

The Newsletter

March 2025

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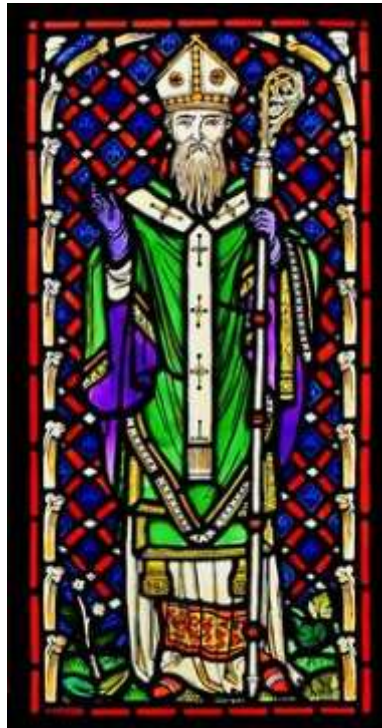
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Saint Patrick

as depicted in stained glass in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

Why is Lent 40 days long?

Mentioned 146 times in Scripture, the number 40 generally symbolises a period of testing, trial, or great personal and spiritual contemplation. Moses lived 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery. Moses was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, on two separate occasions (*Exodus 24:18, and 34:1-28*), receiving God's laws. He also sent spies, for 40 days, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance (*Numbers 13:25, 14:34*). The prophet Jonah powerfully warned ancient Nineveh, for 40 days, that its destruction would come because of its many sins (*Jonah 3:4*).

In the New Testament we find the number 40 is also very significant in the life of Jesus: Jesus fasted 40 days and nights (*Matthew 4:2*); Jesus was tempted 40 days by Satan (*Luke 4:2, Mark 1:13*); Jesus remained on earth 40 days after Resurrection (*Acts 1:3*).

Because of this, by the solemn 40 days of Lent we journey each year with our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in the desert.

~Canon Victor

Requiescant In Pace

We express our sincere condolences to:

Betty Chambers (Lacca) on the death of her dear husband **David Chambers**, late of Whitefield, Mountrath, Co. Laois and formerly of Clonee, Fenagh, Co. Carlow, who passed away peacefully at his home in the loving care of his wife and son, Richard, on 29th December, 2024.

...and to Sharon Handcock (Borris-in-Ossory) on the death of her dear mother, **Sylvia Cooke (née Whiteford)** late of The Commons, Co. Tipperary, who is survived by her beloved husband Tom.

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory

Parish Notes

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion & Evening Prayer For Lent

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 8pm on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) in **St. Peter's Church, Mountrath**, as we begin our Lenten journey together.

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

12 March: **Seir Kieran**

19 March: **Borris-in-Ossory**

26 March: **Annatrim**

2 April: **Lacca**

9 April: **Roskelton**

...and our Wednesday Lenten Services for 2025 conclude on 16 April in **Mountrath**.

Easter General Vestries

Tuesday 29 April 8pm **Clonenagh**: Parochial Hall

Thursday 1 May 8pm **Borris-in Ossory & Seir Kieran**: St. Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory

Tuesday 6 May 8pm **Offerlane**: Annatrim Church

World Day Of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer Service takes place at 8.00pm on Friday 7th March in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath. All welcome!

Fellowship Service

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

Lacca Third Sunday Service

The Third Sunday Service in March is the last Sunday for tea in Lacca at 4pm and will return with the Harvest Festival Service in October.

Register Of Vestrypersons

It is that time of the year to update the Register of Vestrypersons, so that new parishioners and those 18 years of age and older can register. By registering your name, you are entitled to vote at the Easter Vestry, when select vestry members are elected along with Church Wardens and Glebe Wardens. You also have the possibility of being elected to the select vestry if you so

desire – new members are very welcome. Please contact the relevant Honorary Secretary for more information.

Mothers' Union

19 Members, Spouses and Friends enjoyed a lovely meal in the Killeshin Hotel on 23/01/25.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 24/02 at 8pm in the Parochial Hall, Mountrath when Joyce Lalor will give a talk about her recent trip to Sri Lanka. All are very welcome.

Confirmation 2025

Please remember in your prayers our 12 young partitioners who will be Confirmed in St. Peter's Church on Sunday 25th May, 2025. Confirmation classes will commence on Friday 28 February at 7pm. Our first class will take place in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath, and the remainder of the classes will be in the Upper Room in the Parochial Hall. Duration is usually 45-50 minutes. Dates for your diary: Friday 7, 21 & 28 March; 4 April and 9, 16 & 23 May.

GFS

Girls Friendly Society has now recommenced for 2025. All girls in Senior Infants or older are welcome to join us. Girls have the opportunity to participate in games, crafts, cookery, Bible study and trips. If you

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

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.

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.

UDYC

Our Senior Day Trip to Dublin including attending the Winter Madness event will be taking place on Saturday 8th March! The closing date for bookings is Monday 3rd March.

For more information about this and upcoming events, please contact:
Email: udyc.info@gmail.com
Edward Hardy: 087/2907553
Valerie Walker: 085/2832487

Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School would like to thank everyone who supported the **Fun Run, Tractor Run and Auction Fundraiser** on 28th December 2024 in Coolrain. The day proved to be a huge success and great fun was had by all who attended on the day. The school would like to extend a special thank you to the local businesses and members of the community who provided donations and support on the day.

The school is organising another **Cash for Clobber Collection** in May 2025 where unwanted clothes, bed-linen, towels, bags, shoes etc can be donated to the school in black bin bags as a fundraiser for the school. The collection dates and details will be circulated closer to the event. Keep us in mind if you are planning any Spring clear-outs!

Also, the **Annual School Fete** will take place in the school grounds on Sunday 8th June 2025.

Items for the April 2025 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday March 19th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, March 23rd.

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

Services & Readings

March

Sunday 2nd <i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	Exodus 34: 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2 Luke 9: 28-36	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 5th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Isaiah 58: 1-12 Psalm 51: 1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion				
Sunday 9th <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion		Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 12th <i>The First Week in Lent</i>	Psalm 28 Genesis 42:6-17 Galatians 4:21-5:1	Seir Kieran 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Sunday 16th <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i>	Deuteronomy 32:1-9 Psalm 145:1-13 2 Corinthians 4: 1-12 John 4:31-38	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 Service of the Word
Wednesday 19th <i>The Second Week in Lent</i>	Psalms 1; 112 Genesis 50: 22-26 Matthew 2: 13-23	Borris-in-Ossory 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Saturday 22nd	Isaiah 55: 1-9 Psalm 63: 1-9	Seir Kieran 7.00pm Holy Communion				
Sunday 23rd <i>The Third Sunday in Lent</i>	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 26th <i>The Third Week in Lent</i>	Psalm 39 Genesis 49:1-32 Hebrews 6:13-20	Annatrim 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Sunday 30th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Exodus 2: 1-10 Psalm 34: 11-20 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 33-35	Mountrath 11.00am Holy Communion				

Parish Diary

February

24th Monday.....Mothers' Union meeting

March

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

7th Friday.....World Day of Prayer Service

8th Saturday.....UDYC Winter Madness

13th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

19th Wednesday.....Closing date for April 2025 Newsletter