The Newsletter

December 2026

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The bird feeders are getting busy!

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Parish Notes

Congratulations

...to **Willie & Annie Clegg** on the occasion of their recent 65th (Blue Sapphire) Wedding Anniversary! Wishing them many more in the future.

Clonenagh Parish and **Clonenagh National School** are joining together for a **Carol Service** this year on Tuesday night, December 15th 2026 at 7 30pm, in St Peter's Church. The collection on the night will go to Irish Cancer Society's Night Nursing Service.

Contributions of mince pies, buns, etc will be much appreciated for refreshments after the Service.

Mountrath Indoor Bowls Club

For Winter Nights Fun & Laughter, Mountrath Indoor Bowls Club meet on Thursday nights in the Community School, 7:15-9:30pm.

Hospital Visits

Just a reminder to everyone, if you or a loved one are in Portlaoise Hospital and would like a visit from the Chaplain, Rev'd Janet Finlay, please let her know. Since the introduction of GDPR the only way she will know is if you contact her on 087-7598384. *~Rev'd Janet*

Fellowship Service

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

Castletown Vintage Club are holding their annual **Christmas Vintage Light Vehicle Run** on Sunday 13th December from 2pm in the village.

A donation from the proceeds will be made to Offerlane Parish and PATH (Portlaoise Action To Homelessness).

Camross Lunch Club

...wish to invite everyone to a Christmas Lunch in Camross Community Centre on Thursday 3rd December, 12:30-3:30pm.

Booking is essential, so contact Johanna Steenkist on 086-6012153.

Clonenagh National School News

Hello everyone! Just a few updates from us here in Clonenagh National School, where things are certainly getting busy as we prepare for Christmas!

Christmas Carol Service, Tuesday,15th December

We are really looking forward to our Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday, 15th December at 7.30 p.m. in the church. This year is particularly special as we are joining together with the parish for what promises to be a beautiful evening.

The children are already working hard on some lovely pieces, including some very special musical performances which we know will add a little extra Christmas magic to the evening!

Following the service, our wonderful **Parents' Association** will be organising some refreshments in the Parochial Hall. We hope you will join us for a chat, something nice to eat and perhaps a glass of non-alcoholic mulled wine! It will be a lovely opportunity for everyone to come together before Christmas.

Our Annual Tractor Run, 28th December

As many of you know, our Parents' Association is busy organising our annual **Tractor Run, Walk/Run and Auction**, which takes place on Monday, 28th December.

This year brings an exciting change of venue! We are delighted that the event will take place at Bergin's in Camross. Although the location is changing, all the usual activities will still go ahead, including the walk/run, tractor run, auction and music. We are really looking forward to bringing a fresh feel to what has become such a special annual event.

Please see the poster for the full programme and timings.

We would absolutely love you to include the 28th of December in your Christmas plans. Over the years, this event has become much more than a fundraiser. It has become a wonderful gathering place for past pupils, parents, parishioners, friends and neighbours. There are people who meet up at the Tractor Run every single year, and that sense of community is something we really treasure.

Can You Help Us?

We are now appealing to our parishioners, past parents, past pupils and friends of the school for donations towards our raffle and auction.

Over the years, so many of you have been incredibly generous, donating everything from firewood, bales of hay and straw to raffle prizes, vouchers and auction items. We would be enormously grateful for anything you might be able to contribute this year.

If you have something you would like to donate, please do get in touch with the school. We would be delighted to hear from you, whether you have an item to contribute, an idea to share or simply a suggestion that might help make the day a success.

We will also be happy to accept donations in the Parochial Hall following our Carol Service on 15th December, so please feel free to bring anything along that evening.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, really does make a difference.

Where Does the Money Go?

We think it is important to share just how much the money raised through our Parents' Association does for our school and, most importantly, for our children.

As everyone knows, the cost of running a school continues to rise, and providing additional opportunities and experiences for pupils is becoming increasingly expensive.

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, funds raised over the years have helped us to:

Subsidise swimming lessons, reducing the cost from over €60 to approximately €45 per child, making swimming more affordable for families, particularly those with several children attending the school.

Support transport costs for sporting events, including football, hurling, camogie, badminton and rugby blitzes.

Purchase IT equipment and educational resources, as well as support robotics, technology workshops and other learning opportunities.

