

The Newsletter

April 2025

Rector:

Canon Victor Fitzpatrick,
Clonenagh Rectory,
Portlaoise Road,
Mountrath.

Phone: 057-8732146 /086-3974035

Assistant Priest:

The Rev'd Alison Seymour-Whiteley
Phone: 085-2547841

Diocesan Reader:

Mabel Peavoy,
Shannon Road,
Mountrath.
Phone:057-8732331

Parish office: clonenagh@ossory.anglican.org



Bishop Adrian and Michael discuss matters of great importance!

(Image kindly provided by Joyce Lalor)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

An Easter Reflection

John's account of Jesus' resurrection appearance begins with Mary standing outside the tomb crying (John 20:11). The significant moment of Jesus' resurrection commences with grief, as the tears from Good Friday and Holy Saturday were still present on the faces of Jesus' friends when he returned to them. They had scarcely had time to process the events of the previous days, in which their saviour and friend was killed, taking with him their hopes for the future.

Mary Magdalene is introduced in Luke's Gospel as having been freed by Jesus from seven demons, although the exact nature of these demons remains unspecified. She experienced considerable suffering before her healing. Mary chose to be present alongside Jesus during his final days, even standing at the foot of his cross. Following the Sabbath, she hurried to visit his tomb, likely intending to clean and embalm Jesus' body in preparation for burial. In her mourning, she aimed to serve the man who altered her life and provided her with healing and freedom.

Upon discovering an empty tomb, Mary likely presumed that Jesus' body had been stolen, depriving her of the opportunity to care for his body and grieve properly. This mirrors experiences familiar to many who were unable to bid farewell to loved ones in their desired manner during the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to compounded mourning.

John's Gospel (20:11–18) repeatedly notes the tears shed by Mary. John perhaps highlights the unexpected nature of Jesus presenting himself amid sadness and loss. In the early morning light, blinded by tears and uncertain about the whereabouts of Jesus' body, Mary mistook him for the gardener. Her failure to immediately recognize Jesus alludes to a profound truth: like a gardener, he ushers in new life from darkness. It was not until Jesus addressed Mary by name that she recognized him, as noted in John 20:16, NIV: "Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher')."

~Canon Victor (Drawn from a feature by Rachael Newham)

Parish Notes

Evening Prayer For Lent

Evening Prayer with Reflection for Lent will be led by Rev'd Alison on Wednesday evenings at 8pm on these dates:

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

Holy Week & Easter

Maundy Thursday (17 April):

8pm Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

8pm Holy Communion, **Lacca**

Good Friday (18 April):

10am Pilgrim Walk, **Roskelton**

3pm, Ante Communion, **Mountrath**

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

Easter Eve (19 April):

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

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

9.30pm Easter Eve Eucharist, **Annatrim**

Easter Day (20 April):

9am First Eucharist of Easter Morning,

Roskelton

10.15am Holy Communion, **Lacca**

11.30am Holy Communion, **Mountrath**

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.

Fellowship Service

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

Requiescant In Pace

We express our sincere condolences to **Marina Clegg** (Roskelton) on the death of her dear brother **Percy Chadwick**, late of Portarlinton & CloughJordan, who died on Tuesday 18th March.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory

Lacca Third Sunday Service

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

Confirmation 2025

Please remember in your prayers our 11 young parishioners who will be Confirmed in St. Peter's Church on Sunday 25th May, 2025. Confirmation classes continue in the Upper Room in the Parochial Hall. Duration is usually 45-50 minutes. Dates for your diary: 4 April and 9, 16 & 23 May, at 7.00pm.

GFS

Girls Friendly Society has re-commenced for 2025. If you are interested in volunteering as a leader or would like further information contact Jennifer on 086 818 5644.

Golf Classic

Clonenagh Parish Fundraising Committee are holding the annual Golf Classic in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday 23rd May.

