The Magazine of the United Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh & Emly
(www.limerick.anglican.org)

St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea
Bicentenary – see page 14

June 2012
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- Bedrooms contain 3 or 4 beds
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- Lifelong friendships established
- Five day teaching week – extensive weekend recreational programme for pupils remaining at weekends
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- Staff supervise all study. Strong emphasis on career guidance. Academic focus
- New classrooms under construction 2012
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- Seven day boarding fee: €7,767 (level of maximum SEC grant)
- Extensive programme of grants, bursaries and scholarships

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The Headmaster,
Mr Adrian G. Oughton

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The Bishop Writes

IT’S BETTER TOGETHER? OR IS IT?
LIFE IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND AFTER GENERAL SYNOD 2012

Dear Friends

It was the most painful General Synod I have attended. The Church of Ireland is divided on the morality of same sex relationships. It was a time bomb waiting to explode. When the topic of civil partnership touched the Church of Ireland personally, there was bound to be trouble. There was a flurry of headlines in the Belfast Newsletter declaring that the Church of Ireland would split if this issue wasn’t sorted. Meanwhile here in the South, not a word! If ever there was a contrast in cultures this was it.

One of the jobs of a Bishop is to work for the unity of the Church. And the Church of Ireland Bishops took our responsibility seriously in the face of disunity. We scheduled a whole series of extra meetings for study, prayer and planning together, asking how we as Bishops could stand together for the unity of the Church, despite the differences between our Dioceses. We knew of plans to put motions and resolutions to General Synod that would seriously damage the unity of the Church.

So the Bishops planned the ‘Cavan Conference’ for General Synod members. We wanted it to be a ‘safe place’ where those with different views could meet one another and listen to one another with respect. Crucial to this conference was that there would be no decisions. It was a unique experiment for General Synod members and, by and large, it worked well.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

Everyone knew that this conference was the beginning of a process not the end. At a following meeting of the General Synod’s Standing Committee it was agreed that the Bishops should present a motion to General Synod carrying forward the spirit of the Cavan Conference and prevent a real threat to the Church’s unity. The Bishops read the conference evaluations and three points emerged:

(a) From the conservative wing there was a very clear request that the Bishops make clear the Church of Ireland teaching on marriage.

(b) From the centre ground and more liberal wing of the Church came a request to create a safe space for the discussion to continue, for an end to homophobia and a welcome from the church to members of the LGBT community.

(c) We also needed to map out how we might take the ‘listening’ process forward.

Resolutions were drafted reflecting each of these areas. They were brought to the Standing Committee; further alterations were made. With the endorsement of Standing Committee, three resolutions (8a, 8b, and 8c) were tabled for General Synod from the House of Bishops. When they hit the floor of the General Synod, technical objections were raised and the resolutions were withdrawn and re-presented to General Synod as a single motion.

In order to give Synod time to examine the resolution it was decided that it would be debated on Saturday. The Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Down & Dromore gave two excellent speeches, which to my mind reflected the intention of the Bishops, that the purpose of these resolutions was to give to both sides of the debate a sense that they were being listened to, and the future process would provide a ‘safe space’ for this contentious debate to take place. Some helpful amendments were put forward.

What happened was anything but ‘safe’. We entered the cut and thrust of the debate with vigour, amendments which were an attempt to bridge the divide were thrown out and conservatives insisted that the restatement of the Church’s current teaching on marriage mark the end of the debate rather than the starting point as the Bishops had intended.

For me the weakness of our resolution as Bishops was the word ‘normative’. The resolution stated “The Church of Ireland teaches therefore that faithfulness within marriage is the only normative context for sexual intercourse.” Bishop Richard Clarke explained carefully that ‘normative’ is not the same as ‘normal’. The word normative, he explained, came from the Latin word for the set square used in building a house. The set square lays down the principle for stable construction. According to this understanding the word ‘normative’ does not close down the debate of relating the Church’s teaching on marriage to same sex relationships, but opens it up. It would be possible if the General Synod so decided, following the meaning of this resolution, to see same sex relationships being guided by what is ‘normative’ in Christian teaching for marriage to be applied to same sex relationships, e.g. faithfulness for life with one partner.

This point proved too subtle for those who were opposing any change, and not clear enough for those who were advocating a broader understanding of sexual relationships within the Church. The General Synod voted by a substantial majority for the Bishops’ resolutions. But the intention of the resolution was lost completely. The deep divisions between members of the Church of Ireland have been exposed. Great hurt has been felt, particularly by the GLBT community.

IS ALL LOST? IS THE CHURCH GOING TO SPLIT?

I think not, for many reasons. Firstly the voice of the middle ground has not yet been heard adequately. Secondly, we need more time. This is the beginning of a process not the end. Thirdly, we need to work to recover the approach of the ‘Cavan Conference’. In February I facilitated a discussion between Anglicans from Jamaica, Hong Kong and Toronto in an Anglican Communion initiative called ‘Continuing Indaba’. There were huge differences in their views on same sex relationships. But after frequent meetings over 18 months, visiting one another’s dioceses, seeing the Church’s mission in very different cultural contexts, they had one over riding
GENERAL SYNOD 2012

Motion Passed on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief

The following motion was passed by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. It was proposed by the Archbishop of Dublin, seconded by the Bishop of Down & Dromore and supported by the House of Bishops, with the exception of the Bishops of Cashel & Ossory and of Cork, Cloyne & Ross.

The General Synod affirms that:

The Church of Ireland, mindful of the Preamble and Declaration, believes and accepts the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ;

The Church of Ireland continues to uphold its teaching that marriage is part of God’s creation and a holy mystery in which one man and one woman become one flesh, as provided for in Canon 31:

‘The Church of Ireland affirms, according to our Lord’s teaching that marriage is in its purpose a union permanent and life-long, for better or worse, till death do them part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the mutual society, help and comfort which the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.’

The Church of Ireland recognises for itself and of itself, no other understanding of marriage than that provided for in the totality of Canon 31. The Church of Ireland teaches therefore that faithfulness within marriage is the only normative context for sexual intercourse. Members of the Church of Ireland are required by the Catechism to keep their bodies in ‘temperance, soberness and chastity’. Clergy are called in the Ordinal to be ‘wholesome examples and hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the transformation of God’s creation and a holy mystery in which one man and one woman become one flesh, as provided for in Canon 31:

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The Church of Ireland welcomes all people to be members of the Church.

If you wish to go to the Diocesan Synod by bus this year, please first make a note of the bus timetable. Then text the word ‘BUS’ followed by your name and the bus stop name, followed by the number of seats required, to this mobile phone number 085 12 52 085. You will get a text back confirming your booking. We hope to keep the cost to €30 euro or slightly less for those nearest to Aghancon.

Abbeyfeale (Little Neros’ cafe) 7.45 a.m.
Newcastlewest (Texaco Garage) 8.05 a.m.
Rathkeale (The Square) 8.20 a.m.
Adare (Church of Ireland) 8.30 a.m.
Limerick (Finnegan’s Pub, Old Dublin Road) 8.50 a.m.
Bird Hill (The Pub) 9.10 a.m.
Nenagh (The Post Office Car Park) 9.25 a.m.
Roscrea (Supermac’s Main Street) 9.50 a.m.
Aghancon Parish Hall 10.20 a.m.

The Synod will commence with a Celebration of the Holy Communion at 10.30a.m.
Editorial

Dear Reader

It's strange, isn't it, how some Christians get their knickers in a twist about matters of little relevance to most of us in the pews. The words of the bidding to Morning Prayer perhaps provide an antidote to the current poisonous disputes about sexuality about which so much is written elsewhere in this issue:

“Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.”

Now doesn’t that sum up beautifully what our church family is really about?

Regards & God bless
Joc Sanders

Diocesan Calendar
(for updates see diocesan web site
www.limerick.anglican.org)
Sunday 3rd June - 11.00, Roscrea Confirmations, St Cronan's Church
Sunday 10th June - 2.00, Roscrea Parish BBQ, Roscrea Rugby Club
Saturday 16th June - 10.30, Diocesan Synod, Aghancon Parish Hall, Aghancon, Co Offaly
Friday 15th - Sunday 17th June, GFS Diocesan Camp, Bandon, Co Cork
Friday 29th June - Tuesday 3rd July, UDYC Summer Madness at Glenarm Forest Park, Co Antrim
Sunday 15th July - Saturday 21st July, UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Muckross

NEWSLINK SUBSCRIPTION & ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2012
(Changed from 2011)

Newslink Annual Subscription €50
(Plus either option 'a' or 'b' below)

a) Postal charge for delivery to pew €7
b) Postal charge for postage of single issue €13.50

ADVERTISING RATES (EURO)

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DISCOUNTS ON ADVERTISEMENTS

We are offering the following discounts on advertisements that are inserted for the full year 2012 (10 issues):

Colour 7%
Black & White 10%

The July/August issue will be published for Sunday 8th July 2012. All material to be included must reach the Editor by Friday 22nd June 2012 before 6.00pm, by e-mail only. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink can be improved.

Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish matters must first be cleared with the Rector of the parish concerned.

Editor’s Contact Details
Joc Sanders
Turravagaun, Dromineer
Nenagh, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987
Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

Domestic Adoption Service
InterCountry Adoption Service
Post Placement Report Service

Phone: 01 2962200
Fax: 01 2964049
Email: info@pact.ie
www.pact.ie

Formerly the Protestant Adoption Society
An ordained woman’s reflection on General Synod

by Rev Ruth Gill

Arriving at Christ Church Cathedral for the first day of General Synod there was the usual air of expectancy. This year there was an extra edge as people gathered, looking out for familiar faces and smiling with a nod when not sure! One of the very useful outcomes of the Bishops’ Conference held in Cavan in March was having the opportunity to engage with other members of Synod from all over Ireland.

The first morning of Synod is taken up with formal matters and those who love that kind of thing are in their element. From early on, the elephant in the Cathedral made its presence felt, as occasionally a speaker would refer to the Bishops’ Conference and the words we came away with, “This is going to take time - we must listen to each other.” So, prior to Synod, it was surprising to receive in the post a Motion from the House of Bishops entitled, “Human Sexuality in the context of Christian belief,” which seemed to deal solely with marriage. Was this putting the cart before the horse, I wondered?

However, that would all happen later. In the meantime, there were three reports which particularly caught my attention. In the report from Standing Committee, Roger Boyd, a farmer from the Diocese of Ferns informed Synod that the Single Farm Payment will come to an end in 2013. He urged Synod to think about the implications of this for the Church of Ireland, particularly in these difficult economic times. As he spoke, I thought it a pity that there isn’t a farmers’ voice from our Diocese – perhaps something could be done about that? A Rector from West Cork spoke of the lonely life of many bachelor farmers living on their own in isolated areas.

The Report of the RCB included those of the Clergy Pensions Trustees Ltd., and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Board. It took many years to drag Clergy Pensions into the real world and it was a shame to see the valiant efforts now necessary to try and manage the funds when a greater number of retired clergy will be relying on a smaller number of those still working.

The Report of the Board of Education naturally centred on the cutbacks in schools. The loss of school buses is also beginning to affect schools, with families unable to afford to drive their children all the way to the nearest Church of Ireland School. The main concern, however, is how teachers are going to manage with staff reductions. More schools will become one-teacher and that will present other difficulties besides the ones concerned with teaching.

