle Fennell and Stuart Treacy were married on the 1st of December 2023 in St. Mary's Church, Carlow, with their reception in the Newpark Hotel Kilkenny***

*(Photo kindly provided by Michelle Fennell)*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# The Rector Writes

## Lent 2024

*“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Mt 6: 5-6, NIV).*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of personal and communal renewal. As Christians, we undertake a Lenten journey in order to accompany Jesus on his path to Jerusalem to his death and resurrection. In him, we die to sin; in him we rise to life. Lent invites us to die to sin and all that is not right, in order to rise with Christ to a renewed way of living. That’s why many Christian denominations use ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ashes remind us of our mortality, that *‘for dust you are and to dust you will return’* (Gen 3: 19, NIV) and that we need to *‘Repent and believe the good news!’* (Mark 1: 15, NIV). The Christian life is an ongoing struggle: we fight against evil in ourselves, and we must be alert to the need to resist selfishness and injustice in ourselves and others.

As a child, I used to think Lent was a time to give things up, such as not eating chocolate or sweets. Easter Sunday was something to look forward to, eating lots of Easter eggs, the forty days of Lent were finally over, and it was business as usual, sweets galore! Yet the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which refers to the lengthening of days in Spring. Lent is a spiritual springtime. It’s a joyful season, a time when God wants to give us new grace and new life. Lent is not just self-denial, but also a time of prayer and should also include works of justice and charity e.g. helping those less fortunate than ourselves and highlighting the appalling human rights abuses being committed against our fellow man. This Lent let us pray fervently and with renewed hope for our persecuted brother and sister Christians throughout the world.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!* (Rev 22:20, NIV).

(Drawn from several sources) ~Canon Victor

# Parish Notes

## Lenten Services 2024

*Ash Wednesday* (14 February): 8pm Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

### *Wednesdays of Lent*

Evening Prayer with Reflection will take place on Wednesday evenings at 8pm during Lent on these dates:

21 February: **Roskelton**

28 February: **Annatrim**

6 March: **Seir Kieran**

13 March: **Lacca**

20 March: **Mountrath**

...and our Wednesday Lenten Services for 2024 conclude on 27 March in **Borris-in-Ossory**

## *Holy Week and Easter*

*Maundy Thursday* (28 March): 8pm Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

*Good Friday* (29 March): 3pm, Ante-Communion, **Mountrath**

8pm, Prayers and Hymns, **Lacca**.

*Easter Eve* (30 March):

6pm, First Eucharist of Easter, **Seir**

**Kieran**

8pm Easter Eve Eucharist, **Borris-in-**

**Ossory**

9.30pm Easter Eve Eucharist, **Annatrim**

*Easter Day* (31 March):

9am First Eucharist of Easter Morning,

**Roskelton**

10.15am Holy Communion, **Lacca**

11.30am Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

## Requiescant In Pace

We extend our sincere condolences to Nowell (Roskelton) and Joan on the death of their dear brother **Bertie Mulhall**, who died on January 3rd (unexpectedly), at St. James's Hospital in Dublin. Bertie was laid to rest in Roskelton churchyard on Saturday 6th January following his funeral service in St. Matthew's Church.

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

### 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!

### World Day Of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer Service takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 1 March in the Convent Chapel at Bloom HQ. All welcome!

### Confirmation 2024

The Confirmation Ceremony will take place on Sunday 21 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. Classes begin on Thursday 1 February at 7.15pm in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath. Thereafter on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm in the Upper Room of the Parochial Hall.

### Fellowship Service

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

## Clonenagh National School News

### Clonenagh NS- Admissions for Junior Infants for 2024/25

We are currently accepting applications for Junior Infants for this coming September. We will cease accepting applications on the 6th of February.

Application forms are available as follows:

to download at [www.clonenaghns.ie](http://www.clonenaghns.ie)

on request by emailing [clonenaghns@gmail.com](mailto:clonenaghns@gmail.com)

on request by writing to Clonenagh NS, Mountrath, Co Laois

on request by phoning us on 05787-32516

If you would like to visit the school, please do get in touch.

Clonenagh National School would like to thank everyone who supported the **Fun Run, Tractor Run and Auction Fundraiser** on 28th December 2023 in Coolrain. The day proved to be a huge success and great fun was had by all who attended on the day. The school also extends a special thank you to the local businesses and members of the community who provided donations.

The next fundraising event, the **Annual School Fete**, will take place in the school grounds on 9th June 2024.

### Home Communions

Please 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.

### 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](mailto:offerlane@gmail.com) if you would like to donate. Any contribution, big or small, would be warmly appreciated.

### Thursday Bible Club

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

# Sunday Services & Readings

<b>February</b>						
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Hosea 2: 14-20 Psalm 103: 1-13, 22 2 Corinthians 3: 1-6 Mark 2: 13-22</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-9 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15</i>	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am <i>Service of the Word</i>	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>
<b>Saturday/ Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38</i>	<b>Seir Kieran</b> Saturday 7.00pm <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>Lacca</b> Sunday 10.30am <i>Family Service</i>	<b>Annatrim</b> Sunday 11.00am <i>Morning Prayer</i>		<b>Mountrath</b> Sunday 11.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>

## Parish Diary

### January

28th Sunday.....Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity Week, Castletown

### February

**6th Tuesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**

6th Tuesday.....Closing date for Clonenagh N. S. Junior Infants applications

8th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club

8th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

11th Sunday.....Rector's installation as a Canon

**21st Wednesday....Closing date for March 2024 Newsletter**

22nd Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club

### March

1st Friday.....World Day of Prayer Service

**Items for the March 2024 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday February 21st AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, February 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@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.

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