

The Newsletter

April 2024

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Celebrating Mountrath Badminton Club's recent success

(Photos kindly provided by Wendy Carry)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Easter 2024

The trial and crucifixion of Jesus was a harrowing and heartbreaking experience for his friends, followers and family. They had placed so much hope in Jesus; in his teaching, preaching, and in his miracles. Then they had to stand, jostled by hostile crowds and watch as he was betrayed, abandoned, condemned, beaten, humiliated and then gruesomely crucified. They stood at the foot of the cross and watched him die.

However, the cross was not the end: there was the empty tomb and life anew. The resurrected Jesus comes to us as we are, but he also comes as he is; through the power of God, he is resurrected and comes to us with the gift of new and everlasting life. Death has no more dominion. Where there was despair, God brings us hope. Where there was darkness, God has brought light. Where there was death, God brings us not just life, but new and everlasting life.

In world where we are all too often confronted by the daily reality of anguish, distress and brutality, we are called to be people of hope. This is not ordinary human hope. This is the hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. In the face of sadness, difficulty and pain, we are called to look to and rely on the risen Lord and not just on our own stamina and strength.

When we look at the world around us, we may be tempted to throw in the towel and give in to despair. However, because we now share in the wonderful resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we are able to live our daily lives full of Easter hope. This Easter Day, may we be people who are filled with the light, joy, and hope of the resurrection of Jesus.

Christ is risen, alleluia! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

~Canon Victor
(drawn from various sources)

Requiescant In Pace

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late **Philip Gray**, who died suddenly at his home on Tuesday 27 February. Philip was the dearly loved husband of Sandra and will be sadly missed by his three children and his siblings, as well as a large circle of friends and former colleagues. Both he, his wife Sandra and his late dear parents were friends to many here in Clonenagh. His funeral service was held in St Michael and all Angels Church, Abbeyleix, on Friday 1 March.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Easter General Vestries 2024

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

Stations Of The Cross Walk

The annual Stations of the Cross walk this year goes from The Hollow to Roskelton on Good Friday (March 29th) at 10.00am.

Confirmation 2024

Please remember our six young Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they prepare to be confirmed by Bishop Adrian 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: April 11 & 18. Class on Thursday 18 April will be a rehearsal in St Peter's Church for the ceremony.

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.

Home Communion

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.

Thursday Bible Club has now closed until September. Thanks to all who have helped and supported this ministry over the year.

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee are holding the annual **Golf Classic** in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday 24th May 2024.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole at 120e or entering a team at 120e please contact Mrs Mabel Peavoy 086 2033720 or Mrs Evelyn Bennett 086 7950502 .

It would be great to see parishioners entering a team and support would be much appreciated.

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

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

Over 30 members from our own branch, Rathdowney and Abbeyleix, attended our last meeting on Thursday 27 February when our guest speaker was our Diocesan President, Lesley Bayley. A very informative evening was had by all. Portlaoise Women's Refuge Centre have acknowledged with thanks the very generous donation of much needed toiletries and children's clothes from our branch.

Date for your diaries: MU Festival Service will be held in Kiltegan Church on Monday 8 April at 7pm.

Badminton Club

If anyone is interested in playing Badminton for fun or competitive leagues, you are more than welcome to attend training on Tuesday & Thursday evenings every week in **Mountrath Community School Hall**.. We would love to see new faces coming back to Badminton, and it's a great game for your well-being. Juvenile 7pm – 8pm, €4 pp fee. Adults 8pm – 10pm, €5 pp fee.

Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School Fundraiser

Clonenagh National School are collecting used or unwanted clothes, hand-bags, belts, curtains, bed linen, shoes (in pairs), towels, hats and scarves as a fundraiser for the school.

The collection is part of a Cash for Clobber Scheme which exports reusable items of suitable quality to developing countries, and at the same time, provides funds to the school, linked directly to the weight collected.

Items can be dropped off in black bin bags to the front door of the school on the Portlaoise Road, Mountrath between 10am-1pm on Saturday 13th April 2024 and also between 9.30am-3pm on Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th April 2024.

Note: Pillows, duvets, soiled clothes and soft toys cannot be accepted for hygiene reasons.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Sunday Services & Readings

April						
Sunday 7th <i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 4: 32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2 John 20: 19-31</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 Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 3: 12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48</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 Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 4: 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>		Lacca 10.30am <i>Service of the Word</i>	Mountrath 11.00am <i>Confirmation Service Holy Communion</i>	
Saturday/ Sunday 27th/28th <i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Acts 8: 26-40 Psalm 22: 25-31 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8</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

March

29th Friday.....Stations of the Cross walk

April

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

8th Monday.....Mothers' Union Festival Service

9th Tuesday.....Clononagh Easter General Vestry

10th Wednesday.....Borris-in-Ossory & Seir Kieran Easter General Vestry

11th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

16th Tuesday.....Offerlane Easter General Vestry

21st Sunday.....Confirmation Service

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

Items for the May 2024 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday April 24th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, April 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@clononagh.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.clononagh.com