So, back to the first day. How was the Holy Spirit going to guide us through the Motion on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief? Not surprisingly, the guidance came from Cork! Before the Motion could be read, the Dean of Cork wondered if the way it was worded was going to make a Doctrinal change, in which case should it not be presented as a Bill? His question seemed to carry weight. I hoped there’d be no discussion yet, leaving the way open to continue something similar to the Conference held in Cavan. But after such a build-up, there was an air of anti-climax throughout the Cathedral. We were to learn later that the House of Bishops had made some changes to the original wording, while other members of Synod proposed amendments, and these would be presented on Saturday morning. After listening to many speeches and seeing the disappointment of some not being given the opportunity to speak, it was quite a dilemma to decide which way to vote. What kind of message would go out from Synod? Whether it was intended or not, a way has now been opened for Christian marriage to be scrutinized as hasn’t been done for quite some time. Did I mention Gay? Neither did the Motion!

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by Adrian Hilliard

I was asked by Newslink for a few notes on the General Synod 2012, to enable those who don’t attend such things to perhaps learn what it is all about.

The General Synod takes place once a year either in Armagh, or Dublin. Although it has been located around the country and recently both Galway and Kilkenny proved successful venues. However this year it was Dublin’s turn and as has become the norm was held in Christ Church Cathedral. The General Synod is the supreme legislative authority of the Church of Ireland, and it is made up of elected lay members, clergy and the Bishops. In total there are 648 members. However on any one of the 3 days of Synod, you might only have a portion of that number. This year on the first day we had an attendance of 491, on the second day 449 and 392 on the third day. Usually a variety of matters and those who love that kind of thing are in their element. From early on, the elephant in the Cathedral made its presence felt, as occasionally a speaker would refer to the Bishops’ Conference and the words we came away with, “This is going to take time - we must listen to each other.” So, prior to Synod, it was surprising to receive in the post a Motion from the House of Bishops entitled, “Human Sexuality in the context of Christian belief,” which seemed to deal solely with marriage. Was this putting the cart before the horse, I wondered?

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Birr Branch girls and leaders enjoyed a trip to the Fire Station on 17th April. This was part of their Citizenship badge work.

Cloughjordan Branch held their Enrolment Service on Sunday, 22nd April in St Kieran’s Church at 11.30 Morning Service. Thanks to Canon Stephen Neill and the girls for a wonderful service of fellowship. We welcomed Sandra Hayes as a new Leader in the Branch and Michelle Armitage as a Junior Helper.

Diocesan Leader Training was held on Wednesday, 9th in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea. Pamela Wallace demonstrated how leaders should prepare girls for the Floral Art Badge. Everyone had a very enjoyable and informative evening. Many thanks to Pamela for her inspiring ideas and information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Camp 2012 (15th – 17th June) will be held at The Faith Mission, Carhue, Bandon, Co. Cork. There is a great weekend of activities organised – games, crafts shopping, visit to the West Cork Railway Village in Clonakilty, visit to the West Cork Secret Centre for more games and stone baked pizzas in the outdoors and lots more.

Please contact your Branch leaders for an information leaflet and Booking Form. The cost is €60 for one girl and €55 each for two or more from one family. Cost includes transport, food, activities and accommodation for the weekend. Camp is for girls aged 9 years and over.

All Ireland Training in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute 22nd – 24th June. This is for current and new officers in the Dioceses plus anyone else who might benefit from training. The cost to the individual is €50.00 per person. Anyone interested should contact Rose Langley before the 7th of June 2012.

Rose Langley
Diocesan President

Nenagh Company

As expected the Nenagh boys were on very best behaviour for our trip to the Courthouse! Tony the Caretaker treated us to a fascinating and informative tour from the court rooms to the cells. The boys got to pretend to be judges, barristers, solicitors and court clerk – and the head juror delivered a “guilty” result to our poor prisoner! 13 boys attended and every one of them had a great time, so we really appreciate Tony’s time.

The next time we meet will be a rehearsal on 6th June for the enrolment service on 10th June.

WANTED TREASURER FOR NEWSLINK

Do you feel a call to serve the Diocese as part of the Newslink team? Want to know what is involved?

Contact Joc Sanders Mobile: 087 699 6775,
Email: joc_sanders@iol.ie

Thanks to all who supported the "Colours of the World" Concert at St Mary’s Cathedral
We raised €1700 for Christian Aid and Trocaire
+Trevor
DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend took place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend at Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry with participants from throughout the United Diocese. Archdeacon Wayne Carney led inspiring worship throughout the weekend, which provided insight into the Eucharist Celebration through the medium of PowerPoint. Many of the participants remarked on the many excellent worship songs too. On Sunday the group joined the Tralee parishes’ Confirmation where over 20 young people were confirmed.

It wasn’t all work and no play: the group enjoyed many activities throughout the weekend including Icebreaker Games... Water sport Activities at Waterworld in Castlegregory ...Bowling... Freefall Climbing Wall and High Ropes at Play at Heights in Dingle – a highlight of the weekend for many.... Aquadome in Tralee... Disco... Charades... and lot’s more besides.

A big thank you to Archdeacon Wayne Carney for our workshop and worship times, Rev Lesley Robinson for the splendid food, and to our leaders Mark Moore, Alec Perrott, Damian Shorten, Edward Hardy Ivor Sweetnam, Rachel Clayton and Wendy Walker for their valued help throughout the weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS....
Summer Madness – Friday 29th June – Tuesday 3rd July 2012

What? Summer Madness is 25 years old this year … the first Summer Madness camp began in July 1987 with 250 participants……the event now attracts over 4000 people each year…. with participants from throughout Ireland and beyond……….5 days for fun, friendship and freedom ... and faith building encounters.


Who? Over 14 years. The festival is primarily designed for a teen to twenty something who wants to wrestle a little with their faith and develop a lifestyle that reflects God’s all-embracing love. Last date for receipt of bookings is Wednesday 20th June 2012.

What’s on? Visit www.summermadness.co.uk for full information.

How Much? The cost will be €150 up to Friday 22nd June 2012. This includes return transport, food during event & entrance ticket to Summer Madness.

Junior Summer Camp – Sunday 15th July – Saturday 21st July 2012

& Senior Summer Camp - Sunday 19th August – Saturday 25th August 2012

What? Both summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, and enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don’t delay!!!!!
**School News**

**Kiltallagh N.S.**

**Ancient Music Ireland**

On May 31st the pupils of Kiltallagh will experience a wonderful presentation of the Prehistoric, Celtic and Early Medieval of Ancient Music Ireland. This musical presentation will begin by bringing the children on a journey through the ages, starting with the earliest habitation of Ireland and progressing through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and ending in the Early Medieval times. Each period is highlighted through the progression of musical instruments and stories from legend.

We eagerly await this production and will report back in our next newsletter.

Further details on www.ancientmusicireland.com

**Inter Schools Rugby Blitz**

On Friday April 27th 2012 the boys from 4th and 5th class travelled to Tralee Rugby Grounds to partake in a Tag Rugby Fun Blitz Day and what a fun day it was! We were joined on our team by Conall and Eoin from Scoil Dun Chaoin. The boys played six games in total and scored many tries. This will definitely go down as one of “Our Memorable Moments in Kiltallagh” for all the robust rugby players in Kiltallagh. Well done to you all. You were a credit to yourselves, your families, your school and your rugby coach.

**Easter Raffle**

We had a super response to our first Easter Raffle with a fantastic array of prizes.

1st Prize: Andrew Boyle - Leg of Lamb courtesy of Ashes’ Butchers, Fossa ,
2nd prize: Aiden Hill (in Junior Infants) - the Louis Mulcahy Pottery,
3rd prize: Eamonn McElhinney - picnic set

There were many other prizes given out on the day also. A special mention to Champs Supermarket in Killorglin for their generous donation of 9 scrumptious Easter Eggs for our raffle prizes.

Sincere appreciation to all the families who purchased tickets and contributed to the funds raised. This money will go towards reducing the cost of our upcoming school tour (Fota Island and Wild Life Park) on Thursday May 24th 2012, along with our money raised through our Lenrec Recycling.

**End of Year Service**

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Trevor Williams to celebrate our annual End of Year Service which will take place on Thursday June 14th 2012 in Kiltallagh School. We will recall a wonderful school year, look forward to happy sunny summer holidays and ask God’s blessing and guidance on us all in our next school year. On that day we will also raise our second Green Flag for Energy. We will welcome our new junior infants of Sept. 2012 and their families to our service which will be followed by some refreshments.

**Stop and Stare**

The Senior Room presented a drama show under the guidance of the Stop and Stare Theatre Group, covering topics such as cultural and social diversity and respect for the same. Parents were invited to this performance on Wed May 16th.

**ST. NICHOLAS’ N.S. ADARE**

Chess Club has now come to an end for this school year. Well done to all the pupils who attend Chess Club. They are a very enthusiastic lot and can be heard challenging one another before club starts every Thursday afternoon. The senior team has qualified for the Primary Schools’ Chess Final on May 22nd and we wish them the best of luck in that tournament. Thank you to John Alfred who has organized some coaching on Monday evenings for all those interested.

Pupils in 3rd to 6th classes had their recorder exams on May 18th and Isobel, Emma, Katy and Jonathan represented the school very well at a recent Credit Union Schools’ Quiz.

The junior pupils have been busy planting seeds in the hopes of some warm, sunny weather. Let’s hope warmer weather arrives soon as the school garden is slow to take off this year.

We were very lucky with the weather on the day chosen for our annual Spring Clean. You can guess what the various groups got up to by their names which included “The Whacky Weeders”, “The Tree Huggers”, “The Brushing Brigade” and “The Rakers” The school and church grounds look lovely after all that hard work. Thank you to everyone, both young and old, for their great efforts.
Congratulations to David Canning in 1st class who was awarded 2nd prize in handwriting and 4th prize in Art at the Limerick Community Games.

Very well done to Lauren Ryan who has been selected to play camogie on the Limerick team in Cumann na mBunscoil- Primary Games. This is a wonderful achievement.

Pupils in 3rd to 6th classes enjoyed an action-packed inter-schools sports day in Villiers on Wednesday 16th May. Sports included soccer, basketball, orienteering and tag rugby. The teams had some very exciting games which were organised by Transition Year students.

ST MICHAEL’S N.S. LIMERICK NEWS

We are delighted to report that our appeal to the Department of Education and Skills for retention of the Language Support post has been successful and we look forward to another school year with a full complement of teachers.

Our Write-a-book 2012 was launched recently and involved a collaboration between Sixth and First Class pupils. The younger child composed and illustrated the story and their Sixth Class ‘buddy’ wrote and edited the story. The finished books were proudly displayed and read, to the enjoyment of all.

We’ve had another very successful Skipathon in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation and over €2000 was raised. The challenge was to skip from 9.00 a.m. right through to going home at 2.20 p.m. Despite heavy showers at times, the ropes kept turning!

We were delighted to participate in the CMS Ireland Project ‘A Beautiful Gate’. This year the project was based on Nepal. We had a wonderful assembly when Andrew McCormick (CMS Ireland) visited the school to talk about the work of CMS Ireland in Nepal. He assured that our donation of €320 would be well-received in Nepal. Congratulations to Grace McClure in 4th Class who came 3rd in their All-Ireland poetry competition.

The first Villiers Inter-School Sports Day on May 16 was a great success and blessed with dry weather. The pupils participated in soccer, tag rugby, basketball and orienteering, all organised efficiently by Neville Atkinson and the Transition Year students. We would like to say a big thank you to all at Villiers for their hospitality and welcome to us.