Support our Student Council, Green Schools initiatives and Active Schools activities, helping children become involved in so many different areas of school life.

Develop our school grounds, including contributing towards the purchase of additional land behind the school, something we are particularly proud to have achieved.

More recently, we have been delighted to carry out further improvements to our outdoor areas. A substantial section of our pathways has been resurfaced, and we have created a new concrete area which will provide a much better base for outdoor activities, including table tennis and other recreational opportunities.

We have lots of ideas for the future too! We would love to continue developing our outdoor learning spaces and, in time, perhaps create a covered area where children can enjoy outdoor learning even when the Irish weather is not on our side! We are actively exploring grant opportunities and other ways of making these ideas a reality.

All of these improvements take time, planning and, of course, funding. However, every bit of support we receive helps us to keep moving forward and to provide the very best opportunities we can for the children in our care.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

We are so fortunate to have such a supportive parish and wider school community. Whether you purchase a raffle ticket, donate an auction item, take part in the walk, bring along a tractor or simply come out to support us on the 28th of December, every single contribution matters.

The Tractor Run is not only a hugely important fundraiser for our school, but also a wonderful community occasion, bringing people together at a very special time of year.

We are determined to make this year's event every bit as successful as previous years, and we would be delighted to have your support.

On behalf of everyone here at Clonenagh National School, thank you sincerely for everything you continue to do for us. Your kindness, generosity and encouragement never go unnoticed, and we are enormously grateful.

We look forward to seeing you at our Carol Service on 15th December and again in Camross on 28th December!

With warmest wishes, *~Melissa and everyone at Clonenagh National School*

Services & Readings

December

Sunday 6th *The Second Sunday of Advent*	*Isaiah 40: 1–11* *Psalm 85: 1–2, 8–13* *2 Peter 3: 8–15a* *Mark 1: 1–8*	**Roskelton** 9.30am Morning Prayer	**Seir Kieran** 9.30am Morning Prayer	**Lacca** 10.30am Morning Prayer	**Borris-in-Ossory** 11.00am Morning Prayer	**Mountrath** 11.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th *The Third Sunday of Advent*	*Isaiah 61: 1–4, 8–11* *Psalm 126 or Magnificat* *1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24* *John 1: 6–8, 19–28*	**Annatrim** 11.00am Carol Service		**Mountrath** 11.30am Morning Prayer		
Tuesday 15th		**Mountrath** 7.30pm Parish & School Carol Service				
Sunday 20th *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*	*2 Samuel 7: 1–11, 16* *Psalm 89: 1–4, 19–26* *or Magnificat* *Romans 16: 25–27* *Luke 1: 26–38*	**Roskelton** 9.30am Carol Service	**Seir Kieran** 9.30am Carol Service	**Borris-in-Ossory** 11.00am Carol Service	**Mountrath** 11.30am Morning Prayer	**Lacca** 4.00pm Carol Service
24th *Christmas Eve*	*SET I* *Isaiah 9: 2–7* *Psalm 96* *Titus 2: 11–14* *Luke 2: 1–14*	**Borris-in-Ossory** 8.00pm Holy Communion		**Lacca** 9.30pm Holy Communion		
25th *Christmas Day*	*SET II* *Isaiah 62: 6-12* *Psalm 97* *Titus 3: 4-7* *Luke 2: 8-20* *SET III* *Isaiah 52: 7-10* *Psalm 98* *Hebrews 1: 1-4* *John 1: 1-14*	**Seir Kieran** 9.30am Holy Communion	**Annatrim** 10.00am Holy Communion	**Roskelton** 11.00am Holy Communion	**Mountrath** 11.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 27th *The First Sunday of Christmas*	*Isaiah 61:10 – 62: 3* *Psalm 148* *Galatians 4: 4–7* *Luke 2: 15–21*	**Mountrath** 11.00am Morning Prayer				

Parish Diary

December

3rd Thursday.....Camross Christmas Lunch
6th Saturday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes
10th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service
13th Sunday.....Castletown Vintage Run
15th Tuesday.....Combined Parish and School Carol Service
22nd Tuesday.....Closing date for January 2027 Newsletter
28th Monday.....School Tractor Run

Items for the January 2027 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Tuesday December 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for Christmas Day, December 25th. **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–
clonenagh.newsletter@gmail.com
Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 087-2522162