

The Newsletter

February 2026

Rector:

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The **common snowdrop** (*Galanthus nivalis*) is the most widespread member of the Galanthus family, indigenous to Central & Western Europe. Now naturalised in Ireland, it is thought to have been introduced here around the early sixteenth century.

(Image sourced from Microsoft Creative Commons)

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

The Rector Writes

The First of February – St. Brigid’s Day

The feast of St. Brigid on 1 February is a celebration of the wonderful springing back of the earth from its winter sleep. It is the season when we celebrate new beginnings and new life on earth. The sod is turned, the day lengthens, seeds are sown, and sails are hoisted. Many of the stories about Brigid tell of her milking the cows, churning the milk, making butter, shepherding her flocks of sheep, helping with the harvest and even brewing ale. Brigid, in keeping with her Celtic traditions, was wonderfully attuned to the seasons and cycles of nature. She valued the elements of nature: earth - soil, air - we breathe, fire - heat & light and water - life.

~Canon Victor

Requiescant In Pace

Please remember in your prayers **Margaret McKay** (Mountrath), on the death of her mother, **Gladys Dorothy McClean** (née Colclough), late of Erril, who died on Monday 29th December 2025 and was laid to rest in Rathdowney on Thursday 1st January, 2026.

...and **Serena Senior** (Mountrath), on the death of her father, **William (Billy) Rowan**, late of Clonreher, who died on Thursday 22nd January and was laid to rest in Portlaoise on Sunday 25th.

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory

Parish Notes

World Day Of Prayer

This year’s World Day of Prayer Service takes place at 7.00pm on Friday 6th March in Bloom Headquarters, Mountrath.

The Service has been prepared by the Nigerian WDP Committee, and the Theme is: "I Will Give You Rest: Come."

All are welcome!



Mothers’ Union Dinner

Our Mothers’ Union Dinner will be held in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise on Thursday 29th January at 7pm. Parishioners and friends most welcome. Please confirm numbers to Jean @ (085) 7074805 or Mabel @ (086) 2033720 by Sunday the 25th January. Cost €39.50 for three course meal. Looking forward to a good attendance.

Fellowship Service

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



Mountrath Badminton Club 2025 - 2026 Season:

Badminton Training is on every Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Juvenile Training (Age 8+ - 16 years old) Juvenile Training sessions will be at 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Entry Fee €3.00 per child/student.

Adult Training sessions will be at 8.00pm to 10.00pm in Mountrath Community School Hall. Eircode: R32AK27. Entry Fee: €5.00 per person.

Please contact Joseph Hargroves (086)3580077 or Wendy Carry (087) 1787245.



Clonenagh National School News

Junior Infants 2026/27

We are currently accepting enrolments for Junior Infants for September. Please visit our website www.clonenaghns.ie for an application form or contact us at the office on 057-8732516 or at clonenaghns@gmail.com. If you just want to drop into the school, we can give you a form if that's easier!

Tractor Run 2025

Many thanks to you all for your support on the 28th of December. It was so heartwarming to see Clonenagh NS so well supported. Your support is invaluable to our school. We are currently in the process of purchasing equipment for our school yard... stay tuned!

Services & Readings

February						
Sunday 1st <i>Saint Brigid's Day</i>	<i>Hosea 6: 1-4 Psalm 134 1 John 1: 1-4 John 10: 7-16</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 8th <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3 Psalm 136 Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25-34</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>		Annatrim 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>		Mountrath 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 15th <i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	<i>Exodus 24: 12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9</i>	Roskelton 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Seir Kieran 9.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	Mountrath 11.30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>	Lacca 4.00pm <i>Service of the Word</i>
Wednesday 18th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 58: 1-12 Psalm 51: 1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21</i>	Mountrath 8.00pm <i>Holy Communion</i>				
Sunday 22nd <i>The First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11</i>	Annatrim 11.00am <i>Morning Prayer</i>		Mountrath 11.30am <i>Holy Communion</i>		

Parish Diary

January

29th Thursday.....Mothers' Union Dinner

February

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

12th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

18th Wednesday.....Closing date for March 2026 Newsletter

Items for the March 2026 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday February 18th AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, February 22nd.

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