Also on May 16th, two teams of 5th and 6th Class boys competed in a FAI Urban Blitz Soccer Tournament in Seanchoill, Corbally. In a closely-contested final, 6th Class were narrowly beaten 1-0 by Caherdavin. Many thanks to Barbara Bermingham of the FAI, for her coaching and her input into soccer during the year, from all at St Michael’s NS.

ST. CRONAN’S N.S. ROSCREA

Dean Maxwell

Four ladies from the Dean Maxwell Nursing Home joined us at our School Assembly on April 20th. They enjoyed sharing memories of their childhood with us and answering the children’s questions. After a short sing-song we presented them with our Lenten Project cheque.

Green Flag

News of our 5th Green Flag Award success reached us at the end of April. We now look forward to hoisting flag No. 5 on June 14th at the Sports Evening.

Éanna Ní Lambhna

Éanna Ní Lambhna spent a day with us on May 1st.
She worked in all three classrooms and managed to explore the diversity of plant and animal life in our school grounds despite the unseasonable weather conditions.

*An Taisce’s Dale Treadwell*

Dale Treadwell joined us recently bringing pond life samples, pooters full of mini beasts and some unusual wood for the children to examine.

*Bóthar*

1st - 3rd class pupils visited the Bóthar Open Day in Roscrea Mart.

*St. Cronan’s Church*

St. Cronan’s Church 200th Anniversary - 3rd - 6th class pupils have been involved in a quilt-making project as part of the Crafts in School Scheme. Each pupil had chosen a motif from St. Cronan’s Church and created their own quilt section. Once assembled it made a very impressive creation and it lead the procession at the Bicentenary Service on 29th April.

*Fire Safety*

Two fire officers delivered a fire safety course to 3rd class. On completing a fire safety survey in their homes they were awarded a certificate and congratulations to Hollie who won a smoke alarm for her entry in their writing competition.

*Villiers Inter-School Sports Day*

4th, 5th & 6th classes travelled to Villiers School to compete in an inter- schools sports day, we all had a very good day and thanks to all of the staff and Transition Year students who visited our schools to invite us to participate and for organising this enjoyable and fun event. We were brought down by bus, took part in tag-rugby, soccer, basketball and orienteering, we got lovely lunch and even sweets for our journey home!

*Road Safety Course*

The whole school attended a Road Safety Course in Damer Court Hotel delivered by RSA and sponsored by Tesco. A model village had been constructed and pupils had to safely navigate through its streets before receiving their own Safety Driving Licence.

*6th Class*

As the Summer holidays approach we’d like to wish our 6th class pupils all the very best in their future adventure in education.

**OXMANTOWN N.S. BIRR**

*Twitters Play at Oxmantown*

The folk group ‘The Twitters’ gave a free and very entertaining concert for our pupils, we heard old favourites like ‘The Galway Girl’ and ‘The Unicorn’ and ‘Nellie the Elephant’ a trip down memory lane for the teachers! We are very grateful to Paul Malone, one of our Parents and talented group member, for organising our concert.

*Inter-schools Sports day at Villiers*

On May 16th all the fourth, fifth and sixth class travelled to Villiers School to compete in an inter- schools sports day, we all had a very good day and thanks to all of the staff and Transition Year students who visited our schools to invite us to participate and for organising this enjoyable and fun event. We were brought down by bus, took part in tag-rugby, soccer, basketball and orienteering, we got lovely lunch and even sweets for our journey home!

*Gardening Club*

Nine pupils have joined Stuart Smith and Mrs. Colton in the gardening club after school on Wednesdays, we have already sown annuals, vegetables and have planted up our window boxes.

*Origami Lessons*

A past pupil George Dempsey taught the senior pupils how to do Origami. The children made paper frogs, stars, swans with flapping wings and lotus flowers, on the final day we made large models which George intends to display during Birr Vintage week.

*Miss Foster leaves*

Farewell and thank you to Miss Foster from Tullamore who has been teaching first and second class since last October, Jennifer successfully completed her Diploma while at Oxmantown and we wish her well in the future. We welcome Mrs. Hodgins back after maternity leave.

*Senior pupils present Archdeacon Carney with cheque for Swaziland*
CLOUGHJORDAN NO.1 N.S.

Each month seems to get busier as we get closer to the end of another school year!

The highlights of recent activities in Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. include:

Hurling training and matches for some of our older pupils, together with pupils from St. Michael’s N.S., Cloughjordan. Thank you once again to Mr. Dooley, Principal of St. Michael’s N.S. for the kind invitation to our pupils to participate.

Participation in National Spring Clean Week run by An Taisce, both inside the school grounds and in Cloughjordan village itself. Well done to all involved.

Visit by Mr. Ian Coombes, Headmaster of Kilkenny College to speak to our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils about Kilkenny College.

Visit by Mr. Jackie McNair, Chaplain, and Transition Year Students at Villiers School Limerick to speak to our middle and senior classes about the inter school sports day at Villiers.

Visit of fire services’ personnel from Cloughjordan Fire Station as part of the Community Fire Safety- Primary Schools Project

Visit of Mr. Dale Treadwell to all classes as part of the Naturally Wild Primary Schools Programme funded by North Tipperary County Council

Visit to Villiers School Limerick, by kind invitation, by our older pupils to participate in an Inter-schools Sports Day. Many, many thanks to Villiers School, not only for inviting us to participate in this event, but also for providing bus transport to and from Cloughjordan for us and for providing lunch to all our pupils on the day. This was a very generous gesture by Villiers, for which we are extremely grateful. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went.

Junior School Tour to Turoe Pet Farm and Leisure Park, Loughrea. This was a wonderful day out, enjoyed by all of our younger classes.

Congratulations to Emily Greene whose entry was chosen as our school’s winning entry and short listed for voting in Moneygall, in the Obama re-election poster campaign. Thank you very much to Moneygall Development Association for the kind invitation to our older classes to visit Moneygall on May 23rd, the anniversary of President Obama’s visit.

We extend our deepest sympathy to David Austin and to his family, on the recent death of his great grandmother. We continue to remember David and his family in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time, so soon after the death of David’s other great grandmother.

Our PTA is very busy planning a Family Fun Day and Silent Auction on Sunday 10th June at St. Kieran’s Hall, Cloughjordan to which you are all very welcome. The day will include pony rides, refreshments, burger stand, penalty shoot out, obstacle course, basketball, face and nail painting, refreshments, wheel of fortune, book/CD/Toy stall and lots more. With something for all the family you are warmly invited to come along and bring your friends. Proceeds in aid of the school with a donation to the new Heritage and Cultural Centre incorporating a new library and exhibition area in Cloughjordan.

RATHKEALE NO. 2 N.S.

May got off to a flying start with the Great Limerick Run on the Sunday of the May Bank Holiday weekend. Liam Hurrell and Niall West took part in the half marathon to raise funds for the school. Thanks to plenty of hard work by those who took sponsorship cards we raised about €1200 for the school. This helped ease the pain of the tired legs.

We are collecting Tesco for Schools and Clubs vouchers so if you happen to shop in Tesco and are looking for somewhere to send your vouchers they would be very welcome in Rathkeale.

During Lent our Rector, Rev Dr Keith Scott, told us about the farm project in Swaziland which is being supported by the diocese. The children had a collection in school and together they raised about €70 for the project.

We were delighted to take part in the first Villiers School Inter Primary Schools Sports Day on Wednesday May 16th. The weather was kind to us and we all had a fantastic day in Villiers. We had the opportunity to take part in four different events, basketball, soccer, tag rugby and orienteering. Our school had two teams consisting of the pupils from 3rd to 6th class. It was a great opportunity to meet with children from other parts of the United Diocese. Congratulations to St Michael’s National School for taking home the cup!

Three teams representing the school took part in the local Credit Union table quiz on Thursday 17th May in the Rathkeale House Hotel. Well done to one and all for their best efforts at the quiz. Congratulations to Maeve, Damian, David and Robert for winning the funniest slogan competition. Each team was asked to complete the following, “Never teach your granny to...” The winning slogan was, “Never teach your granny to hotwire a car!” They were all delighted to come home €10 better off.

On Friday 18th May we all spent the afternoon doing our bit for the environment by having our annual spring clean. The junior pupils tidied up around the school grounds and the immediate surroundings of the school while the senior pupils took to Church Street and picked up litter.

Our school tour to The Glen Resource Centre in Cork will take place on Friday 8th June and the following Friday, 15th June, we will have our annual sports day.
when we will join up with the pupils of Coolcappa and Ballysteen National Schools.

THE GLEBE N.S. AUGHRIM

PRESENTATION TO FORMER PRINCIPAL

This past few weeks have been exciting times for our Primary School. At the end of April the long awaited presentation to our former Principal Ms Marian Kelly took place in Gullane’s Hotel. Marian along with her husband Pat and extended family connections were given a warm welcome by a large gathering of former and present pupils and parents, Board members, teaching staff and many past friends and colleagues.

Tributes were made to Marian for her long service of thirty-two years giving so many young people a tremendous start in their educational journey. The speakers included Robert Cooke, Anne Sinclair, Tina Walshe, Bernie Glennon, Lisa McKeigue (present Principal).

A number of presentations were made to Marian, including paintings and a plaque from our present pupils, and a bouquet of flowers. Rev George thanked Marian on behalf of all concerned and presented her with a cheque and our best wishes for a fruitful and enjoyable retirement. Marian in her reply expressed her gratitude for the evening’s presentation and acknowledged the support that she had received over the years from parents and parishioners of Aughrim and the surrounding areas.

Villiers School

Villiers Inter – Primary Schools Sports Day Wednesday 16th May

Villiers School hosted their first Diocesan Primary Schools Sports Day on Wednesday 16th May. Cloughjordan, Birr, Roscrea, Nenagh, Adare, Rathkeale and St. Michael’s were all represented, in what was a most enjoyable day for all concerned.

All schools participated in tag rugby, soccer, basketball and orienteering – under the guidance of staff and Villiers Transition Year students. The day provided all senior students in our primary schools the opportunity to familiarise themselves with Villiers and test their skills against their rivals.

The day was further enhanced by the extremely good weather. Many thanks to all parents, staff and Villiers Transition Year students who made the day possible.

Villiers welcomes Trevor Sargeant and receives its second Green Flag

Villiers School has just received its second green flag from An Taisce for energy. This is a follow-on to our Litter and Waste flag received in 2010.

A lot of time and effort has been put into increasing energy awareness on campus. A comprehensive plan has been put in place to upgrade our lighting, heating and insulation. We now have lighting sensors in the majority of school buildings, have installed energy saving lighting both inside and outside and continue to replace and upgrade our insulation.

Many thanks to management, staff, the Parent Teacher’s Association and pupils for their continued support for our green schools programme.

Our students and Mike Kearsley collected our new flag at the An Taisce Award Ceremony in the Silver Springs Hotel in Cork. We further marked the occasion by inviting former Green Party leader Trevor Sargeant to present us with our new flag. We were delighted he agreed to come and he enlightened us with his love for growing our own food and highlighted its global significance as world population nears 8 billion.

EMBURY CLOSE

Applications are invited for the post of Superintendent

(Full time/Resident)

Embury Close provides apartments for older people, which encourages independent living in a sheltered environment. He/she will be a caring, flexible, motivated and responsible person, able to work on their own initiative and as part of a team.

Further details / application form Contact:

Rev E. Hewitt.

The Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare. Co. Limerick.

Email: emburyclose@gmail.com Closing date for applications: 14th July 2012.
Prayer is the living breath of our parishes, and we have a wonderful heritage of spiritual jewels to draw on.

