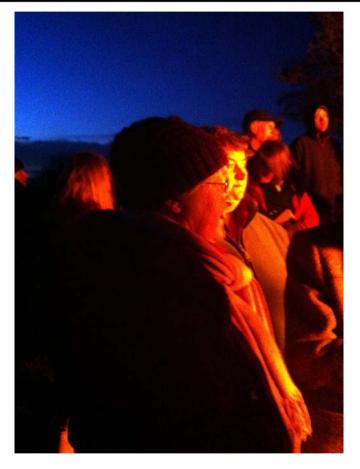
The Newsletter

April 2013



Saint Patrick's Eve

Joyce Wharton and Margaret Grant at the lighting of the fire on Bell Hill on the Eve of Saint Patrick's Day

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's letter

'Old age is not a problem', said the twisting as fire lighters still in her hands. poster at the roadside, 'loneliness is'.

'When will the winter end?' I thought, spent seven years as Rector.

was reclusive. Her main interest in life fact that our area had an abundance of her whose was son. which she lived. 'He'll come to see me', from him again. A furniture van came point out that he lived in Belfast, less never existed. than thirty miles away, and that, although it was January, the weather The weather, work, things that have to was mild and dry, but what was the be done. We can all make excuses for point in causing her upset?

was parked outside her house; the all the other problems, it costs nothing undertaker had just left.

The phoned police had me that happened to her and they would like a lonely. clergyman present when they forced the door. The woman's body was lying on the hearth rug, the paper she was

The heart attack that had taken her must have been sudden and massive.

one day last week when driving to The funeral had been respectably Portlaoise. The words reminded me of attended, the son's presence brought the words of a lady who had been a friends from Belfast uninhibited by the member of a parish in the North where I thought that it was still winter. What went through his mind as he sat in the front row with the coffin a few feet 'When the winter ends', the lady had away? Maybe he believed his own said that the last time I had seen her. story, that driving from Belfast in winter Living in sheltered accommodation, she months was hazardous - despite the occasional people who drove to and from the city appearance were the moments for for their daily work. I never saw or heard she said, 'when the winter ends'. There and removed her few pieces of furniture had been a momentary temptation to and it was soon as though she had

unnecessary not doing the things we should; not visiting people we should see, but I hope there is no-one in our community 'I was going to come when the winter left like that lady in the North. Whatever ended', he said when I met him. His car about the weather, or the economy, or to knock someone's door and ask them how they are.

morning, they believed something had Let's be a community where no-one is for Postar

Rector:

Canon Ian Poulton. Clonenagh Rectory. Portlaoise Road, Mountrath. Phone: 057-8732146 Diocesan Reader:

Mabel Peavoy. Shannon Road. Mountrath. Phone:057-8732331 Parish Archivist:

Vicky Knowles. Clonin School. Mountrath. Phone: 057-8732846

Church of Ireland News

Good wishes to Pope Francis

Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, sent good wishes to new pope following his election on 13th March.

women throughout the world of different feeling - especially as I witness, and am Christian traditions to his own, I assure personally engaged, in Church-State the new Pope of our prayers as he dialogue, in the field of education of European together in his own person the cultures, we all take part in on-going vigorous hopes and spiritual needs of the first debate about world and of the developing world, so including much valued complexities and apprehensions of our the affording of protection to Lesbian globalised earth. He has champion of the needs of the poor and to name some examples - I cannot help his own lifestyle, he has sought to reflect Church-State the life of the much-loved saint whose disentangling to do. name he now carries in the future, Saint Francis.

people of Ireland, our best wishes, with the hopes and prayers of many fellow-Pope Francis Christians, as now embarks on the ministry to which he has been called."

Secular Society - Bishop Of Cork

Cathedral, Cork, the Right Reverend

Paul Colton, said that Saint Patrick's Day - a festival which is at one and the On behalf of the Church of Ireland, Dr same time a national day and a religious event - 'confronts us all annually with questions about the place of religion in our society.'

"In company with millions of men and Bishop Colton said: I cannot help but begins his new ministry. An Argentinian especially, in the care of the elderly, and parentage, he brings in the voluntary charitable sector; and as all sorts of issues. abortion the proposed amidst the legislation, marriage equality rights, and been a and Gay people in a religious workplace, dispossessed, and, in the simplicity of but feeling that we have some major growing-up and

The State has the challenge accommodating, in a secular way, in its As the Church of Ireland's Archbishop of legislation, within the Rule of Law. Armagh I extend also to Cardinal Seán outlooks which take account of the new Brady, to Jesuit friends throughout the diversity, religious and non-religious. island and to all the Roman Catholic Religious groups, churches, particularly churches that have been used to exerting major influence (including, in spite of its size, the Church of Ireland) have to get used to what it means to be religious, and to work out our faith, in a secular society.

Churches Have To Get Used To A A secular State does not mean that there is no place for religion or dialogue with a religious viewpoint. Separation of Addressing the congregation at the Church and State does not mean that annual Civic Service in Saint Fin Barre's religious people have nothing to say or should say nothing.