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

It would be great to see some more parishioners entering a team and your support would be much appreciated

Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will be a Service of Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath on Monday 24th March at 8pm to mark Lady Day. It will be followed by a short meeting and cup of tea in the Hall. All are very welcome.

Mervyn & Rachel Tomb are running a **Men's Weekend** at the Durrow Centre 9-11 May. Booking for this is open at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/200486154949059> or this QR code:



Spaces are limited and early booking is advised. There will be Bible teaching sessions over the weekend from Craig Maiden (Kinsale) as well as some activities, including 10 Pin Bowling on Saturday. Follow the link for full details.

St. Cronan's Church Songs of Hope

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, will host a special evening of Gospel music with Christian singer James Kilbane on Friday 4th April at 8 pm. The evening is in support of vital repair work to the church roof, indoor walls, dampness prevention as well as the ongoing ministry work. Donation tickets are €20 and are available from church organisers, local outlets, Eventbrite, or call 087 3825336. All welcome and all support is appreciated.

Clonenagh National School News

Clonenagh National School, Mountrath are collecting unwanted clothes, paired shoes, hats, hand-bags, bags, scarves, belts, hats, soft toys and scarves as a fundraiser for the school. Clean, folded bedding, blankets, towels and curtains can also be accepted but please collect these in separate bags to the other items.

The collection is part of the **Bags2School Ireland 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. As an additional bonus, LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice will also receive an additional 10% from Bag2School on top of the value raised by the school.

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 17th May 2025 and also between 9.30am-3pm on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Note: Pillows, duvets, cushions, rugs and soiled clothes **can not** be accepted.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Services & Readings

April

Wednesday 2nd <i>The Fourth Week in Lent</i>	<i>Psalm 91</i> <i>Exodus 4:1-23</i> <i>Hebrews 10:1-18</i>	Lacca 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Sunday 6th <i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Isaiah 43: 16-21</i> <i>Psalm 126</i> <i>Philippians 3: 4b-14</i> <i>John 12: 1-8</i>	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 9th <i>The Fifth Week in Lent</i>	<i>Psalm 62</i> <i>Exodus 9:1-12</i> <i>Hebrews 12:3-13</i>	Roskelton 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Sunday 13th <i>The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)</i>	<i>Isaiah 50: 4-9a</i> <i>Psalm 31: 9-16</i> <i>Philippians 2: 5-11</i> <i>Luke 23: 1-49</i> <i>or: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29</i> <i>Luke 19: 28-40</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 16th <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i>	<i>Isaiah 50: 4-9a</i> <i>Psalm 70</i> <i>Hebrews 12: 1-3</i> <i>John 13: 21-32</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Evening Prayer				
Thursday 17th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14</i> <i>Psalm 116: 1, 10-17</i> <i>1 Corinthians 11: 23-26</i> <i>John 13: 1-17, 31b-35</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion	Lacca 8.00pm Informal family celebration of Holy Communion			
Friday 18th <i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12</i> <i>Psalm 22</i> <i>Hebrews 10: 16-25</i> <i>John 18: 1 - 19: 42</i>	Roskelton 10.00am Way of the Cross walk	Mountrath 3.00pm Ante-Communion	Lacca 8.00pm Service of the Word		
Saturday 19th <i>Easter Eve</i>	<i>Isaiah 65: 17-25</i> <i>Easter Anthems</i> <i>Acts 10: 34-43</i> <i>Luke 24: 1-12</i>	Seir Kieran 6.00pm Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 8.00pm Holy Communion	Annatrim 9.30pm Holy Communion		
Sunday 20th <i>Easter Day</i>		Roskelton 9.00am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion		
Sunday 27th <i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Job 42: 1-6</i> <i>Psalm 150</i> <i>Revelation 1: 4-8</i> <i>John 20: 19-31</i>	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary

March

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

April

4th Friday.....St. Cronan's Church Songs of Hope

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

10th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

23rd Wednesday.....Closing date for May 2025 Newsletter

29th Tuesday.....Clononagh Easter General Vestry meeting