The feast-day of St Richard of Chichester falls on the 16th June, so it is fitting to pray his much loved prayer this month, which I remember learning from my father as a child:

Thanks be to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ
for all the benefits Thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults
Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend, and Brother,
may I know Thee more clearly,
love Thee more dearly,
and follow Thee more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

St Richard was Bishop of Chichester, England 1244 – 1253. He was canonised in 1262.
THE KENMARE MEN’S SHED

Following a very successful pilot project in the ten weeks leading up to Christmas, the Kenmare Men’s Shed is now truly up and running (perhaps ‘launched’ would be better!).

A ‘Men’s Shed’ is primarily a place where men – of all ages and from many different backgrounds – can meet and work together on projects of their own choosing, at their own pace, in an environment where they can share ideas, teach others their own skills and learn from others in turn. The idea originated in Australia, where it has been very successful indeed, and has been copied in many countries around the world – and in this country, the newly-formed Irish Men’s Shed Association has attracted central funding for what is regarded as major contribution to social inclusion. In Kenmare, we have had fantastic support from the South Kerry Development Partnership and the Kenmare Adult Education Centre, where we currently meet from 1000-1300 every Tuesday.

The pilot project saw about a dozen men learning some basic woodworking skills and putting them into practice in a number of projects – Children’s toys being a favourite, although boomerangs, birdhouses and Christmas decorations also figured – one man even made a full-size replica of Dr. Who’s Tardis as a shelter for his daughter as she waits for the School bus!

We have now moved into bigger premises, the Currach is half way there, we have a couple of estuary boats in for repair using traditional methods, wood turning has become a major activity, and we’re extending in to vintage car restoration.

We were asked whether this is a way of the C of I just trying to get more ‘Bums on seats’. That couldn’t be further from the truth – the reality is quite the opposite. We’re trying to get Bums off seats. New skills. Making a contribution. Self-esteem. Social inclusion. It’s a church – just a different kind of church – one that begins with − for without that, is not only arrogant and potentially intrusive – it is impossible.

For more details – and encouragement to start up a Shed in your town or community – either mail michael.cavanagh@eircom.net or call Michael 0871 606 312 or visit the Irish Men’s Shed Association at www.menssheds.ie/about-us

Frame for a new Curragh

Newtown School
Waterford

Educatig for life in the Quaker Tradition since 1798

Newtown School is a multi-denominational co-educational boarding and day secondary school.

Situated on a 17 acre campus with open green space, students enjoy the benefits of a small school community atmosphere combined with a wide range of facilities.

At Newtown School students learn independence, respect and tolerance, core values of the Quaker ethos. Students are encouraged and enabled to perform to the best of their abilities as is evidenced by their excellent academic results and their high achievements in music, sports and other extracurricular activities.

The advantages of a broad curriculum, committed staff, small classes and extensive recreational facilities combine to enhance the school’s educational environment.

SEC Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries are available subject to eligibility.

Further information can be found on our website or by contacting the School Office.
Newtown School, Newtown Road, Waterford, Ireland.
Tel: +353 51 860 200
Email: info@newtownschool.ie
Web: www.newtownschool.ie

Men at Work!
Memorable Bicentenary Service in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea

A congregation of around 350 people attended the Service of Thanksgiving on April 29th to celebrate St. Cronan’s Bicentenary - a service which has been widely lauded as joyful and uplifting. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Michael Jackson, gave the address and Bishop Trevor Williams celebrated the Eucharist amid a host of visiting Clergy and Lay Readers including Bishop Willie Walsh, Dom Richard Purcell, Cistercian Monastery, Roscrea, Fr. Tom Corbett PP Roscrea, Rev. Brian Griffin Methodist Minister, Roscrea, and Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

The church was resplendent with stunning flower arrangements by Liam Maloney. All the parish organisations took part in the rousing opening procession, proudly carrying their colourful banners: Mothers’ Union; GFS; Boys Brigade; St. Cronan’s NS; St. Cronan’s Youth Club; Sunday School and Healer Prayer Union. After the opening hymn various symbols representing church life over the past two hundred years were brought to the front of the church: the original church key symbolising the opening of the church 200 years ago, and the continuing ministry of openness and welcome; a cross symbolising our Christian identity and the salvation which Christ has won for us; a Bible, symbolising the centrality of the Word of God in our lives and in our worship; a hymn book and prayer book, symbolising the worship which has been offered in the current building for 200 years and continuously on the ancient site for fourteen hundred years; water from St. Cronan’s well, symbolising our monastic beginnings and the enduring Christian values of service and hospitality; a portrait of Mark the Evangelist from the 7th century Book of Dimma, written on the site, symbolising our ecumenical fellowship and common Christian heritage; parish registers, symbolising the generations of people who have been baptised, married and buried in St. Cronan’s: a poppy wreath in remembrance of those who died in war; and our commemorative calendar, symbolising our bicentenary celebrations this year, and our faith in the Eternal God, the Alpha and Omega, as we look towards the future.

The communion elements were brought forward during the offertory by our oldest and youngest parishioners: Alice Harvey (who celebrated her 93rd birthday two days later) and Josh Pearson. There were beautiful musical contributions from Roscrea Community Choir, Virtuoso Chamber Choir and Nicole Robinson.

Many former parishioners or relatives of former parishioners/clergy were present as well as many friends from the wider community. Among those who sent their best wishes in their unavoidable absences were three former Bishops: Bishop Empey, Bishop Darling and Bishop Mayes, along with the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

A veritable banquet was on offer in the Damer Court Hotel after the ceremony where delighted parishioners and friends were able to mingle and chat in addition to perusing some old photographs, record books and registers pertaining to the parish, and where the magnificent commemorative cake was cut by Rev. Lesley and Bishop Trevor.

The service was recorded on DVD and is available to order from Rev. Lesley, priced at €10. Commemorative candles with a picture of the church on them are also available for purchase priced at €5 each.

‘To God be the Glory’
On Saturday afternoon May 19th, in St. Kieran’s Hall in Cloughjordan the Mothers’ Union held its “Your Gift - Discover and Celebrate” Showcase, as part of the 125 year Celebrations.

The Showcase opened with prayers led by Rev. Canon Stephen Neill and a brief address by Bishop Trevor Williams, and a very warm welcome extended to Bishop Trevor and Mrs Williams and all present by the Diocesan President, Mrs Ina Blackwell.

As part of this Showcase, the branches displayed many of their projects showing community and charity work that the members have been doing over the past years. Also demonstrating one of her talents was Jackie Eastwood from Ballinasloe branch who painted a beautiful vase of flowers during the afternoon, and Penny Kearney, also from Ballinasloe branch, who demonstrated the art of card making.

The first guest speaker was Mrs Patsy Devoy, Faith & Policy Unit Coordinator at Mary Sumner House, who gave a very interesting talk on the gifts we all have. We may not be artists, IT experts, doctors, etc., but each of us is unique and we all have gifts. Sometimes we are reluctant to come forward and share them with others – we seem to think that others have better gifts, but that may not be the case. As parents, we have exceptional talents and these are used every day. Patsy showed us delightful photos of her grandchildren. Even though they are very small, each one has a very individual character. Yet, their grandmothers can see an uncanny resemblance in them to their parents at the same ages. “We are fearfully and wonderfully made”.

Patsy also spoke about the Buy Buy Childhood campaign, giving an up to date on this very worthwhile project.

The second guest speaker was Janette Austen, a Nutritional Therapist, who gave a very interesting talk on Healthy Eating giving us all “food” for thought! Stressing the importance of having a balanced healthy diet and being aware of what we buy and where we buy it, she told the meeting that this is instrumental in our well-being and that we control this by what we eat. She encouraged us to grow our own vegetables or, at least, buy locally organically grown produce where possible. She gave us examples of what a healthy balanced daily diet should consist of and for those of us who didn’t know – for every cup of tea or coffee we drink we should also drink a glass of water in addition to the recommended 8 glasses of water per day. There were some very thought provoking suggestions in her talk which was very well received.

The third guest speaker was Helena from Millie’s Hair Salon in Cloughjordan. Helena gave wonderful advice on home care and treatment for hair and also many helpful suggestions on hair styling for those of us that can’t get to the Salon as often as we would like. Answering questions from the floor, this proved to be a very interesting topic.

The Diocesan President thanked all the guest speakers for coming and making the day so interesting and enjoyable. As part of the afternoon, the visitors were encouraged to view the Branch projects and to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea which was provided by the members of the Cloughjordan branch. The President also thanked Angel Donovan and Sandra Hayes for the beautiful floral displays in the hall. Much appreciation was extended to Mrs Margaret Schutz, All-Ireland Action and Outreach Unit Co-ordinator and her team for all the work they had done to make the afternoon so successful.

The afternoon ended with all standing in silence in memory of Olive Spencer, our former Diocesan President, led by Canon Neill.
Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union
Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.
The Very Revd. Dr. Stephen R. White
The Deanery, Killaloe, Co. Clare
Tel: 061 - 376687
Email: dean@killaloe.anglican.org
The Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062 - 79941

JUNE SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS.
9th June: St Columba: 10.30am Holy Communion: Killaloe.
11th June: St Barnabas: 10.30am Holy Communion: Killaloe.
16th June: Choral Festival. Time TBA: Killaloe.
24th June: The Ordination to the Priesthood of the Revd Lucy Green: 3.00pm Killaloe.
29th June: St Peter & St Paul. 10.30am Holy Communion: Killaloe.

EVENTS

Lucy Green has been with us for three years now, both as a final year ordinand and as a Deacon, and I am delighted to say that the time has arrived for her ordination to the Priesthood. This will take place on Sunday 24th June at 3pm, and this will be the only service in the group that day. The preacher will be the Revd Vicki Lynch. Lucy’s ministry has already been greatly enriching to the parish, and I would ask every parishioner to make every effort to come along to the cathedral and support Lucy on this very special day. Parishioners from all other parts of the diocese would, of course, be most welcome also. Following this day we look forward to Lucy’s priestly ministry among us.

Our service of Confirmation (again shared with Nenagh Parish) took place on Sunday 13th May. We had the nicest of problems in that 200 service leaflets proved insufficient! The occasion was richly enhanced by the presence of two choirs – “Voices Together” (an ecumenical group from Northern Ireland), and the choir of St Mary’s Nenagh. My especial thanks go to the churchwardens, Samuel White and Diana Whitehead who managed some very complicated logistics supremely well. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the nine candidates as they begin their adult pilgrimage of faith.

On Saturday 16th June there will be a Choral Festival in St Flannan’s Cathedral featuring a number of different choirs. The event is being co-ordinated by Sadie Scanlon, but I do not as yet have final details of time or musical content. Listen out during Sunday announcements for fuller details!

The June Coffee Morning will take place in the Castle Oaks Hotel on Wednesday 6th June at 11.00am, following a service of Holy Communion in All Saints’
Church at 10.30am. All are welcome, and if you haven’t been before then why not come and try it!

Lucy has asked me to update everyone once again on her progress. As of the time of writing (14th May), she has lost 4 stone 7 pounds and intends to continue getting smaller for the foreseeable future! Any further sponsorship (for parish funds to be divided equally between Killaloe, Stradbally, Mountshannon & Clonlara) would still be welcome, and if you wish to sponsor her then please simply contact Lucy.

The time of year has now arrived when students face the rigours of Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations. As always there are quite a few members of the parish in these particular boats, and we wish them every success during the days to come.