Page 3

Parish Notes

opportunity to remind everyone of our Holy Lacca, and 11.30 at Mountrath. Week and Easter services.

Holy Week

Saint Luke's telling of the story of Jesus from the entry into Jerusalem until the glorious Easter morning.

The Road, Luke 19:36 Monday 8 pm Roskelton The Temple Courts, Luke 20:1 Tuesday 8 pm Annatrim The Mount of Olives, Luke 21:37 Wednesday 8 pm Borris in Ossory The Upper Room, Luke 22:12 Maundy Thursday 8 pm Mountrath A Tomb. Luke 23:53

This evening at 7 pm Seir Kieran

Good Friday

with the Stations of the Cross from The Hollow to Roskelton. At 2 pm we keep the dramatised reading of the Passion story with all the old favourite hymns.

Easter Eve

Our celebration of the resurrection of our on the building. Lord Jesus Christ begins at Annatrim on Saturday, 30th March, Easter Eve at 7.00 when as the sun sets we gather for the Easter Vigil and the First Communion of Easter Day. As part of our service we shall decorate cross with flowers. acknowledging the new life for us that came through Jesus' death on the cross.

Easter Day

Easter morning begins early with the dawn 087 7425865 for further details. service at Seir Kieran at 7.00am.

The services continue at 8.15 with Holv

Holy Week and Easter: This newsletter is Communion at Borris in Ossory, Holy coming out on Palm Sunday so is an Communion at 9.30 at Roskelton, 10.30 at

The Annunciation: 25th March this year fell during Holy Week, meaning Lady Day, the This Holy Week we reflect on the places in Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary, moves to the first Monday after Easter Week, Monday, 8th April, Our Mothers' Union Lady Day Holy Communion service takes place in Mountrath Church on Monday, 8th April at 8 pm.

Mission Hall: Clonenagh National School is now within touching distance of acquiring the former mission hall building for conversion into a general purpose room for the school somewhere that can be used for PE, drama and other activities. The trustees of the mission hall have dropped the asking price €32,000. The Diocesan Board of Education have approved a grant of €20.000, the school board of management Services on Good Friday begin at 10 am can raise €5,000 from funds, and we received a very generous anonymous donation of €2,000. Our shortfall now is just Last Hour in Mountrath, a service of bible €5,000. If there are former pupils or current reading, hymns and quietness. On Good parents who would like to make a Friday at 8pm we gather in Lacca for a contribution, every amount would be very welcome. If you are not in a position to make a cash donation, but would like to help, don't worry. Once we have acquired the hall, we shall need lots of voluntary helpers to work

> Classroom painting: The new classroom, the extension to the right of the school building as you stand at the front gate, is now complete. The school budget does not run to paying for it to be painted so we need some volunteers during the Easter holidays to come and help paint it. If you can help, please contact the chair of our school board of management, Mrs Sylvia Stotesbury at

quickly than usual. The provisional dates for Bible club in Mountrath from 1th to 19th July Borris-in-Ossorv- Seir Kieran

alphabet

Confirmation: We have only one candidate for whom an interest in confirmation has been expressed, so the usual classes will service will be in Mountrath church in June 2014

Lent services: Thank you to everyone who supported the series of Lent services this vear - we averaged an attendance of 35 people each evening over the five services. something that was very encouraging.

John 3:16 Video: The Lent service in Roskelton this year was memorable for us using a cup and saucer in the absence of silver (something probably much closer to the Last Supper!) and for a very moving video shown to us by Mervyn Tomb from the Faith Mission. The video was about a father's sacrifice of his only son to save a train filled with people and a number of Rector away: The Rector is going to visit people asked whether the story was true. According to stories on the Internet, in 1929 a man called John Griffith in the United He had originally planned to attend the decision.

Thank you to Mervyn: Mervyn Tomb has until Wednesday 1st May. been busy in our parish in recent weeks,

Easter vestry meetings: The early Easter taking assemblies in Clonenagh National means that our Easter General Vestry School and speaking at the school's Easter meetings have come around much more service. Mervyn is also planning a holiday Easter meetings are 9th April for Offerlane, in the Parochial Hall, Pupils at Clonenagh 10th April for Clonenagh and 11th April for NS will have received a flyer about the dates and fuller details will be available next term.

Summer series: Bishop Michael will be at American visitors: We were delighted to Saint Mark's Church, Borris-in-Ossory to welcome Brian Donohue and his family and celebrate Holy Communion on the eve of other members of the Evangelical Free Saint Mark's Day, Wednesday, 24th April. Church in Virginia in the United States to Bishop Michael's reflections on the church Clareen for the days around Saint Patrick's will mark the beginning of a summer series Day. As well as activities with the local in which we will go through an A-Z of the Catholic community, the group visited the church, starting with angels on 1st May, monastic site at Clareen on the Saturday baptism on 8th May, and on through the and then enjoyed the hospitality of the Grant family to watch the Ireland-Italy rugby match before being very well fed by Margaret Grant and Joyce Wharton at Margaret's kitchen table. On the Saturday evening, the visitors were joined by a few dozen local people for not be taking place. Our next confirmation a short service on Bell Hill, lighting a fire on the hill top to remember Saint Patrick lighting the Easter fire at Tara. We hope the group's visit will be the beginning of something new in the life of the Seir Kieran community.

