

The Newsletter

March 2024

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***Some of the participants at the Recent Mothers' Union meal held in the Killeshin Hotel on the 25th January.
Moira Harvey, Susan Jestin, Caroline Clegg, Iris Honner, Margaret Jestin, Trish Roe, and the organiser Jean Tracey.***

(Photo kindly provided by Joyce Lalor)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Easter 2024

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our parishioners for the prayers and the extremely kind messages of support, encouragement, and good wishes on my Installation as Canon in St. Canice's Cathedral, and a very sincere thanks to the many of you from our six churches who were able to come to the service in Kilkenny. Indeed, it was delightful to see former parishioners from Co. Tipperary there too, as well as my colleagues, family and friends.

When we sit down and reflect, we cannot avoid the glaring sadness that we are living through a period of bad news – news of war, violence, persecution and unrest daily permeates our media. It is great to hear some good news. Indeed, what is true for me is so true to many of us: we need encouragement to face the many ups and downs that could easily overwhelm us and become moments of discouragement and despair. This Easter may we remember with renewed vigour that the Lord is risen. Jesus is risen! All things are possible with God! The Good News always overcomes bad news when seen through the lens of faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We live in a time when perhaps more than ever before in our lifetime our society needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ again. Our entire community, our towns and villages, our land – our world needs Christ, and let us bear in mind that all things are possible with God. Let our faith come alive – let us live out what we believe. We walk by faith in these times, and not merely by the sight of current setbacks, thoughts of challenges, or even failures. Let's all dare to have faith that true renewal in Jesus Christ can happen in our day and time, in this place, right now. This is the message of Easter this year for me, and I pray it is for you too.

This Easter season let us take heart and remember that the love of God and the light of Christ dispels and banishes the darkness of evil; forgiveness conquers bitterness; justice triumphs over hatred; kindness defeats cruelty; and humility and meekness vanquish pride and arrogance. Jesus is risen! Jesus is the victor! He is the life that conquers death, the light who overcomes darkness, the hope that surmounts despair, and the love that confounds all.

I am very grateful to have you as parishioners in this wonderful Group of Parishes at this point in time in our lives and in our world. Thank you so much.

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

~Canon Victor

Parish Notes

Wednesdays of Lent

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

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

Easter Vestries

Tuesday 9 April 8pm **Clonenagh**:

Parochial Hall

Wednesday 10 April 8pm **Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran**:

St. Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory

Tuesday 16 April 8pm **Offerlane**:

Annatrim Church

World Day Of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer Service takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 1 March in St. Fintan's Community Hall, Mountrath. All welcome!

Confirmation 2024

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

Classes have begun and take place on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Upper Room of the Parochial Hall. Dates for your diaries are: March 7, 14, 21; and April 11 & 18.

Fellowship Service

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

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.

**The Rector's
as a Canon of
Cathedral in
Sunday 11th
2024, at Chor**



(Photos kindly provided by Canon Victor)

**s installation
f St. Canice's
Kilkenny on
h February,
ral Evensong**



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.

GFS dates

Friday 1st March & Friday 15th March: Parochial Hall 19.15-20.45

Thursday Bible Club

Thursday Bible Club continues on 7 & 21 March 6.30-7.45pm in the Parochial Hall. Contact Mervyn Tomb on 0860575462 for more information.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee are holding the annual **Golf Classic** in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday 24th May 2024. Watch this space for more info .

Janes Bakes open Saturday mornings outside The Cosy/Serene Beauty Mountrath 10am-12pm (except 2nd March)

Selection of Homemade treats: Brownies; cupcakes; Cookies; Scones; bracks and much more.

Cakes supplied to order.

Orders being taken for Mothers Day

Message: 083066920

Insta: Janes_bakess

Thank you for your support.

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.

Mothers' Union News

For our January meeting 25 members, spouses and friends went to the Killeshin Hotel in Portlaoise for a meal on 25 January. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27 February in the Parochial Hall at 8pm. Our guest speaker is our Diocesan President Lesley Bailey, and she will be accompanied by Naomi Besanson, M.U. Enterprise Rep., who will bring along a selection of cards etc.

Contributions of suitable clothing and underwear (women's & children's – new), toiletries, toys etc. would be greatly appreciated for delivery to the Women's Refuge Centre in Portlaoise.

Mothers' Union "Big Hymn Sing" in St. Canice's Cathedral on Saturday 2nd March. This is an All Ireland event to launch our triennial fundraising for "Mums in May". The "Mums in May" fund enables Mothers' Union to give grants to Dioceses to support initiatives such as AFIA, School Book & Bursary Schemes, helping those in adversity, supporting Women's Refuges etc.

Everyone is welcome to attend. We are delighted that our Bishop, Rt. Revd. Adrian Wilkinson has very kindly agreed to give the address at the service and that the choir in St. Canices will lead the singing. We are very grateful to the Dean of St. Canices, the Very Revd. Stephen Farrell, for his support and help in organising and hosting this service.

Clonenagh National School News

We have been very busy in Clonenagh NS!

The children worked tirelessly on Pancake Day. Every child in the school made batter and cooked their own pancake. A worthwhile undertaking!

Our **Student Council** are currently working on an interesting **fundraiser** for March 15th. They are asking pupils to wear a "**Green Outfit**" and that all children get to watch a movie also in their classrooms. All monies raised will go towards PATH- Portlaoise Action To Homelessness.

We are so proud of all the wonderful planting and sowing that goes on in our school garden. We are now the proud owners of a **new polytunnel**. We look forward to seeing what delights we are going to grow in it!

The Parents' Association are running the **Cash for Clobber** fundraiser for the school in April. Drop off your items on Saturday 10th April 10.00am-1.00pm, or Monday 15th - Wednesday 17th 9.30am-3.00pm.



*(Photos kindly provided
by Clonenagh National School)*

Sunday Services & Readings

March						
Sunday 3rd <i>The Third Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Exodus 20: 1-17</i> <i>Psalms 19</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1: 18-25</i> <i>John 2: 13-22</i>	Roskelton 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Lacca 10.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>
Sunday 10th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	<i>Exodus 2: 1-10</i> <i>Psalms 34: 11-20</i> <i>2 Corinthians 1: 3-7</i> <i>Luke 2: 33-35</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Annatrim 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	
Sunday 17th <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 32: 1-9</i> <i>Psalms 145: 1-13</i> <i>2 Corinthians 4: 1-12</i> <i>John 4: 31-38</i>	Roskelton 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <small>Holy Communion</small>	Mountrath 11.30am <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Lacca 4.00pm <small>Service of the Word</small>
Saturday/Sunday 23rd/24th <i>The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)</i>	Liturgy of the Palms <i>Mark 11: 1-11</i> Liturgy of the Passion <i>Isaiah 50: 4-9a</i> <i>Psalms 31: 9-16</i> <i>Philippians 2: 5-11</i> <i>Mark 15: 1-39</i>	Seir Kieran Saturday 7.00pm <small>Holy Communion</small>	Lacca Sunday 10.30am <small>Family Service</small>	Annatrim Sunday 11.00am <small>Morning Prayer</small>		Mountrath Sunday 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>
Saturday 30th <i>Easter Eve</i>	<i>Job 14: 1-14</i> <i>Psalms 31: 1-4, 15-16</i> <i>1 Peter 4: 1-8</i> <i>Matthew 27: 57-66</i>	Seir Kieran 6.00pm <small>First Eucharist of Easter</small>	Borris-in-Ossory 8.00pm <small>Easter Eve Eucharist</small>		Annatrim 9.30pm <small>Easter Eve Eucharist</small>	
Sunday 31st <i>The First Sunday of Easter (Easter Day)</i>	<i>Isaiah 25: 6-9</i> <i>Canticle: Easter Anthems</i> <i>Acts 10: 34-43</i> <i>Mark 16: 1-8</i>	Roskelton 9.00am <small>The First Eucharist of Easter Morning</small>	Lacca 10.15am <small>Holy Communion</small>		Mountrath 11.30am <small>Holy Communion</small>	

Parish Diary

March

- 1st Friday.....World Day of Prayer Service
- 1st Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting
- 6th Wednesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**
- 7th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club
- 14th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service
- 15th Friday.....Clonenagh N. S. Green Outfit fundraiser
- 1st Friday.....G.F.S. Meeting
- 20th Wednesday....Closing date for April 2024 Newsletter**
- 21st Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club

Items for the April 2024 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday March 20th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, March 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

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