THANKS

The afternoon of Sunday 29th April was a busy one for the cathedral. We had agreed to take part in “Discover Killaloe/Ballina Day”, and full use was made of our facilities. The West End hosted a craft and trade fair, and in the East End there were two concerts and a lecture – to say nothing of the several tower tours! A by-product of the whole thing was the receipt of €235 in donations. Especially thanks to Bryan Brislane, Lucy Green, Mary Carrick and Samuel White for a trojan (and marathon) performance during the afternoon.

PERSONAL

We continue to keep in our prayers all those members of the parishes who are in any way sick or frail, and so we pray especially for Denise Sparling, Betty Hogg, Frances Mooney and Jean Newenham.

The Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-912-0021 Mobile: 087-786-5234
e-mail: mapleire@eircom.net
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-913-5341 Mobile: 087-948-4402
e-mail: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

SUMMER FETE AND FUN DAY 27TH MAY

By the time this is published our Parish Fete and Fun Day will be history. Many thanks to the hard-working committee, and all those who pitched in to help. More about it next time!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!

Congratulations to Caroline Whyte and Kevin Morgan who were married in St Brendan’s Church, Birr on 28th April. The Bride and Groom were happy and relaxed and many thanks to Birr Choral Society for leading the singing. Enda O’Connor played the organ and Jessica Davis provided incidental music on the violin. How many brides can claim that their father wrote music for their wedding? Caroline’s father, Peter, composed the music for one of the hymns, which the Choral Society sang with great enthusiasm, and the closing voluntary.

Members of both families did readings and led the prayers. Their marriage ceremony was performed by the Revd Ruth Gill with Fr Pat Gilbert taking an active part, including a thoughtful sermon on Christian marriage. The happy couple are offered every blessing in their life together in England.

Many congratulations to Violet and Patrick Mulholland on the safe arrival of a baby brother for Patrick Jnr. Great news for John and Frances Barnwell, proud grandparents!

Congratulations as well to Joseph Kennedy of Birr Parish, and Eric Fletcher, Sean Kilminmin, Emma Phair, and Katie Phair of Banagher, who were confirmed in Banagher on the 22nd of April.

ROSCREA

Best wishes to our neighbouring parish of St Cronan’s, Roscrea on the 200th anniversary of their present building. The recent bicentennial service was a great occasion, and reminds us that we will have to start thinking of what we can do for Birr’s 200th in 2016!

PASTORAL

We remember those who are housebound through illness or infirmity. A service of Holy Communion is held in the Community Nursing Unit in Birr on the last Friday of the month at 11:15 am and anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS

The results of the elections and appointments at our annual Easter Vestry Meetings:

Birr:
Rector’s Churchwarden: Kay Eades
People’s Churchwarden: Frank Jackson
Rector’s Glebewarden: Derek Coulter
People’s Glebewarden: George Vaugh
Hon. Secretary: Salthers Sterling
Hon. Treasurer: Frank Jackson

Lorrha:
Rector’s Churchwarden: Leslie Harding
People’s Churchwarden: Henry Harding
Hon. Secretary: Suzanne Corcoran
Hon. Treasurer: Diane Dagg

Dorrha:
Rector’s Churchwarden: Henry Gill
People’s Churchwarden: Richard Delahunt  
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer: Ann Gill  
Lockeen:  
Rector’s Churchwarden: Arthur Jackson  
People’s Churchwarden: William Reid  
Hon. Secretary: Peter Whyte  
Hon. Treasurer: Barbara Jackson  

Roscrea Group of Parishes  
Roscrea, Bourneym, Corbally and Kyle  
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Lesley Robinson  
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.  
Tel: 0505 - 21725 Mobile: 087 – 9091561  

NEW ARRIVAL  
Congratulations to Andrew and Kate Connor, Roscrea, on the safe arrival of baby Rebecca, a little sister for Harry.

HOLY BAPTISM  
On 14th April Amy Pamela Colclough, daughter of Tara Colclough was baptised into the family of God in Christ Church, Corbally, and on 22nd April Luke and Isla Jennings, twins of Mandy & Leighton Jennings and grandchildren of Robert and Doreen Roe, were baptised, also in Corbally. On 13th May Josh Pearson, son of Gillian Pearson, was baptised in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea. We wish all these little ones and their families lives full of blessings.

BICENTENARY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
Sunday 29th April - a day which will live long in the memory of us all! See centre-page article.

ST. CRONAN’S WALK  
This year’s annual St. Cronan’s Walk took place on Sunday 6th May, starting from the Nun’s Cemetery at 3pm and ending at St. Cronan’s, Church St. via the Dean Maxwell Home and Roscrea Castle Garden. The organising committee presented a mountain ash tree to St. Cronan’s Parish to commemorate the church’s bicentenary, which was planted in the churchyard by Rev. Lesley with help from her ecumenical colleagues Fr. Tom Corbett, Rev. Brian Griffin and Dom. Laurence Walsh. The Eucharistic Congress Bell accompanied the walkers throughout and was brought into St. Cronan’s for the short ceremony at the end of the walk. Nationwide filmed the event for broadcast on RTE Television on 8th June.

MU MUMS IN MAY TEA PARTY  
The Mothers’ Union held its ‘Mums in May’ tea party in Corbally hall on 15th May when there were lots of tempting treats to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee while the children were busy making play doh creations and the obligatory jumping of the stream in the churchyard!

CONFIRMATION  
The rite of Confirmation will be administered by the Bishop in Roscrea church on Sunday 3rd June at 10.45am. Please pray for the following young people who have chosen to make this serious commitment: Chloe Brennan, Robert Brennan, Gordon Clare, Jason Drought, Rebecca Duke, Lesley Lewis, Emma Roe, James Roe and Rebecca Williams. It was great to have five of our candidates taking part recently in the United Diocesan Youth Council’s Confirmation Weekend in Muckross, Co. Kerry over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

BBQ AND FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON  
The annual BBQ and Family Fun Afternoon in aid of Roscrea Parish will be held in the Rugby Club, Roscrea on Sunday 10th June 2pm-6pm. All the usual stalls and attractions will be there in addition to a lovely barbequed lunch. Admission including food €5 per adult and €2 per child. Family rates available. The draw for the Splash of Cash raffle will take place around 5pm. Your support would be appreciated.

PET BLESSING SERVICE  
Sunday 24th June @ 12 noon at Bourney Church. All creatures great and small welcome!

AROUND THE PARISHES  
Our prayerful sympathy goes to Edith Rafter whose brother George Wilkinson passed away in the Villa Maria Nursing Home, Roscrea, recently; and to Robbie Connor whose sister Carrie Robinson passed away in Australia recently. 

Congratulations to Tom and Margaret Dann who became first-time grandparents recently to baby Francesca courtesy of Peter and Alison in England.

Nenagh Union of Parishes  
Nenagh, Templederry, and Killodiernan  
Rector: Revd. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke  
(Sabbatical Leave until 22 July 2012)  
St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.  
Tel: 067-32598 Mobile: 085-1474792  
e-mail: revdmarie@eircom.net  
(Diocesan Reader: Joc Sanders, Tel: 087 699 6775)

SUNDAY SERVICES  
9.30 a.m. Templederry (3rd, 17th, 24th June)  
11.00 a.m. St Mary’s Nenagh  
12.15 p.m. Killodiernan (10th, 24th June)  

SCHOOL LEAVERS’ SERVICE  
12.00 noon, Tuesday 26th June in St Mary’s Nenagh

CONFIRMATION  
Killaloe Cathedral was full on Sunday 13th May when Bishop Trevor confirmed this year’s candidates. To add to the occasion we were able to experience the lively and uplifting singing of ‘Voices Together’, an ecumenical choir from Northern Ireland, who from the moment of their dancing entrance set the scene for a memorable service.

Bishop Trevor with those newly confirmed at Killaloe Cathedral
Our candidates were Emma Gordon, Shannon Morrison, Jonathan Cope, Alex Hayes, and Scott Harvey. Please pray for them as they continue their Christian journey.

SERVICES

These continue, in the Rector's absence, as above. The Parish is making full use of the talents of Joc Sanders, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, and the Revd Janet White-Spunner at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Christopher Kelly who has been awarded a Bursary in Music, adjudicated on at Newport College recently. Christopher is a Leaving Certificate student at Borrisokane Community College and plays the piano, and often the pipe organ in St Mary's. He began learning music at the age of five and has matured into an excellent young musician. He has also gained a scholarship at the Limerick College of Further Education.

John and Elspeth Randall and David and Nell Hemphill who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversaries.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Parishioners who are unwell or recuperating, including Stuart Hamilton, Adam Hodgins, Joan and Reggie Hodgins, and Stewart Whitton.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
The Rev. Canon Stephen Neill
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
Tel/Fax: 0505 - 42183 Mobile: 087 - 2328172
email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website/blog: www.modreeny.com
My Blog: www.paddyanglican.com

SERVICES

3rd June – Trinity Sunday
9.00 a.m. Borrisnafarney HC
10.00 a.m. Ballingarry MP
11.30 a.m. Cloughjordan MP
3.30 p.m. Borrisokane Confirmation & First Communion

Saturday 9th June
8.00 p.m.: Cloughjordan HC

10th June – Trinity 1
9.00 a.m. Ballingarry HC
10.15 a.m. Borrisnafarney HC
10.15 a.m. Borrisokane MP

BEREAVEMENT

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Vicki Austin of Borrisokane parish. Vicki was one of the cornerstones of our Church community and contributed so much over a lifetime of service to her Church. At the organ, on the Vestry, in Mothers Union, Table Tennis, Whist, our Church hall and countless other activities Vicki was at the centre of everything. The large crowd at her funeral last Sunday reflected the affection and esteem in which she was held. After service in Borrisokane on Sunday 13th May, Vicki was buried in Congar Churchyard alongside her late and beloved husband Dick. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family especially her sons George, Joe & Ivan, daughters in law Doris, Lillian & Diana, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CONFIRMATION 2012

Confirmation is 3rd June in Borrisokane at 3.30pm. Please continue to pray for the candidates as they prepare to take this important step in their lives of faith. The candidates (all boys this year) are: Gary Culbert, Dean Harding, Oisín Harding, Luke Williamson, Carl Williams and Ethan Hayes.

We will also be joined by 2 candidates from Ballinasloe parish along with their rector the Rev. George Flynn

GFS ENROLMENT

Well done to the girls of Cloughjordan GFS and their...
leaders who held their annual enrolment service last month. It was lovely to see the Church so full and all those who participated in the event put a lot of hard work into the preparation. A special word of thanks must go to branch leader Grace Healy who year after year devotes so much time and energy to this important ministry in our Church.

EXAMS

Best wishes to all students taking part in State and School exams in the weeks ahead. The parish will keep you in their prayers.

CLOUGHJORDAN NO.1 N.S. - PTA FAMILY FUN DAY & SILENT AUCTION

Church Green, Cloughjordan, Sunday 10th June 2-5pm Cakes, Wheel of Fortune, Pony Rides, Refreshments, Burgers, Obstacle course, Penalty shoot-out, basketball shots, Face & Nail Painting, Goodies Stall, Toys/Books/CDs and lots lots more

Proceeds in aid of school & a donation to the Thomas MacDonagh Heritage & Cultural Centre in Cloughjordan inc. a new library and exhibition area.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinmitry and Dunkerrin

Rector: The Rev. Michael Johnston
Tel: 0505-47164 Mbl: 086-6086567
email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Gavin Talbot (Aghancon) who was Confirmed by Bishop Michael Burrows in St Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny last Sunday (13 May). Please remember in your prayers those others from the Group who are preparing for Confirmation: Gary Culbert (Shinrone) who is to be Confirmed by Bishop Trevor in Borrisokane church on Sunday 3 June; and Mark Dunne and Eanna Johnston (Shinrone) and Scott Shaw (Aghancon) who are to be Confirmed by Bishop Trevor on Sunday 17 June in St Mary’s church, Shinrone.

AGHANCON PARISH FETE

Aghancon parish will hold their Parish Fete on Friday 6 July from 6.00 pm at Aghancon Community Hall. All are very warmly invited. Admission is €3, which includes refreshments. Proceeds in aid of Aghancon church.

DUNKERRIN FETE AND DOG SHOW

Dunkerrin parish will hold a Parish Fete and Dog Show on Sunday 15th July from 2.30 pm in the church grounds. Admission is €4, which includes refreshments and raffle ticket (but owners of competing dogs only pay a charge for competing in classes). All dogs and owners are warmly invited. Proceeds in aid of Dunkerrin church.

COFFEE DAY

Many thanks to the Jackson family of Aghancon parish for holding a very successful Coffee Day at their home on Saturday 12th May. Over €1,000 was raised for Aghancon church. Many thanks to all who supported the day.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Emily Greene who won the Dean Bredin Boarding Scholarship at the Wilson’s Hospital School Scholarship Examinations. She will be presented with her certificate at the September prize giving day. She would certainly like to thank Mrs Eileen Armitage (former Principal at Cloughjordan No.1 School) who was a great help to her in preparing for the exams.

GOOD LUCK

Good luck to all students who are undertaking examinations this month. We hope and pray that everything goes well for you.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon

The Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna
The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mobile No. 086 2167040
email: bobhanna@eircom.net

The Rev. Vicki Lynch
Coor East, Mullagh, West Clare.
Tel: 065-7087600 Mobile: 086-8292073.
e-mail: vickilynch@eircom.net.

Mrs Sadie Blake stepped down at the recent Easter Vestry after 40 years as Treasurer of Kilnasoolagh Parish Church, Newmarket-on-Fergus. A proud Wexford woman by birth she moved with her husband Bobby to Dromoland where he became Manager of the famous Castle estate. Successive Rectors as well as generations of parishioners have appreciated Sadie’s devotion to the task of keeping the church finances in order, done always with her gentle manner and good humour….assisted always, she would say, with the help and support of daughter Ida Blake and granddaughter Sarah. We wish Sadie a strong recovery from the infection which prevented her from presenting her Accounts for the last time and look forward to seeing her in circulation when the parish can properly show its appreciation.

Stepping into the breach is Ms Evelyn Mayston, who is an experienced book keeper from Cork originally, now well settled into the parish, close to her sister Jackie Reid and brother-in-law Douglas.

Recent AGMs have revealed a certain fragility in our parish strength of late with both vestries failing to fill their quota. Our thanks to all who have held offices, not least to Mrs Maria Kerins, who has become the much-valued Treasurer of Drumcliffe Union. Edwin Bailey and Nigel and Adrian Bridge are stalwarts who also come to mind, plus Dot Bolster and Judith Ironside in Spanish Point. We welcome John O’Neill from Cratloe onto the Kilnasoolagh Vestry as Rector’s Churchwarden. Former Carlow man John is a member of St John’s N.S. Board in Shannon.

ST MARY’S CHOIR

Deadlines prevented us from mentioning last time the visit of our Cathedral Choir in Limerick, under its temporary conductor Daniel Battle. Sung Evensong, giving us the opportunity to change rhythm and pattern,
was a lovely experience, so thanks to the cheery Daniel and the choir members who made the effort to travel out for a second Sunday duty, much enjoyed by the ecstatic congregation from Clare who shared with us. Thanks indeed to the choir and to our ladies and gentlemen who provided the hospitality. PS - and the Rector enjoyed the honour of being able to lead the responses for Evensong!

PENTECOST HO!

Another summer is upon us, with the schedule to August out. Bishop Trevor will make his usual Pastoral visit to the Coast on Sunday July 8th at Christ Church, Kilfarboy, Spanish Point (amid the activity of the Willie Clancy Summer School!!) This year the Bishop will remain at Kilfarboy for one service at 10.30am, allowing time to meet parishioners and visitors.

The Summer chaplains at the Mobile Home will be supplemented by Mr Steve Fletcher, Diocesan Reader in Training in St Alban's Diocese in England, who with his wife is a regular visitor to Clare and Kilrush and who preached in Drumcliffe in May.

The Rev Vicki Lynch was making her farewells at Drumcliffe and Spanish Point, prior to departing for full-time ministry in the Methodist Church in Limerick City. We thank again Vicki and her family for the rich contribution they have made to our church life in this grouping and wish her much blessing in her new living.

BEREAVEMENT

Our thoughts and prayers go with Mrs Marjorie Normile of Drumcliffe Parish and her two daughters on the loss of her husband Michael. The funeral service took place in St Peter-Paul Cathedral, Ennis, and the committal in his native Cork. A retired engineer, Mike was an active member of Lions International and also of Probas.

ASHES

The remains of the late Florence Elizabeth Cave, formerly McNamara were brought all the way from Perth, Australia for committal in her childhood church of Kilfanaghty, Sixmilebridge, now a local library on her award in the Arts, Culture, Heritage & Environment category. Jackie has been involved with a number of voluntary groups over the years and recently spearheaded a community arts project in the town of community life in Ballinasloe”. We congratulate Jackie on her award in the Arts, Culture, Heritage & Environment category. Jackie has been involved with a number of voluntary groups over the years and recently spearheaded a community arts project in the town.

CONFIRMATION

St. John’s hosted our second Confirmation Service on Sunday 22nd April with a large congregation in attendance. Nicole Cruise Ballinasloe, Enda, Eva and Benjamine Sinclair Clontuskert, Cian, Tommy and Jack Griffin/Seale Woodlawn, were confirmed by Bishop Trevor. We wish them well as they move forward to new horizons and may Almighty God guide and direct them in all their doings. Diocesan Reader Ms Valerie Kinsella and Martin O’Duffy parish Reader assisted.

FAMILY SERVICE

The Family Service at the end of April took the form of a double baptism (two separate families) when Tim and Tracey Hyde; Eric and Zoe Wardrop gave us the opportunity to witness the baptism of their sons Harry and Llythan. A large congregation of family members along with our own congregation took a full part in the service with Mark and Adam Newton extending a warm welcome to everyone by opening the service. Prayers were read by the newly confirmed and adults, with Martin O’Duffy assisting and Beatrice Newton providing the music. Following the service the congregation was invited to the Rectory Coach-house for a light lunch.

ARDRAHAN PARISH CHURCH

Progress is being made to erect a small meeting room in the grounds of Ardrah an Church with the principle purpose of providing much needed facilities for our young children for Sunday School accommodation and for the occasional parish meeting. Various fund-raising events are being planned to raise much needed funds.

SELECT VESTRY FOR THE COMING YEAR

Two Easter Vestries were held and the following were elected:


Woodlawn: E. Fitzgerald: People’s Warden each parish as above;


SUMMER BAR-B-CUE AUGHRIM COACH-HOUSE

Yes it is almost that time of year again for our Bar-b-Cue which will take place on Friday 6th July 2012 starting at 7.30 p.m. This is always a great night of food, fun, music and laughter. The cost of tickets is €15.00 per person - children who are attending primary school are free. All intended participants are asked to bring their own refreshments. For further details please contact me at the above mobile number.

Jackie Eastwood of St. John’s at a recent presentation in Ballinasloe received a Mayor’s Award “in recognition of her outstanding commitment to community and voluntary activity and the impact she has made on the quality of community life in Ballinasloe”. We congratulate Jackie on her award in the Arts, Culture, Heritage & Environment category.
promoting positive mental health.

SERVICES
Services as usual during June - check web site for details

CONFIRMATION
Confirmation was held in St Paul’s Church Banagher for the first time in many years. It was a joint service between the Clonfert and Birr groups of Parishes. Led by Bishop Trevor Williams and assisted by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev Patrick Towers and Diocesan Reader Ann Menheniott. Most important of course were the five young candidates who were to be confirmed. Eric Fletcher, Joseph Kennedy, Sean Kilmartin, Emma Phair and Katie Phair. All these young people will be in our thoughts and prayers in the times ahead.

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL
Is as usual open again every day this summer until September. If you have never seen this unique heritage site where Christians have been worshiping for over 1400 years this may be the time for a visit. Its peaceful setting is not far from the River Shannon and a day in this area could be rewarding in many ways.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulatulations to Faye and Charlie Clarke on the addition of three new grandnieces to their family in recent months. Jane Cunningham Fallon was born on 17th April in Newbridge, Kildare, Kalie Hoaren born on 27th February in Virginia, USA, and Fiona Patricia born on 24th April in California, USA. We pray God will watch over them as they grow in the coming years.

ELISA NURSING HOME
Our service of Holy Communion at the home in June will take place on the 6th at 11 am.

CLASSIC MEETS IRISH
Concert at St John’s Church Eyrecourt on 12th July at 8 pm. A group of German classical musicians are coming over in July to join with a group of Irish traditional musicians. This looks like it will be a great evening of entertainment. Make a note in your diary now so that you do not miss out on this exciting event

CHRIST CHURCH PORTUMNA
Christ Church Portumna was the venue for two musical evening recently. On Friday 20th April, Omna, a group of 16 singers under the direction of Marie Power gave a wonderful feast of Music to the audience. They performed such diverse pieces as El Hadric, to Basin Street Blues and Shenandoah. Among those taking part were: Noirin Ryan playing haunting melodies on the whistle; Pascal Kennedy, a fine young baritone who gave an outstanding performance; Miriam Donohue who accompanied herself on the guitar and played her own compositions. Emma Burke read The Touch of the Master Hand, and you could have heard a pin drop. A collection for Asthma Society of Ireland was taken and we thank all those who supported it.

A week later a group of young musicians who compose all their own music played a very varied programme in the Church and gave such great delight to the audience. They included Knoeline Kean, Conner Robinson, Michael Dalton, Darren Burke, and Joe and Paul Casey. All proceeds from this evening were donated to The Portumna Mentally Handicapped Association.

We are so lucky to have so much musical talent in Portumna.

OUR THOUGHTS
Go to all the young people, who around this time are facing their exams and as this term of work draws to an end, we pray that God will help them to do well in the paths they have chosen, and give them all health and happiness during the coming holidays.

Limerick Diocese
St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Parish, and Abington
VACANT
The Rev. Jane Galbraith
50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
Tel: 061 – 302038 Mobile: 085-1450804
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Stan Evans
SINCERE SYMPATHY
Sincere sympathy to Gwenyth, Carol, Valerie and Stella, their families and relatives on the death of their mum, Olive Spencer (née Walsh) of Kilmcore, Kildimo, Co. Limerick who died in Milford Hospice on Tuesday 15th May. Olive was an amazing person who touched so many.

BAPTISM IN ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL:
On Sunday 22nd of May we welcomed into the Church family Alexander James St. Clair Graydon baby son of Ivan and Mary Graydon and brother to Ayesha.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS:
Congratulations to Lauren Hannon who competed for the Canon Hayes Cup (Moore’s Melodies) and was awarded a Silver Medal. Lauren also competed for the Elfreda Atkinson Cup (Sacred Songs) and was awarded a Bronze Medal and to Emily Howes who was awarded a Silver Medal in the same competition. Congratulations also to former choir member David Howes who won the Todd Cup (Oratorio) following in his granddad Harry’s footsteps!! Harry won the Todd Cup in 1961 and 1972. Very well done all.

Congratulations to Paul Clancy (our much valued tenor) upon entering a Civil Partnership with his partner, Nicholas Smith on Friday 18th May. We wish them both all the best for the future.

"COLOURS OF THE WORLD" CONCERT:
Thank you to all at St Mary’s Cathedral for hosting the “Colours of the World” concert on Saturday 12th May which included Villiers School Choir. €1,700 was raised for Christian Aid and Trócaire as part of the Diocese’s contribution to Christian Aid Week.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL
ALL WELCOME, FREE ADMISSION (retiring collection in aid of The Companions of St. Mary’s Cathedral Music) 1.15 pm - usually finished around 2 pm.
Wednesday 6th June: Stephen Power (Organ) music by Gigout and Stanford
Wednesday 13th June: Choral Concert with Cantet
Wednesday 20th June: Gary O’Shea (Piano) music by Prokofiev and Beethoven Sonatas
Wednesday 4th July: The Choir of St Catherine’s College, Cambridge
Wednesday 18th July: Daniel Battle (Organ) music by Bach and Rossini
Friday 3rd August: The Choirs of All Saints, Carshalton and St Mark’s, Woodcote (music by Stanford, Wesley and Leighton)

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin
Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin
Rector: The Rev. Keith Scott
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 - 398647 Mobile: 087 2883169
E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Three young people from our group of parishes were confirmed by Bishop Trevor on Sunday 29th April at Holy Trinity Rathkeale. Although a number of young people from our group of parishes have been confirmed over the last few years this was the first actual service of confirmation to have taken place in the group of parishes for quite some time.

About 150 people gathered together to support by their presence and prayers our three candidates as each affirmed their baptismal vows and were confirmed by the Bishop. Part of the new rite of confirmation also commissions the whole community, candidates, congregation and clergy, to work and witness to the kingdom of God. Let us all pray that we in this group of parishes continue to exert every effort to carry out that commission.

Our congratulations go to Edward and Kate Buckingham as they celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in May. Your prayers are also asked for Valerie Shorten and Sean McCarthy who will be getting married at the end of June.

Adare & Kilmallock
Group of Parishes
Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon
The Rev. Gary Paulsen
The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick
Tel: (061) 396227 Mobile: (085) 7640533
e-mail: adarerector@gmail.com

NO NOTES SUBMITTED
SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE
Tralee: 10.45 a.m. every Sunday
Ballyseedy: 9.45 a.m. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Ballymacelligott: 12 noon 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Kilgobbin: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday
Dingle: 12 noon every Sunday

RETIREMENT
The Rev. Joe Hardy retired on 30th April, having served this Parish in various capacities for just over 29 years, coming first as a Church Army Pastoral Assistant, before his Ordination by Bishop Mayes in 2005. His valedictory service in Tralee on April 29th was a united Service for the Tralee & Dingle Unions which was conducted by Joe himself and which involved people from various aspects of parish life, including the youth club members who presented a version of the Prodigal Son. The two Roman Catholic parishes in the town were represented by Fr. Gerald Finucane (St. John’s) and Fr. Patsy Lynch (St. Brendan’s).

A Reception followed in the Parish Centre, organised by the “LINKS Ladies”, during which the Rector and representatives from each of the churches in the Parish paid tribute to Joe Hardy’s years of sterling service to the parish and beyond. Mona Butler presented Joe with an inscribed clock and the proceeds of a collection from the parishioners.

We wish Joe and Wendy and their families every happiness for the future when we hope they will have more time to enjoy the finer things of life together!

CONFIRMATION
Thank you to all who made preparation for our Confirmation Service on 6th May. A large congregation was present to support our eighteen Confrims who were confirmed by our Bishop, Trevor Williams.

We are particularly grateful and say a big “Thank You” to Linda Woods-Ahern and Heidi Giles who conducted the Confirmation Classes and prepared the young people for their Confirmation over the past few months.

In particular we thank those who had the church and grounds looking in “tip-top” condition for the occasion and to Myrtle, Shirley and the Choir who contributed so much to the Service with their music and also to Mary Kinch, Rhona Giles and their helpers who provided teas and coffees to a large number of people following the Service. Please continue to pray for those who were confirmed in the weeks and months ahead: Charity Agwu, Vivien Ahern, David Boyle, Patrick Boyle, Claire Conway, Ciara Darcy, Amy Day, Caroline Fitzell, Samuel Hawe, Paulina Kasongo, Cillian Keating, Adam Langford, Adam Pevers, Dylan Pevers, Niketta Roche, Kelly Ronan and Molly Walsh. Their classmates Osazide Hamsetu and Jean Gervais received a Blessing from Bishop Trevor.

AFRICAN EVENING
The “African Evening” on Friday 18th May was a most enjoyable and informative evening which sought to raise funds in support of our Mission Project - The Luyengo Farm Project in Swaziland. Linda and Jan Chambers of USPG gave an informative a/v presentation on the Project during the evening. We thank Jane Ovbude and her helpers for providing some fantastic ethnic African foods, as well as those who provided more familiar foods like cocktail sausages, sausage rolls and chicken wings! We also thank Lillian Holmes (Mozarts Restaurant) for the loan of their Bain-Maries. We thank our friends from Kenmare Parish, led by the Rev. Michael Cavanagh, who along with Samuel provided the entertainment. Thank you, too, to those who set up for the event and cleaned up and tidied up afterwards. The amount of funds raised is not yet to hand. However, if you could attend, for whatever reason, and would like to make a contribution to this project, please put a donation on the church plate marked “Swaziland” or send it to the Rector at Teach an tSolais, Ashe Street, Tralee.

CONCERTS
As we submit these notes, we are looking forward to two Concerts in Tralee Church. One, on Wednesday 23rd May performed by the Schreiner University Choir from Kerville, Texas. The other on Thursday 24th May, given by The St. Thomas University Festival Choir from Minnesota, along with the Kerry School of Music Chamber Choir.

SUNDAY CLUB
The last Sunday Club date is fast approaching - JUNE 10th, don’t forget! We hope, on this day, to have lots of fun and fellowship. We recently entered The Kingdom County Fair and were highly commended for our efforts! Our project this year, was entirely made from recycled materials and we chose the Bible story of the loaves and fishes as our inspiration. No trophies this year! The entry is in the Vestibule of Tralee Church for all to see!

Last few Sunday Club dates to remember: June 3rd and June 10th.

LINKS
The “LINKS Ladies” ended their season with their annual “summer outing” on Sunday, 20th May. This year they went to our neighbours in St. Michael’s, Killorglin, for Service and then on to Kells for lunch and a visit to the open garden at Kells Bay. No doubt we will hear all about it in next month’s magazine!

KINGDOM COUNTY FAIR
We congratulate all who were involved with this year’s Kingdom County Fair on Sunday, 13th May. While the weather was “kind” – but not overly so! – a large crowd attended. A number of Parishioners are actively involved in this event either as organisers or exhibitors. We now know that our parishioners produce the best potatoes (John Groves) and Shortbread (Maraquita Blennerhassett) in the Kingdom! Congratulations to all who received awards, including our Sunday Club Members who were “Highly Commended” for their entry in the Arts and Crafts section for their entry, “The Feeding of the Five Thousand”.

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NEWS FROM THE WEST . . .

The members of St James’ Church were very active this year’s Feile Na Bealtaine. On Sunday morning, 6th May, The Holy Communion was celebrated in Irish by Canon George Salter from Cork, assisted by Rev Mairt Hanley. Also present was Ms. Caroline Nolan, the Church of Ireland Gaelic Officer. A bilingual plaque was unveiled at the front of the church, so we can now say either St James’ Church or “Teampall Naomh Sheamuis”.

In the afternoon Mairt led an ‘ecumenical retreat walk’, from Kilmakeader Old Church to Riasc, via the oratory at Gallarus, following what is locally called the , ‘The Saint’s Way’. The event was well attended and a big thank you to Mairt for his preparation and making the walk so interesting. Afterwards all retired to Bric’s for a well earned tea and coffee, at which a collection was made for the Mission Farm Project in Swaziland, the final total being €100.00.

The Summer Season of Folk Concerts has commenced in St. James’ on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We thank Eoin Duignan and the other musicians for choosing St. James’ as the venue for their concerts and from which the church benefits financially. If you are in Dingle over the Summer months, do plan to take in one of the concerts.

EXAMS

Our thoughts and Prayers are with all our Parishioners who are preparing for the Leaving & Junior Certificate Exams at this time. We hope that you will be rewarded with a lovely summer after the weeks and months of stress!

Killarney & Aghadoe Union

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Canon Susan Watterson
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064-6631832 Mbl: 087-6892025
Email: smwatt@eircom.net

NO NOTES SUBMITTED

Killcolman Union of Parishes

Killcolman, Killalagh and Glenbeigh
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Máirt Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mobile: 087-6194733
Assistant Priest:
The Rev. James Stephens
Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066-9767735 Mobile: 087-0529107

GREETINGS ALL

The past few weeks seem to have been all paperwork and funerals with news of a number of sad deaths in the area, our thoughts and prayers are with all those touched by grief of late. The paperwork is a product of vestry election and the preparation for Synods - General now done, Diocesan on the way. I did have some interesting chats at Synod and Ted Woods says Hello. We had a lovely service for Ascension Thursday in Kiltallagh and thanks to the school and all the adults who were there. Congratulations to the Poffs on two new arrivals and to the Murphys on their recent birth, it is so nice to be hearing so much good news around the place.

SCHEDULING

I am thinking of rescheduling my time and the parish timetable for the Summer. I am hoping that there will be cricket practice on Monday or Wednesday evenings, and that my gardening time will change from Thursday afternoon to Thursday evenings, 6.30 ish to 8.30 ish.

The book club and Tuesday evening services would finish for the Summer to start again in September, the last book club discussions for this season being on extracts from a book of short reflection by Rabbi Lional Blue, the extracts are at the back of both churches.

After the success of the walk I lead West of Dingle for Fáile na Bealtine, I would like to schedule some Sunday afternoon walking events. If any one would like to make some suggestions or comment please do.

TEXTING SYSTEM

I have a texting system up and running which goes out to all the mobile numbers that I have. If you have not got texts from me about mid week services or other events, it means I don’t have a mobile number for you or that what I have is wrong, so please let me know if I need to add a number to the system.

THE HALL

The sound panels to reduce the echo in the hall are nearly ready at the time of writing and may even be up at the time of going to print, so thanks to Alfie West and Andrew Eddie for the work they have put in to this project. This should make the hall far more comfortable especially for small groups to use as the echo could be quite off putting sometimes.

PARENTS COFFEE MORNING

It has been pointed out to me that by having this on the first Monday of the month there are up to half of the Mondays of the year that are bank holidays and that people are often otherwise engaged. So I will try moving to the first Tuesday to see if this suits better.

Kenmare and Dromod Union

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co Kerry
Tel: 064 6648566 Mobile: 087 1606312
Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

CHURCH SERVICES
St. Patrick, Kenmare
1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays: 12.00 HC/MP
2nd Sunday: 12.00 CFC/CFW, 6.00 p.m. Evensong (Summer only)
5th Sunday: 12.00 HC/MP, 6.00 p.m. Evening Meditation (Summer only)
Church of the Transfiguration, Sneem
1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays: 9.30 a.m. HC/MP
2nd Sunday: 9.30 a.m. CFC/CFW
St. Michael and All Angels, Waterville
(September – June) 4th Sunday 1130 HC/MP
(July & August only) Every Sunday 1130 HC/MP
St. John the Baptist, Valentia
(July & August only) Every Sunday 0930 HC/MP

WEDDINGS
Why are weddings in Kenmare like buses? ‘cos you wait for ages and then two come along at once’. 28th April saw the marriage of Roy Sugars and Ann-Marie Murphy at 1:00, followed by that of Sven Schots and Oisin Bergin at 3. Beautiful brides, beautiful day, beautiful sacrament.

MOTHERS’ UNION
Our Mothers’ Union branch (now up to 15 members) celebrated its first birthday on May 8th with a short service of thanksgiving, followed by the traditional sumptuous spread. We look forward to a ‘Mums in May’ garden tea party and Bring n’ Buy at Geraldine Johnston’s house, celebrating 125 years of the Mothers’ Union in Ireland.

CONCERTS
St Patrick’s is an ideal Concert venue for travelling choirs and musicians, and we already have a number of events booked for this summer. On 24th May, we have the 67-strong Niels-Stensen Gymnasium School Choir from Hamburg singing; 3rd July will host an evening concert of Nordic music from the choir of “Vor Frelsers Kirke” (Our Saviours Church) of Aalborg in Denmark. On 19th July, the American Sandlapper singers will join our own Rosen Choir; and on 12 August the Kammerphilharmonie Chamber Orchestra from Cologne will repeat their very successful visit of last year. Not to mention our part in the Kenmare Choral Festival in December… Praise Him on the trumpet, the psaltery and harp etc. etc. – and let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord!

Methodist Notes

Adare & Ballingrane
Methodist Circuit
The Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 - 396236
Email: elizabeth.hewitt@btinternet.com

SERVICE TIMES
Adare: 10.15 am
Ballingrane: 11.45 am
Sunday School meets during morning services.

ANNUAL FIELD MEETING
11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 5th June in the grounds of Adare Manor Golf Club.

This service is held each year at the Memorial Stone which marks the site where it is traditionally believed Rev John Wesley preached when visiting Adare in the mid 18th century. In recent times, the foundations of a building, also within the grounds of the Golf Club and near the Wesley Stone, have been identified. This building was the site of the first Wesleyan Chapel in Adare. We are grateful to the Adare Historical Society for donating a flagstone to mark the site and this will be dedicated at the Field Meeting on 5th June. The guest preacher will be Rev William Olmsted, an American Methodist minister, who is currently the minister of Portlaoise Methodist Church. The children from St Nicholas’ Primary School, Adare, will be singing at the service.

THE ANNUAL METHODIST CONFERENCE
The Annual Methodist Conference will take place from 7th – 10th June in Enniskillen.

BAPTISM
On Sunday 13th May Rory Robert Millar, son of Naomi and Alan Millar, was baptised in Adare Methodist Church with family and friends present. We wish God’s richest blessing on Rory, his parents and ‘big brother’ Harry.

CHRIST CHURCH, SHANNON
Dr. Rosemary Power, Pioneer Minister
5 The Grove, Shannon, Co Clare
061 - 363717

WALKING THE PILGRIM WAYS - ECUMENICAL WALK WITH CLARE PIONEER MINISTRY.

The third of the ecumenical East Clare pilgrim walks at Whitsun took place on 26 May. Involving Holy Island, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney, Bishop Trevor Williams represented the Church of Ireland on the day, which closed with a service in the tenth-century Saint Cronan’s Church, Tuamgraney. For this year’s walk the Clare Pioneer Ministry joined with the East Clare Heritage Centre and local congregations.

Other walks are planned again for the summer, as in previous years. The website is www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com, or phone 087 9888 508 for further information. The Clare Pioneer Ministry is currently working to co-ordinate information about walks across South Munster.

Under the auspices of the ministry, and written by Rosemary Power, a book is to appear shortly outlining the historical and spiritual significance of some of the pilgrim sites and routes between them. This is based on the experiences of the ecumenical walks and will be followed by other similar books for pilgrims.

CHRIST CHURCH, LIMERICK - PRESBYTERIAN & METHODIST
The Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 - 396236
Email: elizabeth.hewitt@btinternet.com
SERVICE TIMES
Morning Worship: 11.30 a.m. each Sunday in June
During July and August the time will change to 10.30 a.m.

Sunday School meets during the service.

ONTARIO PRESBYTERIAN CHOIR
Ontario Presbyterian Choir, Canada will be visiting Ireland in June.
The congregation of Christ Church will be joining with St Michael’s for a United Service in Barrington Square, at which the Choir will be singing, at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 10th June.

WELCOME SERVICE
A welcome service for Rev Vicki Lynch will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 1st July in Christ Church. The service will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Hewitt (Circuit Superintendent) and the preacher will be Rev Brian Griffin (District Superintendent). We welcome Vicki and her family and wish her God’s richest blessings as she begins her ministry in Christ Church.

BIBLE STUDY
Each Tuesday in June: 10.45 a.m. – 12 noon in the Church Hall, led by Fr Brendan.

Killarney & Kenmare Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:
Ed & Jean Ritchie; Larry & Meriel O’Mahony
Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney
Sunday Services: 9 and 11am (inc. Children’s’ programme at 11)
Prayer meetings: Monday – Thursday 8.00 am. – 9.00 am.
Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8.00 pm, Friday 10.00 am.
Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 am. – 12 noon in the Church Hall, led by Fr Brendan.

KENmare “Gateway” Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service: 11am (preceded by coffee, inc. Children’s’ programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings: Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m. (Prayer time at 7pm), Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Gneeveguilla Home fellowship group is scheduled for Thursdays 7th and 21st June at 8pm. Contact Laurence for directions to the venue.

The meetings in Millstreet continue every Sunday evening at 7pm in the Canon O’Donovan Centre on Clara Road in Millstreet town. There is a growing bond of fellowship amongst the group meeting in Millstreet and a recent development has been to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at least once a month.

In Killarney the monthly men’s breakfast is scheduled for Saturday 9th June from 8.30-10am.

Film nights continue at Killarney on the last Saturday of each month at 7.30pm. This month it will be on the 30th June.

South Kerry Parkinson’s Association meet in Killarney Methodist Church on Monday 9th June at 7.30pm.

In Kenmare during April and May we were delighted to be sharing with members and leaders of the other Churches in the town in a “Christianity Explored” course. These meetings took place each Wednesday night in the “Gateway” Methodist centre in Kenmare. These meetings were very well attended and were a great blessing to everyone.

On the June bank holiday weekend in Killarney we are looking forward to a visit again from the Christian Motorcycle Association as they will be in Killarney for the “Bikefest” weekend. Please pray for these sisters and brothers as they seek to be the salt and light of Christ in the midst of that festival.

From the 7th – 10th June the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland meets. The Conference venue for this year is Enniskillen Methodist Church. Please pray for everything that goes on during that time and that God would guide us in our business and that there will be much inspiration and challenge at the special services and other events.

At the end of June we are looking forward to the arrival of a team of friends from California who will be with us for three weeks at the end of June and early July. During that time we will be having separate men’s and women’s retreats, a youth retreat all in Muckross Venture Centre as well as children’s holiday Bible clubs in Killarney and Kenmare. All this and several other activities will keep the team busy and we look forward to sharing in fellowship and mission with them.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev. Brian Griffin
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755
Email: beg08@eircom.net

The annual Open Air Service at Gloster House, near Roscrea, will take place on Sunday 17th June, 2012 at 3.30 pm. John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism, preached at this house on 13 June 1749 whilst a guest of the Lloyd family.

Tom and Mary Alexander, the owners of the house, warmly welcome this service and this year the preacher will be the Rev Bill Olmsted who originally comes from Iowa, USA and is currently serving on the Port Laois Circuit.
As a prelude to the International Eucharistic Congress, RTE Nationwide covered the recent St Cronan’s Festival Celebration in Roscrea. The report will be featured on Nationwide on Friday 8th June at 7.00 pm.

On Friday 15th June at 7.30 pm, in the home of Donald and Lucy Bateman, Ballylooby, Near Cahir, Co. Tipperary, there will be a welcoming barbecue for those interested in forming a weekly fellowship for worship and bible study. Telephone Lucy or Donald at 052 744 2058 for further information.

The Heritage Festival with Flowers in Cloughjordan over the May bank holiday weekend was the culmination of 18 months of preparation. Maura Lovelock, a professional Florist and a member of the Cloughjordan Methodist Church was able to share her skill and enable many people to present wonderful floral arrangements in each window portraying different aspects of religious, educational and economic life in Cloughjordan including the most recent arrival, the Eco Village.

There was great cross-community support and adjectives used to describe the event included “stunning” and “inspirational”. The Festival included an exhibition of art by local members and local memorabilia. Each day featured a musical programme and of course, the proverbial “tea”.

‘Racing Colours’ - Monsea Church and the Rebel Parson.

© Marjorie Quarton

The ‘new’ Church at Monsea was built at the end of the 18th century, on the eve of the 1798 rebellion. But it wasn’t opened for at least another decade, owing to what was kindly called ‘unrest’. So until 1820 or thereabouts, the old Romanesque building, which still stands, roofless, in the churchyard was in use.

At that time, Henry Fulton who was an ardent follower of Wolfe Tone, was Curate of Silvermines and Kilmore. He was also Vicar of Nenagh and Monsea. Nenagh had a rector of course, as did Silvermines, so Fulton didn’t have to hold services in them every Sunday. More likely he would have been assisting at services and preaching occasionally.

Henry Fulton, in addition to his normal duties, was tutoring Sir Henry Prittie’s son at Kilboy and sending and receiving messages concerning the rebels in North Tipperary.

On one occasion, shortly before he was arrested (climbing out of the Mulcair river), tried and sent to Botany Bay, he preached at Monsea. I have no source for the following story, but it seems too unlikely to have been invented. I used it in my book ‘Renegade’, but that is historical fiction. Readers must judge for themselves.

Henry, the gentleman spy, had other things on his mind as he rode to Monsea from Silvermines where he lived. He ascended the pulpit only to realise he had left his notes at home. In horror, he looked round the Church for inspiration. It was packed with people anxious to see and hear the new curate. What could he do? Then he noticed that the upper walls were painted bright blue, while the lower three feet or so were painted crimson. Between these colours a band of black ran right round the building, waist high. This colour scheme sparked an idea and Henry pointed to the walls, suggesting that the crimson might represent the flames of hell and the blue could be heaven; the black line between symbolising the hazardous path trodden by sinners. Getting into his stride, he enlarged on the joys of heaven, the slippery nature of the path and the danger of sliding down into hell. He spoke of the human soul tottering on the brink of damnation and the congregation listened eagerly.

Outside the church, Henry was approached by a heavily whiskered old man of military appearance, who ignored his proffered hand. ‘God is not mocked,’ he said, ‘and neither am I, young man.’

Afterwards, Henry discovered that the old man was Colonel Finch of Kilcoleman, The Colonel had had the whole church painted in his racing colours – crimson with blue hoops and a black cap.

The so called ‘new’ church was demolished in 1960, but the ruins of the old church still stand.
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Telephone: (061) 451447 / 451400  Fax: (061) 455333
E-mail: secretary@villiers-school.com  Web Site: www.villiers-school.com