

The Newsletter

January 2025

Rector:

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Clonenagh National School Carol Service

(Image kindly provided by Clonenagh N.S.)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

The Epiphany

The word Epiphany means to reveal or to make known. The Three Wise Men, the kings from the East, were led and drawn by the light of a star to come and pay homage to Jesus. They arrive with gifts as they bend low and kneel in front of the King of Kings. These kings from far off lands are humbled in the presence of Jesus. The birth of Jesus is no longer meant just for the People of Israel, but for the whole human race. People reacted differently to the birth of Jesus. The shepherds recognised one of their own in the stable filled with animals; someone who would later say of himself, 'I am the Good Shepherd.' The three kings also saw one like themselves; someone would later say of himself, 'Yes, I am a King.' Angels came and told the shepherds where Jesus was to be found. The kings followed the light of a star that led to Jesus.

Today, we experience God in far more ordinary ways. God continues to break and burst into our world and our lives in many different ways. An act of kindness, compassion or generosity from someone reminds us that God is with us. A silent hand on our shoulder when we are struggling can reveal God to us. A hand offered as a sign of forgiveness, friendship or peace; these are all small daily epiphanies. These are the ways and times that God continues to break into our world time and time again each and every day. The Epiphany is not about something that just happened a long time ago – this great feast reminds us to look for and find God within and around us.

~Canon Victor

Requiescant In Pace

We express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late **Beryl McKay**, formerly of Ardmore, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow who died peacefully at The Orchard, St. Vincent's Centre, Navan Road, Dublin on Tuesday 3rd December.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Happy Holidays

The Rector will be away after services on Christmas Day, returning to duty on Tuesday 7th January 2025. Please contact Rev'd Alison in case of pastoral emergency.

Confirmation 2025

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 seven young parishioners have indicated their desire to be Confirmed in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath on Sunday 25th May, 2025.

Fellowship Service

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

Parish Reader

If you feel you have a calling to the ministry of Parish Reader, or would like to explore things further, please contact the Rector.

January GFS Meetings:

Fri 10th, Mountrath Parochial Hall (19:15-20:45)

Fri 17th, Mountrath Parochial Hall (19:15-20:45)

Fri 24th, GFS Trip to Pantomime

If you are interested in volunteering as a leader or would like further information contact Jennifer on 086 818 5644.

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.

Leprosy Mission

A total of €180.00 was raised this year. On behalf of the mission, many thanks to everyone who supported the collection. I am retiring this year from the role of representative for the mission. ~Olga Telford



Clonenagh National School Carol Service

(Images kindly provided by Clonenagh N.S.)



Clonenagh National School News

As previously mentioned, an opportunity to buy land behind our school came up. As of a couple of weeks ago, this dream became a reality, marking an exciting milestone for Clonenagh NS.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the financial assistance from the Ossory and Leighlin Diocesan Board of Education, whose generous support has played a key role in bringing this project to fruition.

Additionally, we must acknowledge the incredible efforts of our Parents' Associations over the years. Their tireless fundraising efforts have laid a solid foundation for our school's growth. Even as many families have moved on to secondary schools, their legacy lives on, continuing to benefit the students of Clonenagh NS today. What a remarkable gift to our community!

We are also delighted to share that we worked closely with William and Ethel Telford to secure our portion of the land.

Both the current Board of Management and our previous Boards have dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to this project, ensuring a bright future for our school and its students.

We will keep you updated as our plans take shape. In the meantime, our next step is to "tidy up" the land. If anyone has any suggestions of how to go about this or indeed to help, please do get in touch with us. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant future for Clonenagh NS.

~Melissa Burnell

Enrolments for September 2025

If you are interested in enrolling your child in Clonenagh National School for September 2025, please phone us on 057-8732516, email us at clonenaghns@gmail.com, or visit our website and search for "Admissions".

Don't forget the Clonenagh National School **Annual Tractor Run** on Saturday 28th December 2024 in Coolrain Village.

11.00am: Registration for the Family Fun Run/Walk in Hogan's Pub, Coolrain

(€10 for adults, €5 for secondary school students, free for primary school students)

11.30am: Family Fun Run/Walk starts

1.30pm: Registration for the Tractor Run in Hogan's Pub, Coolrain

2.30pm: Tractors leave Coolrain Village

8.30pm: Monster Auction in Hogan's Pub - many impressive lots will be auctioned on the night!

If you would like to make a contribution, this QR code can be used to send a donation to the school through Revolut:



Services & Readings

January						
Sunday 5th <i>The Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-15 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	Lacca 10.00am Holy Communion			Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 12th <i>The First Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th <i>The Second Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Ecumenical Christian Unity Week Service
Saturday 25th	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19	Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion				
Sunday 26th <i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary

December

28th Saturday.....Clononagh National School Annual Tractor Run
28th Saturday.....Diocesan Youth Council Christmas Trip to Dublin

January

6th Monday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
9th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service
10th Friday.....GFS Meeting
17th Friday.....GFS Meeting
22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for February 2025 Newsletter
24th Friday.....GFS Trip to Pantomime

Items for the February 2025 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday January 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, January 26th.

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