> Car park wall: People passing through Mountrath will have noticed that the church hall car park wall is undergoing repair. The FAS workers had intended repairing the cracked plaster, but upon removing it discovered not the stone wall they had expected, but something made from sand and rubble without mortar holding it together. As a consequence, repairs have had to take place on the weakest parts before it can be re-plastered.

family in England and in the North between Monday, 22nd April and Monday, 29th April. States had to make such a dreadful consecration of the new bishop of Meath and Kildare, which had been set for 28th April, but that event has been postponed

Rogationtide: Rogation Sunday this year On Tuesday 12th March, the Parent & fine spring will have been answered. As in Injury Ireland. We raised €165.00. the past two years, we shall have open air services to ask God's blessing on the crops.

calculated on the basis of every parishioner. without regard for age, church attendance or ability to pay. As it stands, a new family of A Garden Fete will be held in the home of disincentive to trying to build up a Association. congregation.

The Clonenagh Parish Barbecue Fun available at 057-8735951 Day will take place in the Rectory Grounds on Sunday June 16th. More details nearer to the day.

falls on Sunday, 5th May. We hope by the Toddler Group held a bring & buy sale / time that day is reached, our prayers for a coffee morning in aid of Acquired Brain

The Bonnie Baby Spring Fair will be held this year on Saturday April 27th at Mountrath Special synod: The special diocesan synod Mart in Aid of One Life Suicide Prevention on Saturday, 25th May could have major Helpline (www.onelife.ie) and Turn The Tide repercussions for parishes which show Of Suicide. Judging commences at 10am. larger populations in their diocesan returns. Entry forms available from David Wharton. The proposed scheme of union with Ferns 087-2991379 or from Mountrath Mart. Last diocese includes a plan that parishes be year's event raised over €4,000 for the assessed on the basis of €18,000 for each charity. Once again many thanks to all those incumbency plus a per capita charge who helped to make that day such a success.

two adults and three children joining the Dorothy and Denis Delaney, Rossadown, church would add around €500 a year to the Mountrath, on Easter Monday 1st April, 2annual assessment. This would be a major 5pm, to raise funds for the Irish Wheelchair Their grand-daughter Sinead Keon is involved in the association. A fun filled day for all the family, more information



On Wednesday 20th March St Fintan's Boys School held an Easter Egg Hunt. The boys school invited Tots & Co playschool and Mountrath Parent & Toddler Group. The children met in the school hall for party treats & to colour pictures, then went outside for a parachute game & look for the eggs. They all had great fun.

Smiles

Pastoral care

the village when he met one of his elderly parishioners. 'How's your cold?' he asked.

"Very obstinate," came the bleak reply.

"I'm sorry." The clergyman decided to try again. "Well, how is your arthritis?"

"Very obstinate," came the reply.

"Oh dear, I am sorry," soothed the clergyman. He tried a third time: "And how is your wife?"

"About the same "

Church Magazine Bloomers

You know what they meant, but what they organist after the service. said was . . .

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24 October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale, It's a The young clergyman was walking through chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostili-

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sun-

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: Break Forth Into Jov.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to see the

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

* * *

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

Parish Diary

1st Saturday..........Garden Fete in aid of Irish Wheelchair Association (page 6) 24th Wednesday...Closing date for May 2013 Newsletter items! 27th Saturday......Bonnie Baby Spring Fair, Mountrath Mart (page 6)

Items for the May 2013 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 4th Sunday, April 28th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and most importantly, please ensure that you spell names 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

This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from www.clonenagh.com

Services & Readings

Holy Week (last week of March)										
Monday (25 th)	Roskelton 8.00pm Compline									
Tuesday 26 th)	Annatrim 8.00pm Late Evening Office									
Wednes- day (27 th)	Borris-in-Ossory 8.00pm Evening Prayer									
Maundy Thursday (28 th)	Mountrath 8.00pm Holy Communion									
Good Friday (29 th)	The Hollow to F 10.00ar Walking with the	n	Mountrath 2.00pm The Last Hour		Lacca 8.00pm Service of the Word					
Easter Eve (30 th)	Annatrim 7.00pm Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter Day									
Fifth Sunday Easter Day (31 ^{s7})	Acts 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 Luke 24: 1-12	Seir Kieran 7.00am Lighting of the Easter Fire	Borris-in- Ossory 8.15am Holy Communion	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion				

April 2013										
First Sunday 7 th	Acts 5: 27-32 Psalm 118: 14-29 Revelation 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-31	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion				
Second Sunday 14 th	Acts 9: 1-6 Psalm 30 Revelation 5: 11-14 John 21: 1-19	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer					
Third Sunday 21 St	Acts 9: 36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7: 9-17 John 10: 22-30	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in- Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer				
Fourth Sunday 28 th	Acts 11: 1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion					