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The Bishop Writes

Thanks again to all who made the “Gathering to Go” event work so well. A special thanks to Lesley Robinson (now settling in as Rector of Clontarf Parish, Dublin), the committee and our hosts, Villiers School, who always put themselves out to welcome us. We are so fortunate to have such a great school. We should do all we can to support it.

We have been thinking a lot about our Diocesan Vision - the kind of Church we are aiming to become in the years ahead. We have named aspects we want to include, Open, Caring, Inclusive, Welcoming, Friendly, and Community Minded. But we also added that these aims can only be achieved if we are rooted and nourished in our public worship and private prayer.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

If we are to live the Vision, we need to be nourished by our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Our Clergy spent the two day annual conference with Dom Mark-Ephrem Nolan, the Superior of the Benedictine Holy Cross Monastery in Rostrevor, Co Down. His title was "Let us Pray - Praying the Scriptures".

We learnt that prayer is not about getting what we want from God. Prayer is about being personally transformed by our experience of God's presence within us. What was particularly helpful was Dom Mark-Ephrem's guidance on how we might pray the scriptures. Following from this, the clergy and I have decided that we will put together a programme on 'praying the scriptures' for use during Lent next year. This will be offered to everyone in the Diocese.

We all need to be changed, myself as much as anyone else. We need to be changed if we are to welcome the opportunities that God gives us to live out God's vision for his world. But how do we welcome opportunities for serving others and not see those opportunities as a burden, restricting our personal freedom?

All our Visionary Words are about putting others first. Instinctively that goes against the grain. So how is it done? To live the Christian life of sacrificial love in the service of others takes spiritual strength. It doesn't come from an iron will, but by a sense of being immersed in God's total acceptance and unconditional love for us. The way to that transformation is a spiritual path where we nourish our awareness of who God is and find ways of developing our relationship with God. That spiritual path involves the prayerful reading of the scriptures.

HEALTHY CHURCHES

A book* was written some years ago, which set out to find the marks of a Healthy Church. After extensive research the authors came up with this list.

A Healthy Church is:

• Energized by faith. At the heart of these churches and their members is a reality about their awareness of the presence, goodness and love of God. Faith is the fuel on which these churches run.

• Outward-looking focus. These churches did not concentrate on their own life but a practical care of the local context, the whole of life and the world in which we live.

• Seeks to find out what God wants. There is a sharpness of focus and seriousness of purpose in these churches. They had a clear sense of God's call rather than repeating past assumptions and patterns.

• Faces the cost of change and growth. These churches were courageous in facing hard and painful truths and were prepared to make real changes that we often costly.

• Operates as a community. As well as faith in God, these churches had generous and honest relationships that makes church ‘family’

for all who participate and draws out each person's gifts and contribution.

• Makes room for all. Though they greatly value what they have, not least in their support of one another, these churches have found ways of making others not just welcome at services but part of the life of the church. Generosity permeates the life of these churches.

• Does a few things and does them well. One of the most surprising characteristics of these churches, which results from a sense of responding to God's call on their time and effort, is the quiet purposefulness of their life. They are not rushing around madly but enjoying what they do and seeing the positive results of doing a quality job.

Lots of hope. Lots of work. Let's continue to put it into practice.

* (The Healthy Chuches' Handbook, Robert Warren, Church House Publishing)

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AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2013

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE
AT: 8.00 P.M.

• UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LUYENGO FARM PROJECT, SWAZILAND, BY, Ms. LINDA CHAMBERS, Us Ireland

• MISSION SUNDAY 2013, ON SUNDAY 24th NOV.

• REPORTS BY PARISH MISSION REPRESENTATIVES.

• A.O.B.

• Everyone with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas is very welcome to attend.

• Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting.
Editorial

I love Autumn – the first crisp, dry mornings, changing leaf colours, scuffling through piles of fallen leaves, smells of damp compost, humus and mushrooms. For me it is a time to look forward to another cycle of life – as Nature retreats in the face of the coming dark months, she returns what she will not need to the good earth, to be broken down into nutrients to fertilise new life in the lengthening days of Spring.

For many though, it is a time of looking back, of remembering. I can understand this too. The withered seed-heads and bare branches remind us of beloved ones who have died – our bodies are mortal, we too will return to the earth. The C9th Western Church decided in its wisdom to celebrate All Saints on 1st November, the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. It is good to remember the holy Saints who have gone before us – but aren’t all faithful Christians saints with a small ‘s’? Many choose to remember departed loved ones on that day, as I do: my mother, God bless her, died on All Saints Day.

Remembrance Sunday too is about remembering. But isn’t it time to look forward, not back? People with personal memories of comrades who died in the C20th World Wars are fewer every year. The red poppy has always been a political statement in Ireland, and remains divisive. I’d rather wear the white poppy of the Peace Pledge Union.

Irish people have recently adopted the American secular festival of Halloween, with its ghouls and witches and spiders to frighten children – do its roots lie in pagan Samhain? Though a bit of fun for children, it is an excuse for bad behaviour by some, and I dislike its commercialism. But there is another lovely American festival – Thanksgiving Day – the 4th Thursday of November. It is a day when children – do its roots lie in pagan Samhain? Though a bit of fun for children, it is an excuse for bad behaviour by some, and I dislike its commercialism. But there is another lovely American festival – Thanksgiving Day – the 4th Thursday of November. It is a day when families and friends come together to eat, drink and be merry, and to give thanks for all they have.

Let’s give back Halloween in exchange for Thanksgiving!

God bless,
Joc Sanders, Editor

Bishops’ Appeal - Urgent Funds Needed

Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal has requested harvest and advent funds for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria and for the refugees in surrounding Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan (Tearfund and Christian Aid are partners). Eight million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. As little as €30 can buy rice, beans, lentils, sugar, salt as well as cheese and milk to combat malnutrition in children.

Funds are also urgently required for other very worthwhile projects which are on hold due to funding constraints. Donations may be sent by parishes and individuals to: Bishops’ Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6. For more information contact Lydia Monds 01 412 5610. Thank you for your ongoing support.

A Prayer with regard to the conflict in Syria

Gracious God
We pray for all those who suffer from violence;
May they know your healing and peace.
We pray for those who have died and those who are bereaved;
May they be comforted and sustained by your love.
We pray for political leaders here and across the world;
May they seek wisdom and work together for peace.
May your kingdom come, your will be done
And the earth be filled with your glory.

Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference in Britain

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfern, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: www.limerick.anglican.org.

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese. Newslink received a "Highly Commended" award in the Church of Ireland Communications Competition for diocesan magazines at General Synod 2013.

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved. Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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Deadlines

The next issue will be a double issue for December/January, published for Sunday 1st December 2013. All material must reach the Editor by Friday 15th November 2013 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

Diocesan Calendar

(for updates see Diocesan web site – www.limerick.anglican.org)

Sat 2nd November, 10am
Mothers’ Union Trustees & Diocesan Council, Richmond Terrace, Limerick

Thu 14th November, 8pm
Mission Evening, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

Tue 26th November, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael’s Hall, Killorglin

Sat 30th November
GFS Christmas Craft Day, Nenagh

Tue 24th December, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael’s Hall, Killorglin

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2013
(Reduced by €3 from 2012, for 10 issues)
Delivered to pew in bulk €34
Individual copy by post €40.50
Collected from printer in bulk €27

NEW SLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2013
(Reduced by 5% from 2012)

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WHY LIMERICK BELLS WERE SILENT

It was Stephen’s idea. He thought it would be a good idea to visit West Sussex for a weekend. So, on the evening of Friday 13th September we boarded a plane that took us from Shannon to Gatwick. With the result the bells of St. Mary’s and Mt. St. Alphonsus were silent on Sunday 15th.

Just as with any other pastime it is part of the “thing” to visit other like-minded places or people. And so it was with Stephen. His daughter Sarah moved to a teaching position near Horsham and when visiting he noticed the beautiful rural English villages, all usually with a church and bell tower.

And so his plan was put in place. Fourteen travellers at the inn of choice enjoyed a good meal and a nightcap before retiring early – they have strange licensing hours even for residents in England!

During breakfast the following morning our mini-bus arrived. As is the way with all things, nepotism was never far away - our driver was Stephen’s cousin. During “the Emergency” Stephen’s Grandfather sent four of his daughters to England to make their way in life. Three stayed over there, and Alan is the son of one of them, and there is no mistaking them as cousins. It was truly wonderful to have a local as knowledgeable as Alan to drive us around as he knew the geography and the history of everywhere we drove through and to.

First stop were the 8 bells of St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Rusper and for Pat, Daniel and Fr. Adrian it was a first time to ring bells outside the walls of Limerick. All too quickly our allotted time passed and so we moved on to the ground floor ring of 8 bells in St Mary, Slaugham. Ground-floor rings can be a little tricky because it usually means the ropes are a little longer than usual, thus introducing more “stretch”; and so it was here too, but that did not stop us ringing out some beautiful music. It was hungry work, but Stephen planned very carefully – it was only 200 meters to “The Chequers” where we enjoyed a delicious lunch at very reasonable cost.

Next stop was Holy Trinity Church in Lower Beeding where we were just in time to ring the eight bells for a bride and groom as they left the church with their guests – we were made to feel really welcome! Our final stop was St Nicholas’ Church, Itchingfield. The church is currently buried beneath scaffolding, but we managed to access the only wooden tower in the region. Only 5 bells, which is somewhat unusual, but a very fun place to visit.

It was by now nearing 6pm so time to return to the inn. Sustenance, more beverages and excellent conversations followed. We were joined by Sarah and Luke catching up with parents Stephen and Jane; Alistair catching up with mum Adrienne, and Galen catching up with brothers Kieron and Darrell. After all that it was time to turn in for a well-earned sleep.

The following morning we made the short journey to St John the Baptist, Crawley to assist the local ringers with service ringing – another lovely ring of eight. Following coffee and a trawl through the papers it was back to Gatwick for the afternoon flight back to Shannon.

Thank you Stephen for putting together such a fun itinerary.

LIMERICK BELLS SOUND OUT

The following Friday evening, 20th September we had an entirely different evening! It was the National Annual Culture Night, and this year the bells were on the agenda. As we are limited as to how many people may visit the tower at any one time, we set up a number of different information stations – a PowerPoint telling the history of the bells, cameras in the bell chamber relayed pictures to cameras by the tower door, the mini-bells were put through their paces by visitors of all ages young and old, and Sarah brought in clay with which the visitors made clay bell models.

It’s difficult to tell how many exactly visited the Cathedral but it exceeded all expectations by far. Feedback from the organisers said ... "We have been overwhelmed here in the office with the positive feedback received from Culture Night 2013. The numbers suggest that it was the most attended Culture Night in the 6 years since Limerick has been participating and the words 'Limerick was buzzing' are the most consistent words used in the feedback".

The evening was a great celebration of Limerick’s landmark building. Thank you to the team who gave so generously of their time to ensure a very successful event.

On Bank Holiday Saturday, 26th October we will welcome ringers from all over Ireland as we host the Annual Autumn Ringing festival. Mt. St. Alphonsus is to be open from 11am to 1pm and St. Mary’s from 2.30pm for the tower bells and 5pm for the mini-bells. Dinner for all will be in Finnegan’s later that evening.

FINALLY, CONGRATULATIONS

... to Tom Marsden, a life-long ringer and Honorary Life Member, on celebrating his 90th birthday recently. A fantastic achievement - it was great to see all his family including grand-children and great-grandchildren return to Limerick for the occasion.
THE PEACE

Last month we considered our response to the Word of God – the Creed, the Prayers, and, optionally at that point, the Penitential section containing the Confession and Absolution. The response ends with the exchange of the Peace – probably the most misunderstood part of the Liturgy.

It is not a time to greet your neighbours (that should happen when you arrive), but an opportunity to 1) make peace with anyone in the church whom you are having a problem with, and 2) share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Jesus was very explicit in his commandment to us in the Sermon on the Mount:

‘So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God’ (Matthew 5:23-24).

We are not worthy to receive Holy Communion if we are not at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and in communion with all of them. This is not about being denied the Sacrament. It is about cleaning up our attitude and behaviour towards others so that we are able to receive the Sacrament as Jesus would like us to.

THE OFFERTORY

Jesus’ reference to ‘leaving your gift there in front of the altar’ makes us think, of course, of the Offertory. There are several misunderstandings about this part of the liturgy, which divides the service into the Liturgy of the Word which precedes it, and the Liturgy of the Sacrament which follows. First of all, many people think ‘offertory’ just means ‘collection of money’, and wrongly call the collection at Morning Prayer an Offertory. Though parish treasurers and churchwardens might disagree, money is the least important aspect of the Offertory. The presentation of bread and wine to be used in Communion is the central act of the Offertory. It is good to have it brought up from the back of the church, as a reminder of its importance as an offering – and it makes a better job for children to do than bringing up collection plates!

The other aspect of the Offertory which should be emphasised is that, in the entirety of the Eucharist, we offer ourselves to God; in the words of the Prayer Book, ‘our souls and bodies’. God takes us just as we are, warts and all, blesses us with the Body and Blood of Christ, and at the end of the service returns us to the world from which we came, to help make that world more like the Kingdom of God. The bread and wine are offered for consecration, and so are we.

Next time we will look at the Prayer of Consecration or Eucharistic Prayer, properly called ‘The Great Thanksgiving’.

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Máirt’s Musings – Endings & Finishings

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

At the moment I am thinking about endings and things being over. There has been a lot of excitement about of late: Killorglin has had the Wild Flower of the Laune, Dingle has had the Food Festival, our Diocese the Gathering Day and the Parish the German visit. There has been so much hubbub that I’m wondering what to make of it all now it is done.

Some times in the Church, it feels like you’re only as good as your last event – and by good I mean popular. Running events sometimes feels like a means to get ‘bums on pews’, as if an event is a success only if you can get many punters through the door and up your average attendance figures. Look, it is great when you get more people involved, and as a priest my favourite problem is to be confronted with a queue. But I don’t like the attitude you find in some church circles that would make you think that God expects his employees to secure so many souls a year or smiting will ensue! Jesus is not some Facebook entity who requires a particular number of ‘likes’ in order to carry on. So after an event, instead of rubbing our hands together safe in the knowledge that our average attendance figures will please the Bishop, and wondering what we shall do to pack in some extra punters next month, let us take some time to think about what the event has meant.

Any great event should change you, give you some new window on life or some aspect of it. I know after our twin parish visit that I am encouraged by the sense of camaraderie and the capabilities of our parishioners. More importantly it has built on the sense of welcome in the parish and our ability to reach out and communicate with others, even if we don’t share a common language. I think that is far more important than any logistical lessons learned. Whilst there is a place for analysis and ‘How we could have done things better’ it is these softer yet more permanent lessons and insights that I think are more valuable.

Recently I read an article by a friend who is going through a break up. It was beautifully written, but heart-breaking to read how he felt. In it he talked of trying not to look back through the eyes of the break-up in case he read the sad ending into all the happy memories of the relationship. I think that is as if there is a panel of judges holding up cards to score our experiences, always judging the past through the eyes of the present. I think we should just accept the gifts that we have been given every time something ends – without saying what we should have got, how it could have been better, or how we will do it better next time.

Rev. Máirt, one wife, two extractions, three kids, four fillings and an abiding feeling that he should have gone to the dentist more in his 20s.
We held the first meeting of the diocesan youth fellowship group on Saturday 21st September and a second on the 19th October. The first session had a good group of enthusiastic young people. We had a worship session (celebrating the feast of St. Matthew), as well as a time of fellowship and discussion, where we talked about our hopes for the fellowship group, as well as what people feel the group could contribute to their personal faith journey and deepening of discipleship. As a part of this, the group signed up to a time of daily prayer and reflection, and hopefully all are finding this to be a worthwhile discipline. The fellowship group will be geared towards the participants’ needs and wants, and hopefully the group will have something important to offer as an aid and support to the living out of the Christian call for the young people, the future leaders of our Church, of our Diocese!

All teenagers and young adults in 5th year in secondary school and up are welcome and encouraged to become a part of this fellowship group. The next meeting will take place in Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre on Saturday 16th November at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see as many people there as possible!

‘GATHERING TO GO’ DIOCESAN DAY

On Sunday 29th September as a diocesan family we had a great day together in Villiers School, Limerick at ‘Gathering to Go’. Congratulations and praise are due to all who made it such a success, but the committee of UDYC would just like take this opportunity to specifically thank all the young people of the United Dioceses who made such an effort to be there and involved in the event, not only in doing various jobs on the day itself, but also in the huge amount of work setting up on the day before, as well as in clearing up after the event. The commitment to serving which these young people showed, giving up there time to be there, is very impressive and is something which the whole Diocese can see as hugely positive. Thank you again!

‘TAKING A LEADING ROLE’ YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

The third and final weekend of the current ‘Taking a Leading Role’ Youth Leadership training took place from 11th – 13th October 2013, with a total of 12 participants completing the course. The course took place over three residential weekends, covering a range of skills and topics to form and prepare interested participants to be leaders involved in Christian youth ministry.

The course was primarily led by Edward Hardy, who shared his vast experience and passion for youth ministry with the group of would-be leaders, but many valuable inputs and contributions came from other leaders and members of the Diocese involved with UDYC. On the recent weekend committee member Eleanor Walker (Adare parish), as a primary school teacher with experience working with pupils of SEN (special educational needs), led an informative and very useful workshop on ‘challenging behaviour’ in young people.

The course is really a journey, where the participants (who might not know anyone else on the course at the beginning) come to know themselves, each other and God better and deeper over three weekends together. The weekends include training sessions geared towards the future youth ministry of the trainees, several times of worship, and activities, team building and craic. The aim is to encourage and support the participants on their journey of discipleship by giving them the tools and disciplines to deepen and maintain their relationship with God.

REFLECTION BY MICHELLE ARMITAGE

Taking part in the UDYC Youth leadership weekends was the next step for me as regards taking part in UDYC. Although I was entering into my final year of secondary school and spare time wasn’t something I had a lot of, I went along anyway. Taking part was the best thing I ever did - not only did I become better friends with people I already knew, I also met new people. For me now as I am studying to work with children and young people the sessions we discussed during the weekends were relating the entire time to my course. It was interesting for me to be able to relate my experience in UDYC and learning from college in the sessions during the three weekends. It was a fantastic opportunity and a big shout out goes to Ed for coordinating the weekends and the leaders who helped out too.

Youth Council feels that the ‘Taking a Leading Role’ course is very valuable and beneficial for all those who aspire to be leaders in Christian youth ministry in our Diocese. We hope that all those who took part this year found it to be a good preparation, and that they will all have the opportunity to put their great abilities and characters to use in Diocesan and Parish Youth Ministry soon - I for one look forward to working with them.

Congratulations to the Young Leaders who received their certificates

We offer congratulations to and prayers for all those who completed the course and received their certificates, who were (in no particular order): Oscar Egbulam (Limerick City), Brian Moore (Sligo), Valerie Walker (Croom), Henry Cooke (Kilpeacon), Ciara Fitzell (Tralee), Glenn Morrow (Limerick City), Andrew O’ Brien (Castleconnell), Michelle Armitage (Cloghjordan), Caroline Dix (Nenagh), Maud Eadie (Killarney), Emma Gardiner (Adare) and Clyde Butttimer (Carrigaline). Please keep all of these young people in your prayers that they continue to grow in their love and service of God.
ANOIS 2013

By the time you read these notes, Anois 2013 will have taken place in Kilkenny College. This year is the 10th anniversary of the event, and celebrations are planned! Full report will follow in next month’s issue of Newslink.

JUNIOR WEEKEND 2013

Our Junior Weekend for ages 10 – 13 years old takes place from Friday 8th – Sunday 10th November 2013 in Durrow Centre, Knocknagrally, Durrow, Co. Laois. All should have received booking forms at this point, and if interested in coming, please book ASAP! Return transport is available from Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall & Roscrea. The weekend will cost €100 per person and this will include all transport, food, activities and accommodation. To book or for further information about event, please contact Edward on (087) 2907553.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

It’s getting close to that time of year again! UDYC’s Annual Christmas Dinner Dance takes place on Saturday 7th December in Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. As always this promises to be a great event, with meal followed by music from the band ‘The QT’, with the night rounding off with a disco with DJ Antoin. Neat Dress Essential. Dinner @ 8.30pm sharp. Tickets must be booked by Monday 2nd December 2013 and will soon be available for €25 from several people around the United Dioceses. Further details or ticket bookings from Kenneth Baker @ 087 9777360.

Further information about any UDYC events and activities can be got from Edward on (087) 2907553. Also, information and programme of events for the year can be found on the UDYC website: http://udyce.ie/ as well as on our regularly updated UDYC group page on Facebook.

Girls Friendly Society

Diocesan ‘Gathering to Go’ was held in Villiers School on Sunday, 29th September. GFS took part in the procession. It was a great delight to see the Branch Banners and Diocesan Banner among the banners of all the other organisations in the Diocese. GFS was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this Diocesan event. We congratulate the Bishop and his team for organising a most successful and uplifting event.

Girls and leaders enjoyed the many workshops provided. Girls especially enjoyed the Circus Workshop and UDYC games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Council – Saturday, 9th of November in Dublin.
Diocesan Council – Tuesday, 12th November at 8.00 pm in St. Brendan’s Rectory, Birr
Diocesan Christmas Craft Day – Saturday, 30th November in the Croft Hall, St. Mary’s No.2 National School, Nenagh at 2.30 pm. Please note that all proceeds from this event go towards the Diocesan Camp in June.
Diocesan Service and Prize-giving – 5th April 2014 in Corbally (Roscrea Group)

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Family Fun Night on 20th September included a Beetle Drive for the younger children and a Table Quiz for the older children. Both activities were most enjoyable and the fun and fellowship continued over refreshments. Thank you to everybody who made the night such a success.

Our Enrolment Service took place on 13th October. Canon Stephen Neill arranged a very meaningful service based on the theme “Peace”. The girls read two readings, led the prayers, held peace ribbons and took up the collection. Girls were enrolled in four different categories. We were delighted to have our Diocesan President Mrs. Rose Langley with us.

Cloughjordan GFS Enrolment Day

Cloughjordan GFS thank the National Lottery, National Development Plan, Department of Children & Youth Affairs and Tipperary Education and Training Board for the grant we received for Branch work.

ROSCREA BRANCH

GFS has recommenced and we welcome Charlotte, Phoebe and Rebecca. Meetings are now held in St Cronans National School from 7 - 8.30 pm and details of dates can be obtained from June Wallace.

NENAGH BRANCH

GFS will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month but there may be occasional extra days added if required and dates may be changed. Please note we will NOT have GFS in the church on Wednesdays for the moment. On Saturday, 19th October girls decorated Halloween Masks and created animals for Noah’s Ark in St. Mary’s Church. Nenagh Branch are looking forward to hosting the Diocesan Christmas Craft Day in the Croft Hall, St. Mary’s No.2 National School at 2.30pm on Saturday, 30th November.

For more information please contact Branch Leader, Rose Langley at 087-6758896

Nenagh GFS acknowledge receipt of grant support from the North Tipperary VEC together with the National Lottery Funds.
1ST TRALEE COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

On Sunday October 13th, the members of 1st Tralee Company attended the Harvest Service in St. John’s Church. The children played a part in decorating the Church, and created a “Tree of Thankfulness”. The idea of the tree was that the members of the Company and the congregation wrote what they were thankful for on individual leaves. The children then carried the leaves up the Church and pinned them on the tree. We are all very thankful for the beautiful world we live in especially at harvest time.

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We’re back! Nenagh started our new year in September with some new boys and a new Leader in Jim Stone, who will be enrolled in the November Family Worship and Enrolment Ceremony and also a few new helpers and a new Treasurer! In the interest of incorporating community and wider issues in addition to as much fun as you can fit into 1½ hours, the boys have planted the school window boxes with bulbs which should be bright and colourful next spring. They have also done a great job of each packing a pencil case for Swaziland which will be handed over in November. We all hope the children that receive their pencil cases enjoy receiving them and our good wishes. The Tesco Management kindly gave us a €10 voucher towards the cost of the pencils, etc. so thank you to them.

A BIG thank you to Linda of the Midlands Region for organising a fantastic night for the Juniors in Portlaoise on Friday 19th! A roll n bowl evening of ten pin bowling, laser guns, roller-skating, soccer and soft play was thoroughly enjoyed by all. New friends were made, lots of fun was had – and lots of energy was spent! The Anchors are looking forward to their turn in Jumpin Gyms.

We have priced up some basketball hoops for the school’s Croft Hall for use by BB and of course the school, so we’re eagerly awaiting permission from the Board of Management to install those. That will be the first thing we buy with the grant we received from the North Tipperary VEC – so a big thank you to them! Rehearsals have begun for Jonah Man Jazz which we look forward to presenting, along with the Junior Choir, in November Family Worship!

Mothers’ Union

“Sow and Grow” was the title of the annual Young Women’s Getaway held early in October at the City North Hotel in Dublin. Almost forty delegates had a great time enjoying the facilities of the hotel and hearing some really inspiring speakers – many will remember Patsy Devoy and talks she has given in this diocese and we also heard from Phyllis Grother, All Ireland President, and Jane Grindle, Administrator in the MU office in Dublin. There was also a vigorous Zumba and Yoga session to help burn off some of the calories gained in the dining room! Unfortunately, there were no delegates from Limerick and Killaloe which is really sad because they missed a great event. Hopefully next year…?

‘Dying to Talk’ was the title of a most helpful meeting when Mrs. Carmelita McLoughlin spoke to Limerick City Branch on the subject of Death and Dying. Carmelita works with the team in Milford Hospice. She urged us to listen when people wish to talk about their deaths, to make clear our wishes for what we would like to happen after we have died (the hospice has produced a “Checklist” of information which would be helpful in this regard) and she also urged us not to be afraid to speak to people who have been bereaved – even if we feel we will not find the right words.

IMAGE CONSULTANT EVENING: THURSDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER,

A reminder to all MU members (and younger ladies who are not members): on THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER IN DOOLEYS HOTEL BIRR at 8pm, Ms Caroline Ryan, Image Consultant, will do a presentation on general style and how to shop to suit your size and age, also general wardrobe management. Admission is FREE and light refreshments will be served. For further information please contact Eileen Armitage 0505 42139, Betty Delahunt 057 9139019 or Ina Blackwell 057 9131253. We look forward to seeing a good crowd. Caroline can be found on www.stylebycaroline.ie

“At a meeting of the Mothers’ Union All Ireland Trustees recently it was agreed that a letter should be written to Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Children and Family Affairs, expressing the concern of members of Mothers’ Union about the Children’s Pageant held last month in Monaghan. The Bye Buy Childhood campaign spearheaded by Reg Bailey, CEO of Mothers’ Union, raised awareness of the commercialisation and premature sexualisation of children and it was felt that these pageants are very much a case in point. The letter will ask Minister Fitzgerald to follow the example of the French Government in bringing an Act before parliament seeking to ban any future children’s pageants in this country.”
The Luyengo Farm Project is aimed at helping to make the Diocese of Swaziland self-sufficient by using land to generate income. The diocese owns 200 acres in the Malkerns Valley, the most fertile part of the country where conditions are ideal for growing vegetables. The good news is that in 2011 work began when unused land was fenced and irrigated and the first cabbages were planted. The farm is supervised by Mr Tiki de Beers, who comes from South Africa and has many years of experience in farm management and irrigation – twenty people are currently employed and this number will grow as the farm area expands.

Currently, crops grown include cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, beetroot, butternut squash, maize and carrots. The vegetables are being sold on the local market in Swaziland, however as production increases, it is planned to purchase a refrigerated truck and send vegetables into South Africa where a better price can be obtained. Carrots have proved to be a financially successful crop and it is planned to increase production. Washing the carrots by hand is a slow and labour intensive procedure and a carrot washer would be a good investment, meanwhile a cement mixer lined with artificial grass is doing the job.

A water reservoir has just been completed to secure the farm's water supply. The Malkerns Canal, which brings water from the Great Usuthu River, requires major refurbishment, and this would have caused such long interruptions to the water supply that farming could not have continued. As a result, money was borrowed to construct a reservoir in March/April 2013 since it could not have been built during the autumn rains.

The Luyengo Farm carrots – a carrot washer is needed

The Diocesan Board of Mission has been supporting the Luyengo Farm Project since 2011, with the result that we have raised over €40,000 over the past two years. As Ms Linda Chambers from Us Ireland will verify, this money has been put to good use. But for the generous support from the people of our United Diocese, the Luyengo Farm Project would not have been feasible.

For Mission Sunday 2013, we are hoping to raise the sum of €15,000.00 for the following:

• help clear the debt incurred to construct the reservoir.
• Two third year students, currently studying Agricultural Engineering at IT Tralee, have agreed to design and manufacture a carrot washer as their major project. Working to specifications laid down by the farm manager, they intend having a machine ready for shipment at the end of their course in June 2014.

Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm in getting this project off the ground, the people of the Diocese of Swaziland really appreciate our support.

Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chair
David Frizelle, Secretary/Treasurer

ST. NICHOLAS’ NATIONAL SCHOOL, ADARE

Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service on October 11th. A special thanks to the pupils in 1st and 2nd classes, under the guidance of Mrs. Hales, for making the lovely props and to Ethan and Jesse Corrigan who acted as our two farmers. Everyone retired to the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea, some delicious cakes and the auction for charity.

Thanks to our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne, our pots are ready for Autumn planting and the Infant pupils have already planted some crocus bulbs.

We look forward to an evening of music and song on Friday 8th November when a concert will be held at 8.00pm in St. Nicholas’ Church, Adare in aid of the school. The musical entertainment will be provided by Owen Gilhooly, baritone, Helen Houlihan, soprano and Irina Dernova, pianist and organist. The pupils will also perform during the evening. Many thanks to Irina, who is a parent in school, for organising this concert.

Swimming lessons will finish up just before mid-term break and recorder classes will begin for the senior pupils in early November.

We look forward to welcoming past pupil Wendy Walker back to school in November. Wendy is in her final year in the Church of Ireland Training College and she will teach in the senior classroom for three weeks.

At the moment we are preparing for Book Week in school when we will concentrate on the joy of reading. We will have visits to the local library, a visit from a local children’s author, Dress Up Day and a poetry competition. That should keep us entertained and of course there will be lots of good books to read!

Congratulations to Megan Flood whose painting won a prize in the local Art competition to celebrate “The Gathering”. The entries
St Mary’s No2 National School, Nenagh

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.
- Robert Frost, Gathering Leaves

The last days of autumn are upon us already, hardly believable after a long, fine summer. Our first weeks back at school were exciting and jam-packed full of activities. The pristine September workbooks are well-thumbed by now; we are back in the reassuring rhythm of the classroom.

Sports coaching kicked off in September with Coach Anne Fitzpatrick’s tennis lessons, followed by soccer skills with Sylvia Gee in October.

The Harvest Service was enjoyed by all this year. The children’s enthusiasm for decorating the church windows and their enjoyment of the singing was uplifting.

The senior classes had a field trip to the County Council offices this term. We are grateful for their warm reception and informative talk about local government.

The Halloween fun has commenced at school. Fervent and meticulous planning of costumes is the talk of the playground. This historical festival informs the literature, writing, drama and play elements of our classrooms at this time of the year.

This year St. Mary’s is supporting the ‘Trick or Treat for Temple Street’ charity. In return for their small contribution, the children are allowed to wear costumes to school on the last day before midterm break. There will be storytelling and traditional Halloween festival treats on that day.

After their hard work of the past two months, we wish our students a very happy mid-term break.

St Michael’s National School, Limerick

It’s hard to believe that it’s Hallowe’en already – this half of the term has flown by amid the settling back into school routines in extra-busy classrooms for us this year. We were delighted to take part in the big Gathering to Go in Villiers. Our banner depicted the many nationalities we are privileged to have in our school.

As is custom in St Michael’s NS, we go on school tours in the autumn. Third and Fourth enjoyed an action-packed day in Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, for many their first visit. Fifth and Sixth Classes headed off to Cahir Castle and also visited the Swiss Cottage. Even with inclement weather, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Our Junior classrooms had the pleasure of baking bread, bringing the story of the Little Red Hen very much to life! In keeping with old traditions, the Juniors also learned the art of butter-making, albeit with a simple carton of cream and lots of shaking!

Our annual trips to the Granary Library for the Middle and Senior Classes, as always, were interesting and informative for all of us.

We are delighted to welcome many new parents on to our PTA committee. One of the big favourites every year is the Hallowe’en Party which the PTA very kindly organise. We, as a staff, appreciate the time and commitment which our parents give to this aspect of our school life.

Cloughjordan National School

Recent weeks have been another busy period:-

Family and class photographs were taken in school by County Photos. We were delighted to welcome back Rev. Janet White Spunner, this time with her sister, Mrs Annie Standen, and to learn more about the wonderful work of Canine Partners, a charity which assists disabled people to enjoy greater independence and a better quality of life through the help of specially trained dogs. Mrs Standen explained what she does as a “Puppy Parent” and was very grateful for the donation of used postage stamps we had collected.

It was a pleasure to welcome Mr. David Thornton, a grandparent, to speak to First and Second Class about how different life was when he was growing up. Rev. Janet, Mrs Standen and Mr Thornton very patiently answered the many question put to them by the children.

Wendy Bailey spent a lovely morning with Junior and Senior
Infants carving out a Hallowe'en pumpkin, the largest one we had ever seen (It weighed 2 stone!) What fun we had scooping out the pumpkin, while counting in English, Irish, German and Spanish. Thank you very much to Alina Taffferner who taught us how to count in German and to Tabitha Larke who taught us how to count in Spanish. The carved pumpkin was lit up and viewed by all in a darkened room. Well done to First and Second Class who won the spookiest sound competition! Wendy's pumpkin cake was enjoyed by the whole school afterwards! Thank you so much Wendy.

We were delighted to welcome Rebecca Donaldson back on work experience for two weeks from Transition Year in Borrisokane Community College. Rebecca was a tremendous help throughout the school and a pleasure to have back with us.

Marie O’Brien visited the school and gave a demonstration on filling Christmas Shoeboxes. For many years we have supported the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We are very grateful for the support of parents and children and delighted to be able to send gifts to children abroad who will receive nothing else this Christmas.

Congratulations to Robyn, Lisa, Amy, Sophia, Jake, Ross, Hugo, Tom, Laura, Laura, Ellen, Lucy, Alex, Ruán, Hugh and Ruairí who represented the school at the Primary School Cross Country Championships last month, and who all did very well on the day – and especially to Jake who came second in his race and to Jake, Ross, Hugo and Tom who came second in their team event. A great achievement. We were very grateful to Catherine O’Keeffe who very kindly helped with preparing the children for this event. Many of our senior pupils are preparing for the North Tipperary Primary Schools Track and Field Competition in the indoor stadium in Nenagh on November 6th to perform “George and The Dragon” and many of our school will visit the Haunted Hall at Kerry County Museum, On October 25th in order to get ready for Halloween, the pupils can be an excellent way of doing this. In addition, it develops a child’s self-confidence and promotes active listening.

Well done to all concerned, and in particular to our pupils and caretaker, Mr. Paul Jones, who do so much to keep our school grounds tidy all of the time.

The senior room is also busy preparing for their upcoming performance in the I.N.E.C. in association with Peace Proms, on February 9th.

INTER PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEBATING

There is much media attention regarding the importance of critical thinking skills such as analysis, flexible thinking, curiosity, open mindedness and deductive reasoning. As teachers we are also aware that pupils more clearly understand a concept if they can explain it to a peer. When arguing with a child, we find they rarely see the opposing point of view. Research clearly demonstrates that these critical thinking skills are best developed by children through explicit instruction and practice. Structured debating competitions can be an excellent way of doing this. In addition, it develops a child’s self-confidence and promotes active listening.

Last year, our school pupils participated and were very successful in this debating competition and we have begun preparing for our first competition. Our topic is “Home work is a waste of time”.

West Midlands Theatre Group will visit our school on Wed. November 6th to perform “George and The Dragon” and many of the children will get a chance to partake in the show. The show commences at 9.30 sharp so it is important that everyone arrives on time! The cost is €3 per child to be paid in advance.

We were delighted to be informed by North Tipperary County Council that we were successful in the 2013 Tidy Schools Competition and look forward to attending the awards ceremony later this month. Well done to all concerned, and in particular to our pupils and caretaker, Mr. Paul Jones, who do so much to keep our school grounds tidy all of the time.

We are very grateful to Glenn Austin who will run the Dublin City Marathon as a fundraiser for both national schools in Cloughjordan. We wish Glenn every success and welcome the support of so many to raise much-needed funds for our schools. We look forward to hosting a well deserved welcome home reception for Glenn afterwards.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

Mid Term Break is almost upon us and Kiltallagh is a hive of activity......

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The junior classroom is busy practicing their Christmas Production called ‘Away in a Manger’ – based on Niki Davies’ story about Maurice the Mule – which will take place on Fri. December 13th.

The senior room is also busy preparing for their upcoming performance in the I.N.E.C. in association with Peace Proms, on February 9th.

JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

Congratulations to all our past pupils-Ali, Emma, Ben, Lee and Luke on their recent Junior Cert Results. We wish them well as they continue their studies onto the Leaving Certificate.

KERRY FILM FESTIVAL

It’s that time of year again for the Kerry Film Festival screening of short films in Siamsa Tire, Tralee. The senior room attended the free screening – 6 short films were shown and they were asked to vote afterwards on their favourite one. Billy Keane’s comical adaptation of “Story of St. Patrick” seemed to come out No 1, closely followed by ‘Hannah Cohen’s First Holy Communion’.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

On October 25th in order to get ready for Halloween, the pupils of our school will visit the Haunted Hall at Kerry County Museum, make a frightening Halloween mask and watch a scary movie there. The pupils will be freaked out by the Ghost Trail where they won’t know who could be lurking in the nooks and crannies of the Medieval Experience... Will they be brave enough?

The cost of this is €3 per pupil (incl. bus) with the remainder of the bus expenses covered by fundraising.
All children and staff are encouraged to go in Fancy Dress to what should be a fantastic start to the holidays. The junior and senior infants will all go home at 3 p.m. that day.

On September 15th the school children participated in the annual Harvest Service in St. Michael’s Church, Killorglin, which was led by Rev. Máirt Hanly who was assisted by Dean Sandra Pragnell, Eric Champ and Barbara Irgang Buckley—our new parish reader. All children sang and read beautifully.

A charity BBQ took place following the service where the families in the community joined together and served some delicious burgers and hot dogs which were accompanied with a wide variety of salads. To finish off, there were some mouth-watering desserts and cakes. All donations went to Christian Aid.

BEGINNING OF YEAR SERVICE

On Thursday September 26th, we had our beginning of year service in Kiltallagh Church.

Visiting members of the Lutheran Community from Güntesberge joined us for this very special occasion where they had the privilege of hearing the pupils from our school reading and singing.

Rev. Máirt led our ceremony where we were all encouraged to use all our talents and to walk in the Light of Christ.

Prior to the service, the Lutheran guests visited our school where they spoke to the children about school life and life in general in Güntesberge. Following this, they enjoyed some light refreshments in the school.

We hope they enjoyed their visit to our school and appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedule to visit us.

St John's Parochial School, Tralee

Our first term has proved busy with everyone settling back into the routine of the school year.

Extra Curricular Activities: The senior room visited the All Ireland Ploughing Championships and had a wonderful day – visiting the RTE stand with an opportunity to read the weather forecast; horse ploughing and the big gentle shire horses; vintage machinery and farm equipment; watch sheep dog trials; meet Minister Jimmy Deenihan; visit the Wildlife stand – which has resulted in their starting a project on the Hen Harrier.

The children are working on the history of St. John’s Church and Tralee town; they visited the Museum in the Ashe Memorial Hall, – where they had a guided tour of Medieval Tralee with historian, Claudia; viewed battle artefacts dating to Elizabethan times; and experienced at first-hand the wonders of archaeological digs in the archaeological section of the museum.

We made an early start on “Tree Week” by visiting Tralee Town Park. We were accompanied by Michael Latchford. His expertise and knowledge of trees and nature was much appreciated. The children collected and planted horse chestnuts, acorns, beech nuts, sycamore seeds and pine cones.

The children in the junior room – under the watchful eye of June Noonan – planted spring bulbs and bedding plants in the planters outside the front door of the school. We look forward to a riot of colour over the winter and spring months!

Parents have been asked to assist in a clean-up of the school garden – the whole place needs a good autumn tidy-up! No need for any special expertise – just energy, enthusiasm, wellies and rubber gloves! The school took an active part in the Harvest Thanksgiving service in Tralee church. They presented baskets of fruit in thanksgiving for harvest and these were distributed to the residents of the Killarden House and Knocklee House. These were gratefully received. The children did the prayers and readings and also sang “Morning has Broken”.

We registered for and are taking part in the Maths Week activities which focusses on problem solving and on maths games.

There has been great Art Activity over the last few weeks. The junior room did posters for the “Gathering to Go” Day. These were on display in the main hall and some pupils took part in the procession. The circus and puppet workshops were much enjoyed. All classes have applied for the Credit Union Art Competition – some wonderful works have been produced. We wish all our students the best of luck – but point out that it isn’t always about winning – it is important to take part and to enjoy the experience also.

The Parents Association has planned some activities over the next few weeks. We will have a bag-packing day in Dunnes Stores – an important fund-raiser for the school; a Christmas Cookery Demonstration with Mark Doe from the “Just Cooking” School of Cooking is organised for November; cooking mornings for juniors and seniors – which will take place before the end of term. Knitting classes for the senior students have started and Marquita and Rhona are delighted with the progress and are about to embark on some projects at this stage.

We registered for and are taking part in the Maths Week activities which focusses on problem solving and on maths games.

The school has registered for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme, the Green Flag and also for an Active School Flag – more on these initiatives later on. Also planned for this term is a visit from the School Garda to do a talk on road safety and to present certificates to all those who are “Seat Belt Aware” and know the importance of “Being Seen to Be Safe”. A visit to Siamsa Tire for the junior room is planned for early December - they will see the play “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”.

We wish all the school community a happy and restful mid-term break! Slan go foil!
It seems no time since we welcomed everyone back to the new school term and now the Halloween midterm break is upon us – where does time go? By now all of our new pupils have settled well into the daily routine of school life. This term we have a past pupil, Robert Cronin, back with us on Fridays for transition year work experience. It’s very useful to have an extra pair of hands to help out where necessary.

Our fortnightly library visits for the pupils from first to sixth classes have recommenced on every second Wednesday afternoon (weather permitting). Our visits to the library are very worthwhile as it gives us a chance to research topics for school projects as well as to select reading material for our free time. The pupils may borrow up to three books each visit.

On Friday 18th October we had a visit from Angela, Limerick County Council’s Green Schools co-ordinator, for the transport topic. Throughout the week the pupils conducted traffic surveys on Church Street of the traffic entering and exiting the town. It was interesting to see that there was more traffic leaving the town between 10:45 and 10:55 than there was between 12:30 and 12:40. The opposite was true for the traffic entering the town. The pupils suggested that this could possibly be explained by people doing shopping after dropping their children off in the town schools. We hope to carry out the survey on various occasions throughout the year to see if this pattern holds.

There will be a fundraising cookery demonstration in Rathkeale House Hotel in early December. This demonstration is being organised jointly by our group of parishes and the school with all funds raised being split. Tickets will be €10 and will be available from the school parents and throughout the parish. Further details in next month’s Newslink.

Unlike the good harvest throughout the country our school vegetable patch didn’t do well this year, even our potatoes which have usually grown well remained very small. Our senior pupils have dug up the garden and have added compost from our compost bin. We intend to try some soft fruits next year so will soon be planting some raspberry canes, blackcurrant bushes and other fruits. Hopefully the change will be a success.

We wish our Rector and chairperson of our board of management, Rev Dr Keith Scott well in his recuperation from his recent hip operation. We are glad to hear that he is making good progress and we look forward to him making it to the top of the stairs for assembly again soon! Congratulations also to our former pupil, Robert Cronin, back with us on Fridays for transition year.

The School Choir set a wonderful atmosphere for the occasion. They sang ‘Fields of Gold’ and ‘Tears in Heaven’ conducted by Ms. S. O’Sullivan.

Headmistress, Ms Storey, in her address focused on the inclusive nature of the School and emphasised the opportunity for growth in Villiers, referring to both the School growing as an educational establishment in the broadest sense, and to the personal growth which we strive to develop in all our students.

A record number of prizes were awarded, for top academic achievers, as well as for those who made an outstanding contribution to Villiers in the 2012–2013 year. A large number of Transition Year students received their Gaisce Awards, and for the first time, the Governor’s Award was presented to our Form One students. The star of the day was Laura Cooke who achieved an outstanding eleven As in her Junior Certificate examinations.

Prizes of particular interest included:

- Special Academic Achievement: Sophie Liburn, Thomas Joyce.
- Eileen Fogarty Memorial Prize: Jonathan Cooke, Jessica Egbulam, Grace Langley, Ian Armitage, Hazel McMahon
- Young Entrepreneur Award: Sinead McNulty, Robyn Sproule, Sarah O’Neill.
- Pricewaterhouse Cooper Prize: Calum Morrow, Lucy Gardiner, Laura Cooke, Orla Grace, Andrew Tutty, Meadbh Barry
- Vere Wynn Jones Award: David Cardy
- Forgotten Brothers Award: Caoimhe Glieson
- Villiers Past Pupil Association Prize: Laura Cooke
- Barbara Hartigan Award: Kerrie Ahern
- Schutz Cup: Andrea Brislane
- P.T.A. Trophy: Henry Cooke
- O’Mahony Prize: Richard Adepoju
- Sirr Trophy: Emily Howes

VILLIERS SCHOOL

TY COMMUNITY GROUP

The new TY community group led by Mr McNair has taken on the challenge of raising awareness of mental health in the Villiers community and hope to achieve the Amber flag which symbolises that the school has created an ethos of positive mental health. The eager group of fourteen have already begun making small changes to add to the happiness of Villiers School, for example, the school is now adorned with ‘positive thought for the week’ quotes for example last week’s was ‘everyone wants happiness, no one wants pain, but you can’t have a rainbow without a little rain’.

SENIOR BOYS ALL IRELAND SCHOOLS HOCKEY

We were delighted on 25-28 Oct to again qualify from Munster in this year’s upcoming tournament as second seeds, by overcoming Ashton and Newtown schools, drawing with Midleton College and being narrowly beaten by Bandon Grammar.

The tournament is being hosted by St.Andrew’s College, Blackrock, Dublin and we are pooled with Mount Temple School, Cookstown Academy and Wallace High School.

Best of luck to our boys as they mix it with the best.

MUNSTER SCHOOLS GIRLS HOCKEY

Congratulations to both Holly Redden and Kate Healy who represented Villiers at Munster Schools u18 level in the inter-provincial tournament in Cork on 18-19 Oct.

Holly who plays in the forward line scored against South East. The decider came down to Sunday’s winner takes all - Munster v Leinster, with Leinster taking the honours.

Well done to both Holly and Kate who did themselves and the school proud.

PRIZE DAY

Our annual School Prize Day was on held the 3rd of October 2013. This is an important event in the School calendar where we mark the achievements of some of our students in the last year. We were joined by Limerick Mayor, Kathleen Leddin and by representatives of the Boards of Governors and Management, as well as by many, many proud parents.

This year’s Guest of Honour was Maeve Stone – a past pupil, who graduated from Villiers to Trinity College Dublin in 1995, where she studied English and Theatre. Since then she has written and directed many plays and in 2012 she became the prestigious Resident Director with the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Maeve gave an inspiring speech, which prompted a standing ovation, before being inaugurated in the Villiers Roll of Honour.

The School Choir set a wonderful atmosphere for the occasion. They sang ‘Fields of Gold’ and ‘Tears in Heaven’ conducted by Ms. S. O’Sullivan.

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- Villiers Past Pupil Association Prize: Laura Cooke
- Barbara Hartigan Award: Kerrie Ahern
- Schutz Cup: Andrea Brislane
- P.T.A. Trophy: Henry Cooke
- O’Mahony Prize: Richard Adepoju
- Sirr Trophy: Emily Howes
A lot of people in Ireland might self-define with these words today. The feeling that it isn’t worth getting out of bed each morning can touch anyone for a variety of reasons. Yet, it’s in our rural areas that the problem seems so acute. Healthy, happy people doing the work they love best are becoming increasingly unable to cope with the demands of farming in modern Ireland.

To see what might help with this problem, the Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Committee for Social Affairs sponsored a conference: Caring for Rural Communities in Times of Change: A Church of Ireland Response on Saturday, 12 October 2013 at Horse and Jockey, Co. Tipperary. About 80 people from all over Ireland were there, including me and some others from our Diocese.

The speakers came from a wide range of backgrounds to discuss various aspects of issues affecting rural communities: Mairead Lavery – Irish Farmers’ Journal, editor of Irish Country Living, Kieran Stafford – National Vice-President, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Louise Ryan – Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Training Officer for Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary, Kathleen Lynch TD – Minister of State for Disability, Equality and Mental Health, Charles Smith, Chief Executive, Farming Community Network UK, John Evoy, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Men’s Sheds Association.

**RURAL CHALLENGES**

Some of these may have been documented in the media but are worth repeating. Chief among them is the isolation of farming. The creameries, the marts in the town centres, the local post offices, shops, Garda stations and pubs - all the former places of social interaction have disappeared or changed dramatically. Mechanisation has been both a blessing and a curse; increased productivity vs. less socialisation with others working on the farm. Young people are leaving in droves because they can’t find the work that will enable them to stay and farm at least part time to help the family. A changing Rural Transport Scheme means some services might not be available. And the lack of fast, reliable broadband everywhere in Ireland is a problem now and will become more so as both the UK and Irish governments use electronic funds transfer instead of paper in the post.

Another issue is the changed nature of farming itself. Mairead Lavery talked about the surveys and subsequent actions of the Irish Farmers Journal. Many farmers understand good management – how to do things right, but many don’t know good business – how to do the right things. And sadly, suicide is never very far from the discussion. It can be the result of any or all of the issues noted above. Most people who commit suicide have multiple stressors, nobody to talk to about it, and finally the balance is tipped.
WHAT CAN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND DO TO HELP?

Plenty, if we are willing to accept the challenge. Individually, know your neighbours. Perform random acts of kindness. You may be the only person someone will speak to in a day. Or a week. Sometimes all somebody in distress needs is to know you are there and you will be there tomorrow or the next week. Encourage development of a men’s shed in your area. If there is one, find out more about it - someone you know may need it. (Maybe YOU.) Get on the Irish Farmers Journal website and find out more about Operation Cash flow. If you don’t need it, do you know someone who might? Look at the websites listed on the right. Find out about what is available right now that might help you or someone you know.

At the parish or diocesan level we could produce flyers with helpful information in them for distribution in our churches and maybe our local convenience stores. Put useful information in our publications and on our websites. At a broader level, study the model provided by the Farming Community Network in England and Wales. It is mostly made up of 320 volunteers, many of them farmers, and seeks as an organisation to walk alongside those in trouble until they can see a way out for themselves. If the Church of Ireland decided to use this as a framework for a similar programme in Ireland, it could provide a resource for people in the rural community that is missing right now.

We must thank the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory Committee for Social Affairs and Bishop Michael Burrows for this important conference and for inviting the rest of us. Perhaps we should have a similar Committee in our Diocese. Special thanks to Rev Ian Poulton for co-ordinating everything from an excellent range of speakers to our soup and sandwiches lunch. Well done to all involved on the day!

If you would like to know more, do get in touch with me on 067 24987 or email martyts@iol.ie.

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING TO HELP

These are all websites from existing programmes; not all are in Ireland and not all target rural topics uniquely.

- www.farmersjournal.ie/farming/money/ Operation Cash flow set up by Irish Farmers Journal to help farm families with finance
- http://agriaware.ie/ Agri Aware is an educational program about agricultural issues
- www.nrn.ie/the-national-rural-network for LEADER funding
- www.svp.ie/Home.aspx for St Vincent de Paul to ask for or offer help
- www.ruraltransportnetwork.ie/
- www.farmassist.ifarm.ie/ is a means-tested income support scheme for farmers
- www.nosp.ie/safetalk.pdf how to sign up for suicide awareness training
- www.nosp.ie/html/training.html for ASSIST suicide prevention training
- www.pienda.ie/ for suicide and self-harm crisis centre
- www.samaritans.org/ for emotional support to anyone unable to cope
- www.aware.ie/ for people coping with depression
- www.headstrong.ie/ to assist with mental health in young people
- www.fcn.org.uk/ the Farming Community Network support for farmers in the UK
- www.menssheds.ie/ where men gather to do whatever interests them

Rev Susan Watterson and her family at her institution as Rector of Tralee & Dingle Unions on Saturday 5th October 2013

Building Blocks Children’s Ministry Conference (Dublin)

This conference will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2013 in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin, between 9:30am and 4pm. The objective is to support those working with children and young people in their local church, community or school and to encourage others to be involved in this vital ministry. It is organised by children’s ministry leaders from a broad spectrum of Christian Churches and organisations throughout Ireland.

For further information contact Anne Taylor on 01 490 5543, or email dublin@buildingblocks.ie.
It is easy for Church of Ireland folk to feel like a small and isolated community when we meet in our own churches on Sundays in small numbers. But the more than 400 of all ages who travelled to Villiers School on 29th September from every corner of our United Dioceses had a very different experience. To be part of a crowd of faithful Christians coming together as one large family is immensely powerful and inspiring – it leaves no room to be despondent about our future.

On arrival we found on our seats specially produced red scarves emblazoned with the ‘Gathering to Go’ logo and the diocesan seal, one for everyone present. We wore them throughout the day, and I know many have found a new home in our churches – an inspired idea.

The formalities began with a joyful parade to present banners from branches of Boys’ Brigade, GFS, Mothers Union, etc, and colourful posters from parishes and schools, which were displayed around the walls. Bishop Trevor gave a short welcoming address (see box), introducing the Gathering to Go theme.

We shared in the first part of the Holy Communion liturgy, and sung lustily as Peter Barley led on keyboard. Rather than a sermon we were treated to video and verbal presentations from each parish – it is amazing how much is being done everywhere to build the Kingdom!

It was then time for lunch – the value and quality of the lunch provided by the Villiers kitchens was much appreciated by those who booked in time. After lunch all participants had a choice of workshops to attend, which were all most enjoyable.

Finally we reassembled as a body for the rest of the Holy Communion liturgy, starting with the Offertory. The Holy Table was beautifully dressed. Clergy and Readers robed and assisted with administration. And we concluded with the rousing hymn ‘Go forth and tell’, during which Bishop Trevor encouraged us to brandish the red scarves as if we were Liverpool fans – what a wonderful way to finish a memorable day.

Everyone to whom this reporter has talked has said how successful the day was, despite minor problems with technology (see Peter Keane’s Letter to the Editor). All those involved in organising the day deserve our thanks, most particularly Rev Lesley Robinson, who led the organising committee – she insisted she must return to celebrate the Gathering with us when she accepted her new appointment to Clontarf!

Bishop Trevor’s Address of Welcome

This Gathering is an excuse to get together for a hooly to celebrate who we are, all together as United Dioceses.

We are a family, God’s family. That isn’t in the first place something that we have created by ourselves. It is God’s gift that we have been adopted in His family. So we have come together to celebrate what a wonderful gift that is. Like any family if you don’t meet together you are really missing out on an important part of being a family.

So the Gathering theme is very appropriate for us. But our theme is more than just a gathering. It is Gathering to Go. Life depends on our breathing. Breathing depends on breathing in, and breathing out. We breathe in God’s Spirit, God’s love, as we meet together in different ways, mainly in our worship Sunday by Sunday, especially in the Eucharist we share. But then as we leave and return to the many different activities of our lives, our work, our family, our neighbours our communities, we breathe out God’s love, as we become channels through which God continues his loving work in his world.

That is why our day together is moulded around Holy Communion. We only exist because of God’s love for us. One of the great things about being God’s family is the relatives we have. We are a companion Church with the Protestant Church in Anhalt in Germany. At the moment parishioners from the parish of Güntesberge are visiting their partner parish of Killorglin and Castlemaine (Kilcolman as we call it). So we give a big welcome to Rev Michael Leban his wife and members of his Church family in Güntesberge. We also welcome Rev Anke Dittrich from Harsgerode, who heads up the partnership. Her parish is linked with Shinrone, and the two parishes regularly visit each other.
Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Having just returned from Gathering to Go, I write in praise of every part of the programme; the inspired decision to subsidise transport, which encouraged people to arrive together in Parish or Union-centred groups having already ‘tuned in’ to the mood of the day; the interesting and constructive workshops and children’s activities; right through to the excellent atmosphere, both Spiritual and social, of the closing Communion service.

My only criticism is of the unfortunate amplification system, the vagaries of which severely damaged the efforts of those who had obviously spent many hours working on their presentations and rendered the music for the hymns alternately inaudible and deafening.

In all other things the planners, organisers and stewards deserve our unstinting praise and I, for one, would hope that there will be many more events like this in years to come.

Yours etc.,
Peter Keane, Tralee & Dingle Union
In the modern world many people feel overburdened by work, and one often hears people say that they are stressed by work. Benedict in his rule says there is a link between work and prayer; and sees no contradiction between work and prayer. Work is to help us to pray well - and prayer is to help us to work well. And in the end if rightly understood, work should itself become prayer. It may be when we begin to view it through this lens that the stress will disappear.

Many people never stop working because they see it as too important. Yet work is not our reason for being, rather it is a way of supporting yourself. People buy into this way of thinking and, they ponder over whether they have done everything correctly, whether they have forgotten anything, what others would say, whether they would get a good evaluation and so on. These thoughts can cramp us internally, put crushing demands on us, and are the source of the stress that people complain about. In prayer we let go of work. We have tried our best while working, but now we leave it to God to make something of it.

Prayer frees us from too much concern about our work. It frees us to live entirely in the present, to wholly and completely be present to our work; but then to put aside our work so that it no longer occupies us internally. Some people leave their desk at 5 o’clock physically, but not mentally.

MOTIVES

Prayer also clarifies the motives that impel us to work. Many of the problems with our work arise from the fact that we have not clarified our motives. Feelings of displeasure, feelings of being exploited and overloaded, have their roots in unclarified motives. When we are able to bare these feelings before God in prayer we will discover what is wrong with us, where we are refusing to accept something God is offering us. We will sometime realize that we do not want to let ourselves be challenged by God. As is often the case we look for the fault with others before turning toward ourselves. We cannot often do much about others, but we can certainly begin to change by looking at ourselves.

Instead we compare ourselves to others and feel disadvantaged instead of surrendering ourselves to what God has planned for us. Benedict puts great value on working for pure motives. For him, motivation for work is more important than success. So Benedict writes in Rule 57: ‘If there are artisans in the monastery, they are to practice their craft with humility, but only with the abbot’s permission. If one of them become puffed up by his skillfulness in his craft, and feels that he is conferring something on the monastery, he is to be removed from practicing his craft and not allowed to resume it unless, after manifesting his humility, he is so ordered by the abbot.’

We can think of people in our churches who think they are the only one who can do a job etc. Which prompts the question, why is it that they want the job? What are their motives?
DETACHMENT

Work is only worship if I am not attached to it - if I do not use it for my own self satisfaction or to obtain public approval. Benedict seeks to maintain the same attitude in work as in prayer. We often want to feed our own ego and yet our Christian calling should motivate us to act with humility and a readiness to surrender to God's will and to serve God not ourselves. Work as Benedict understands it, demands self renunciation, and only when it is done out of selfless love does it glorify God, just as prayer does.

In Benedict’s prologue he writes, ‘First of all, everytime you begin a new work you must pray to him most earnestly to bring it to perfection.’ Thus our work and every day activity is rooted in the presence of God. Thus the dirty dishes washed well in the presence of God also give glory to God. The Benedictine spirit of work is to humble oneself to do the ordinary, never to assume that one is above such things, or above the people that do such things.

Most of our difficulties in our work situations come from our co-workers. It may be that one is too slow or has a hard time understanding, another gets on our nerves by talking constantly. Here prayer can help you arrive at a more positive attitude to co-workers. When we pray for them, give thanks for them, we will spread a more humane work atmosphere around us, and we ourselves will get along better with our fellow human beings. We also need to pray for change within ourselves to be accepting of others.

UNITY OF WORK AND PRAYER

Ultimately Benedict sees prayer and work as a unity, especially because of his idea of the presence of God. Work itself becomes prayer in the presence of God. When I work in the presence of God, I respond to God in my actions. Then you can give yourself entirely to work without being divided in your head. The awareness of the presence of God shapes the way I work. Those who work hastily and carelessly, trying to finish everything as quickly as possible, are constantly slipping out of the presence of God. Working in the presence of God requires that you work with inner peace, and without haste, out of your own centre, collected, and giving yourself entirely to the work you are doing. We treat everything then with reverence. Everything we do then becomes sacred.

When we have a sense of God's presence in all that we do it will help us treat the world with reverence and not destroy the environment. We are the co-workers with God in caring for our environment in order to become good stewards of that which is placed in our care. It is about reverence for things and praise of the Creator of all things. Work must not destroy the world - instead it must treat it in such a way that it reflects and praises the Creator. We need to regard the world not as our property but something entrusted to us by God.

Benedict’s joining of work and prayer is crucially important, especially for people today. We cannot just withdraw from the work world, but work is more than just a necessary evil without which we could not earn our living. When we join work and prayer, then work will become a place of spiritual life, a place that does not separate us from God, but one in which we can practice the right attitude to God in things like obedience, patience, confidence, trust, selflessness, love and thankfulness.

When we work out of prayer we will still get tired but not exhausted. It is a good tiredness. We have the feeling of having done something for God and other people, and hopefully the world will be a better place because of it. Exhaustion on the other hand creates emptiness, dissatisfaction, restlessness.

In prayer we come into contact with the inner source of the Holy Spirit, which is inexhaustible because it comes forth from God. Further reading: Benedict of Nursia, by Anselm Grun, Liturgical Press, 2006; Spirituality for Everyday Living, by Brian C Taylor, Liturgical Press
An Ecumenical Pilgrim Fellowship is taking shape

by Joc Sanders, Nenagh Union

Nineteen Christians from different church traditions came together in Nenagh on Sunday 6th October to discuss forming an ecumenical Pilgrim Fellowship in the West of Ireland. We were a mixed bunch – men and women, Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic and Methodist, ordained and lay.

The afternoon began with Ray Simpson, Founding Guardian of the international Community of Aidan & Hilda from Lindisfarne, talking about his vision of Cities of God. We then shared with each other in a marvellously open way our personal visions for what our Pilgrim Fellowship might be. We recorded key points on flipcharts, rated those we felt most important, and reviewed the results. Based on this work we have settled on the following common vision for our Pilgrim Fellowship in the West of Ireland:

1) Welcome Christians of all traditions to join us as pilgrims;
2) Share each other’s traditions and listen to each other as we travel together on the Way;
3) As we travel together we seek to:
   • Participate in what God is doing;
   • Explore how Christ is working in the world;
   • Listen for the promptings of the Holy Spirit;
   • Root ourselves in Gospel and scripture;
   • Seek inspiration from our Celtic Christian spiritual heritage;
   • Re-engage with and love God’s Creation.
4) Return to our home traditions and churches with the gifts we receive from one another.

We also agreed to hold an ecumenical service of prayer in St Brendan’s Cathedral Clonfert, on Saturday 2nd November, which will have happened by the time you read this. We are grateful to the Church of Ireland parish for agreeing to welcome us to their beautiful cathedral.

The afternoon continued with refreshments kindly provided by Marie Rowley-Brooke, and concluded with lovely evening worship in St Mary’s Church led by Ray Simpson.

We intend to organise a programme of future activities to realise our pilgrim vision. If you would like to join the Fellowship, or to receive emails about future activities, please contact Joc on 087 699 6775, email joc_sanders@iol.ie.

We envision that in our Pilgrim Fellowship we will:
1) Welcome Christians of all traditions to join us as pilgrims;
2) Share each other’s traditions and listen to each other as we travel together on the Way;
3) As we travel together we seek to:
   • Participate in what God is doing;
   • Explore how Christ is working in the world;
   • Listen for the promptings of the Holy Spirit;
   • Root ourselves in Gospel and scripture;
   • Seek inspiration from our Celtic Christian spiritual heritage;
   • Re-engage with and love God’s Creation.
4) Return to our home traditions and churches with the gifts we receive from one another.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes
Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.
Vacant
Priest in Charge: Canon Stephen Neill
Tel: 0505 42183
Mob: 087 232 8172
Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

PRIEST IN CHARGE
Following the departure of Revd. Stan Evans, Bishop Trevor has asked Revd. Canon Stephen Neill to act as priest in charge until the new Dean is appointed. Revd. Stephen is remaining at his parish of Borrisokane and Cloughjordan, so Revd. Lucy will continue to be the first point of contact as before.

CONGRATULATIONS
Peter Lefroy and Cara Tyrell were married in wonderful July sunshine, celebrating the occasion with a blessing ceremony in the beautiful chapel at Markree Castle, Co. Sligo, conducted by the bridegroom’s father, John Jefroy (Diocesan Lay-Reader, Killaloe). The couple were supported by Orla Delaney (bridesmaid), Peter’s brother David (bestman) and George Tottenham (groom’s man), as well as family and friends, many of whom had travelled long distances to be there, from as far afield as France, America, Bahrain and Australia – a real gathering! We wish Peter and Cara every happiness – and ‘fair winds’ as they embark on their new voyage together.

To Diana Whitehead on the birth of her second grandson.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Many thanks to all who decorated the Cathedral so beautifully for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 13th October and also to those who provided such a lovely tea after the service in the Council Chamber.

FORMER PARISHIONERS
How nice it was to have Bill and Velma Brown join us for worship while they were on holiday back in Killaloe, and to see Sandra Kiersley also.

Judy Dennison-Edson: In memory of Judy, who died earlier this year, a plaque was placed on a piano that she had donated to the Cathedral.
Pact celebrates the Agency’s 60th Anniversary

This year Pact has been holding a series of celebratory events as it is now 60 years from when the agency was first established as the ‘Protestant Adoption Society’. These began with a morning in June to reflect on the journey of adoption over the years and the changes in our practice. Speakers included past Chairs and some personal stories from those who have benefited from our services. In September, we had an extremely enjoyable evening ‘Gathering’ for our adoptive parents which was hosted by Andrew and Delyth Parkes at their beautiful home and garden in Dundrum. Our final celebration will be ‘Pact’s Birthday Party’ which will be a children’s event in November.

We are very grateful to all those from the Protestant community who have supported us over the years. We now need this support more than ever as we have recently had to redefine our services in accordance with new legislation and face a very unpredictable financial future. Having built up a wealth of expertise it is our hope is that we can continue our work for many more years to come.

Pact staff - facing an unpredictable financial future due to new legislation

Pact is an accredited agency under the 2010 Adoption Act to provide the following services:

- Intercountry Adoption Assessment Service
- Post Placement Report Service for Intercountry Adoption
- Domestic Adoption Assessment Service
- Post Adoption Service for domestic Adoption
- A Pre-Adoption Foster-Care Service

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

SYMPATHY
To the family of Hector Myles Newenham, who died in Milford Care Centre 28th September. Hector’s funeral reception service was held in All Saints Church, Castleconnell on Monday 30th September and funeral service the next day, followed by burial in adjoining cemetery beside his parents.

To Arabella Scanlan, on the death of her mother Paula in South Africa, and her father a few days later in England. Paula and Tom (Arabella’s stepfather) lived for many years in Killaloe and were dedicated parishioners of the Cathedral before moving to South Africa. We send our love and prayers to Tom, Arabella and Thomas.

COMMUNITY PROJECT
What a lovely sight it has been to see sunflowers dancing in the sun in the Deanery field - many thanks to all who participated in this venture.

Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha
Rector: Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057-912-0021 Mob: 087-786-5234
Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill
Kligolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057-913-5341 Mob: 087-948-4402
Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

BIRR SERVICE TIMES
A reminder that the regular Sunday services in Birr will be starting at 11:30 am until the time change in the spring.
PASTORAL

Barbara Haslam is in hospital at this writing. We keep her in our prayers, that she may have a speedy recovery. We continue to remember all those in our parish community who are ill, elderly, or infirm.

IRISH SCHOOL OF ECUMENICS

We were delighted to be able to have yet another series of ecumenical discussion evenings with speakers from the Irish School of Ecumenics. The theme this autumn was ‘justice’, and the speakers each had a different aspect to consider. Many thanks to them, to all who were able to be with us, and to the Methodist Church in Birr for hosting it in a warm and comfortable environment.

HARVEST SERVICES

By the time this appears, all our Harvest Thanksgiving services will be over. Thanks to all our preachers this year: the Revd Ruth Elmes (daughter of our former Rector, Archdeacon Donald Keegan), who preached in Birr; the Revd Janet White Spunner, in Lorrha; Canon Ian Poulton, from Clonenagh (Mountrath), in Dorrha, and Canon Stephen Neill, in Lacken. Many thanks as well to those who looked after decorating the churches and providing refreshments. Good music, thoughtful sermons, and lovely decorations made for a Harvest season that was most enjoyable.

OXMANTOWN SCHOOL

Our new classroom is at long last finished, and resounding to the voices of the Junior and Senior Infants. The classroom, the new toilet block, and the glassed-in link that connects them to the rest of the school are all most attractive and well-designed. We will be organising an official opening at some time in the near future.

BIRR SLECT VESTRY

There will be a Birr Select Vestry meeting on Wednesday, 6th November, at 8.00 pm in St Brendan’s Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are delighted to have two more Sunday School teachers in Birr Parish joining our team to help with the growing number of children. We are continuing to think about what we can do if and when we are too many for the Vestry upstairs. Our Family Services continue on the second Sunday of each month, with ‘Perplex the Preacher’, and refreshments following the service.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Ven. Wayne Carney

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Tel: 057 – 9120021 Mob: 087 – 7865234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

Good attendance figures, tastefully decorated churches, impressive sermons, familiar harvest hymns which never lose their appeal and good suppers were once again the main characteristics of the harvest services in all the churches in our Group. Sermons by Rev. Darren McCallig (Trinity College, Dublin) in Roscrea, Mrs Margaret Stephens (Ferns Diocese) in Corbally and Fr. Seamus Bohan, P.P. (Tynagh) in Bourney were inspiring and memorable. Roscrea’s informative window decorations, Corbally’s farmyard scene and Bourney’s vegetable themed East Window were all eye-catchers. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the occasions.

INSTITUTION

Almost, fifty Roscrea people made their way to Mount Temple Comprehensive School, some by bus and others by car to attend Rev. Lesley’s institution. The Archbishop of Dublin presided, and Fr. Tom Corbett, P.P. Roscrea preached. Rev. Brian Griffin, Methodist Minister and Adrian Hewson were the other Roscrea representatives in robes. The ‘welcome’ speeches at the happy reception which followed the service gave us a taste of the life ahead for Lesley in Clontarf and all wished her well and so do we.

GATHERING TO GO

Each Parish in the Group was represented at the event in Villiers School, G.F.S., M.U., B.B., School and parish banners were carried in procession. Our Healer Prayer Group was the focus of our parish presentation and Adrian Hewson read a prayer. It was good to see Rev. Lesley back looking none the worse after her first week in Clontarf. All present appreciated the hard work of the organizing team and we compliment them.

VISITATION

Due to the vacancy, a meeting of The Ministry and Resources Committee was held in Corbally. Following a celebration of The Holy Communion by the Archdeacon, the meeting was held in the Parish Hall. Discussion was frank but positive and helpful suggestions made. Sincerest thanks to all who provided refreshments and prepared the venue at such short notice.

SICK LIST

The list is long but overall the news is encouraging. Bert Wallace, May Hamilton, Alice St. Leger, Betty Benn and Eric Newman have all returned from hospital, while Cecil Drought is being a ‘patient’ patient as he recovers from an unfortunate accident and Averil Doughan is progressing in St. Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin. We wish Des Young well and hope his hospital stay will be short, while George Stanley is not so well at home. Our Healer Prayer Group is both an asset and a comfort in parochial life.

SYMPATHY

Our sincerest sympathy to Wilfred Moloney on the passing of his niece in England and to Glen Carter on the passing of his uncle in Co. Sligo.

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

All are in full swing: The Mothers’ Union opening Service was well attended and good plans were made for the season ahead, GFS are planning well also, while BB meetings are being held in the Methodist Hall on every second Friday night – contact Hilda Mooney. This year’s opening meeting of Youth Club attracted 27 members. Success to them all.

CONGRATULATIONS

We conclude on a positive note with many congratulations to Heather Evans, Vivienne Wallace and their band of helpers on raising €3,000 in their ‘Good as New’ shop. The Shoe Box Appeal and Parish Funds benefitted, to St. Cronan’s N.S. on raising €277 for North Tipperary Hospice from their coffee morning, to Ed Clarke and May Chambers (a parishioner in Patterson’s Nursing Home) on celebrating their 90th birthdays and to other parishioners on celebrating ‘milestone’ birthdays, however we do not mention names or ages under 80, to Stephanie Draper on winning the ‘Dr. Michael Kennedy Award’ for Primary Schools in Munster for her painting of the River Bunnow and its wildlife in Roscrea, to Mary Graham on becoming a grandmother and to Gary Greene on his recent substantial Lotto win. We want to hear more news like this!

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.

Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067-32598 Mob: 085-1474792

Email: revdmarie@eircom.net

There’ll be many reports I’m sure in the Newslink covering the wonderful G2G6 event – we were delighted to have 40 parishioners from the Nenagh Union attend, representing our parish, our school, Boys’ Brigade and GFS. Thanks are due to Audrey Clarke Gordon and Laura Clarke who made up our colourful Nenagh Union poster – this
Beautiful floral and vegetable/fruit decorations adorned St Mary’s and Killodiernan for their Harvest Festivals, accompanied by lovely refreshments and great hospitality. We welcomed Dean Sandra and Rev’d Gary respectively as guest preachers. Our school also had its own Harvest Thanksgiving in St Mary’s Church, and decorated three of the windows beautifully. The pupils also read the lessons and led the thanksgiving and intercessory prayers – it’s lovely to be able to offer the opportunity for our children to take an active part in worship, and hopefully establish a practice that they will want to continue in adult life.

Junior Choir has had another two boys join recently – hey lads, it’s cool to sing! We’re all working hard towards presenting Jonah-Man-Jazz in our November Family Worship.

Our October Family Worship focussed on Noah’s Ark, and the Ark in St Mary’s Church is filling up with “all creatures great and small”.

Young Artists bring their animals in to Arc created by Ellen Langley

It is the conference/seminar season with a vengeance! Over the past three weeks there’s been the Cashel and Ossory Diocesan Conference ‘Caring for Rural Communities in a Time of Change: A Church of Ireland response’, and the Church of Ireland seminar ‘Building the Common Household: Gender and InterFaith Dialogue’, held in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, in conjunction with the Mid-West Interfaith Network. There was also the Diocesan Clergy Conference where we clergy explored the sacred reading of Scripture (also known as lectio divina) under the guidance of a Benedictine monk from Rostrevor. It’s hoped that we will be able to share the insights gained through this exploration with our parishioners during the Lenten period in 2014.

All these gatherings have the same basis: looking outwards to see how we can come alongside our neighbours and hopefully through careful listening and perception to bring our abilities and love to bear on their needs, learn more about each other, be of assistance, and thereby bring the Good News of God’s Kingdom a little closer. This is also exactly what is happening when you fill pencil cases for the school children in Swaziland, or look out those no longer used wool or cotton sewing ‘notions’ for the ‘lendwithcare’ project, or get involved with whatever fundraising project you might be involved with in your parish that has as its purpose the helping of neighbours near or far. So all in all it’s a busy time – as I often remark, being a Christian involves lots of hard work!

Many congratulations to Rev’d Jane Galbraith on her appointment as Associate Priest to the Tralee Union - we wish her every happiness and blessing in this new post. Also many congratulations to Suzanne and Rob Hendy, on the safe arrival of twin daughters on 17th October – two grand-daughters for Selina and Arthur Powell; and to Laura and Caleb Clarke on the safe arrival daughter Amy on 22nd October.

We pray for a speedy return to health for Joan Hodgins and Clodagh Allman-Smith who have both had a spell in hospital recently.
Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Rector: Canon Stephen Neill
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
Tel/Fax: 0505 – 42183 Mob: 087 – 2328872
Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website: www.modreeny.com
Stephen’s blog: www.paddyanglican.com

HARVESTS
The harvest season is almost over and it has been so good to celebrate this year. After two very difficult years for those of our parishioners who make their living on the land the weather finally picked up and after a time of shortage and suffering we have been able to sing those great hymns of harvest with joy and thanksgiving for the abundance of the past Summer.

Cloughjordan got the ball rolling this year with a family harvest thanksgiving in which the young people played a large part. The church was as always beautifully decorated. The preacher was Rev’d Susan Green, chaplain to Kilkenny College where some of our parish families attend. Susan, using the illustration of a shop bought frozen Pizza reminded us that what we bought locally had in fact travelled thousands of miles to get to our tables when we consider all the ingredients involved and the diverse parts of the world from where they are sourced. The children helped Susan in illustrating the importance of shopping local and supporting sustainable and fair trade food suppliers. One lucky girl won the Pizza which I hope she cooked promptly as it was well defrosted by the end of the service. (I have heard no reports of ill effects – thankfully)

In Borrisnafarney we heard from the Rev’d Rosemary Lindsay of the Methodist Church in Birr, Athlone & Tullamore who shared her childhood memories of harvest in England and was especially impressed by the beautiful autumnal decorations in the church. She gave us some practical ideas for our observation of harvest next year and left us feeling inspired by her words. Rosemary is to retire next year so it was good to catch her before she left.

At the time of writing these notes there are still three harvests to take place in the Group; Archdeacon Wayne Carney is to preach in Borrisokane, The Rev’d Denis Sandes, new parishioner in Cloughjordan and the Rev’d Stan Evan’s predecessor in Clifden will preach in Ballingarry and finally Rev’d Gary Paulsen will preach in Templeharry as part of the Moneygall Gathering Festival. All these events are now over and we thank all our preachers, organists, readers, children, tea-providers, church-decorators and all who helped to make this such a time of prayerful thanksgiving.

WEDDING BELLS
John Harding, son of Norman & Veronica Harding of Ballylina, Borrisokane & Yvonne Keohane were married in Ballygarvan, Co. Cork on Friday 11th October and had their reception in Clonakilty.

Congratulations to all the GFS girls and their leaders for what was a most encouraging Enrolment Service in Cloughjordan on Sunday 13th October. Girls were admitted as Candidate, Junior & full members as well as the commissioning of a new Junior helper.

The girls were turned out beautifully in their uniforms and participated very well in the service which they led almost in its entirety.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Rev. Michael Johnston
St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 0505–47164 Mob: 086–6086567
Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org
Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

‘GATHERING TO GO’
The diocesan ‘Gathering to Go’ day was a wonderful event, enjoyed by a quite a number of parishioners from the Group. A marvellous time of worship, with presentations from around the dioceses and further afield, was followed by a choice of very interesting workshops, with the day concluding by gathering for worship once again. Those who weren’t there missed a great day of fellowship and I would encourage everyone to attend the next.

MOTHERS’ UNION SERVICE
The opening service for this year’s Mothers’ Union programme took place on Thursday 10th October in St Mary’s, Shinrone. This was followed by the opening meeting and refreshments in Cloughmoyle Schoolhouse, where the year’s events were planned out. New members are always welcome!

CHARITY CYCLE FOR JACK & JILL FOUNDATION
Four young parishioners, Daniel Benn, Ben Atkinson, Adam Stanley & Alex Mooney, undertook a sponsored 5km Cycle with some school friends for the Jack and Jill Foundation on Sat 2nd Nov. The initiative and planning all came from the boys themselves on the school bus! They were very busy filling sponsorship cards and would still appreciate any support for this wonderful cause. Thank you!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES
At the time of writing three of our Harvest Thanksgiving Services have taken place – Shinrone on 13th October where the preacher was the Rev’d Jane Galbraith, Kinnitty on 18th October where the preacher was Rev’d Jane Galbraith, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin on 20th October where the preacher was Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke. All were wonderful services, with beautifully decorated churches, inspiring preaching and delicious refreshments afterwards! Many thanks to all who made them possible. Still to come is Aghancon on 27th October with Canon Ian Poulton preaching.

ETTAGH GRAVEYARD COMMITTEE
A cross community committee has been formed to steer the future repair and upkeep of Ettagh Church of Ireland graveyard. Further public meetings will be held in the future and any members of Shinrone or Aghancon parishes who would like to be involved can contact Eric Stanley, Cyril Stanley or Leslie Blackwell for further information.

BIRR HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING
A coffee morning in aid of Birr Hospice was held in Cloughmoyle Schoolhouse, Shinrone, on Thursday 24 October. Thank you to Dick Abraham for organising this and to all who supported.

HARVEST FAYRE
A Harvest Fayre was held on Friday 25th October in Aghancon Hall, including an auction and Sale, with some entertainment for children, sale of Bric/Brac, cakes, produce, raffle, and many other items. Many thanks to all who organised and supported the event.
HOLY MATRIMONY

Congratulations to Dermot Hanniffy and Emily Meredith who were married in St Mary’s, Shinrone on Saturday 12th October in a wonderful service. We wish them a very happy life together!

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon
Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna
The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040
Email: bobhanna@eircom.net
Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

CENSUS

The census of parishioners mentioned in last month’s NEWSLINK takes place over Sundays November 3, 17 and 24th. Details in Church.

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Day falls on Sunday this year. Thus the Co Clare War Dead Memorial Service takes place in Ennis Cathedral on Monday 11th, 7.30pm. Details to be announced.

TORCHLIGHT WALK

Parishioners – able bodied – have the chance to host a Midnight Festival of Light for the town of Ennis on Friday November 22nd. St Columba’s will be bonfire lit outside and candlelit inside for the climax to a Silent Meditation, processing through the town by torchlight and involving disparate groups of people who have peace and wholeness as their predominant theme. It will be during the winter season of Samhain and light and darkness – among other things, an opportunity for Christian hospitality and listening.

98th BIRTHDAY

Mrs Anna McCrum celebrated her 98th birthday cheerfully, amid greeting cards and flowers, in the company of family, staff and a few friends and fellow parishioners at Cahercalla Hospital and Nursing Home, Ennis where she resides – happily in good form.

SICK

Prayers and good wishes to Judith Ironside who hit an unusual patch of ill health recently and whose recovery hopefully is verified by a trip to visit family in Brussels as we write.

WEDDING

Spanish Point was the venue of an international marriage blessing ceremony for Whitney (nee Toombs), an American from Kansas, and Dutch born, Thomas Vouté, conducted by the Rector. Reception was at the nearby Doonbeg Golf Club.

HARVEST

The Rev Ray Simpson’s visit to us over Harvest in Ennis (Friday and Sunday) was a most welcome and enriching return by the Founding Guardian of the International Community of St Aidan and St Hilda, based at Holy Island, Lindisfarne. There was a fine turnout for the candlelit evensong, led by the Rector. Music was provided by organist Nigel Bridge, Michael Hennessy and his choristers from Ennis Cathedral, with teenage cellist Alannah Bradley providing solo. A sumptuous supper provided by parishioners topped off a colourful evening of ecumenical worship, well and truly also coated by splendid harvest decorations. Rev Simpson presided at the “Family Harvest” (Eucharist) on the Sunday and the Rector gave the homily to the huddled gathering – it suddenly expanded after startup. Ray’s talk and presence for the gathering in St Fachnan’s Cathedral on Saturday and on the pilgrimage walk between Kilfenora and Kilshanny holy wells again proved inspirational to the eclectic party meeting under the auspices of the Clare Pilgrim Way. Later on Sunday, he spoke in Nenagh to pilgrims linked to the spiritual walkways in and around the Shannon – see article on page 21.

CHURCH BOOK

Fr John Jones completed some photos of St Columba’s to add to the Limerick and Killaloe section of the ‘coffee table’ visual introduction to the Church of Ireland, due out at Christmas. It should make a good Christmas present to someone special.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

An area training evening led by Mr Nial West of Rathkeale will be held on Tuesday 12th November. This is for adults who may contribute in any way to work among children who use our church premises and activities. Any interested parishioners are welcome to join these for the experience, even if they are not actively involved.

GLEBE INSPECTION

This will be conducted by the Rural Deanery team under Rev George Flynn on Wednesday 20th November.

CONCERT

Regina Nathan, one of the country’s top sopranos, and West-Clare based, will give her now customary Advent-Christmas concert in St Columba’s on Saturday 30th November.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn
Rector: Rev. George Flynn
The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway
Tel: 090 9673735 Mob: 087 20 74739
Email: georgeandgwyn@eircom.net
Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

Greetings once again from the Northern part of our Diocese. The month has passed quickly with the main activity focussed on Harvest Thanksgiving Services. More news of these later. But it has been a month where yours truly and my wife spent a week on holidays enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Portugal but also the great weather and the facilities of our hotel. I hope that you likewise have had ‘time out’ before we move forward into the coming winter months.

Looking back on the past month one cannot avoid starting with the Diocesan Gathering Day in Villiers. What a successful day this was, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended from this end of the Diocese and I hope everyone else was of the same opinion. If there was any disappointment on the day it was the number of people who chose to ‘head away’ after the scheduled break. We were delighted that forty parishioners attended – some travelling by cars and as the photograph shows – the others travelling together by bus.

Our young people especially are looking forward to the next Gathering as they had a great time taking part in all the activities of the day. A special thank you to all who were involved in the planning of the day and we in our parish were very proud of our
These notes are usually written by Leslie Bertram but Leslie
Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649
The Rev. Alan Nevin
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
Clonfert Group of Parishes
The Select Vestry at a recent meeting of Creagh Union of
Parishes agreed to the proposal of the rector to allow the newly
formed Galway East Listening Services use the Parochial Hall in
Ballinasloe. This recently formed group intend to bring together a
number of ‘Listening Agencies’ who strive to meet the needs of our
community in times of stress and other distractions that can lead
to difficulties within family life. The proposal has been adopted by
the Diocesan Council and ratification is awaited by the property
Committee of the RCB. More details of this in the next edition.
The Church in St John’s has been partly repainted presenting
a better ‘look’ to areas where dampness etc was not in keeping of
this beautiful Church. Further work will have to be addressed in due
course.
TIME OF SADNESS
Our deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives of the late
Arthur Walshe who in his 93rd year died on 18th October. Arthur
resided in the Hillside Nursing Home during his latter days and prior
to that in the home of Leslie and Jennifer Wakefield in Clontuskert.
Arthur was the last surviving immediate family member of the
late Sam and Eileen Walshe and has a large number of family
connections throughout the Diocese.

Clonfert Group of Parishes
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
The Rev. Alan Nevin
Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers
Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649
Email: towers@iol.ie

These notes are usually written by Leslie Bertram but Leslie
is not well and unfortunately in a position to gather news of
people and events that have always informed his contributions. We
pray for Les and Val at this time.
Les would always make sure that others are mentioned well ahead of
himself and most especially he would have this month’s contributor
to these notes record that Ann Menheneott of Portumna is in The
Galway Regional Hospital recovering from a serious operation. Ann
is doing very well. She and her family are very much in our thoughts
and prayers.

HARVEST NEWS
Banagher Church were delighted to have as their preacher
Damien Shorten. Damien is a student of The Theological Institute
and parishioner of the Rathkeale Group of Parishes. Damien is too
young as this contributor is to old. Damien’s zestful sermon was
filled with good gospel sense that came with his own arresting style
of delivery and natural charm. It was to put it simply “inspiring”. We
are extremely grateful to Damien for taking time from his studies
to be with us. We are still feeling energized by his presence and
message. As indeed many of us were by the mighty Gathering in
Limerick.
Portumna Church are doubly blessed to have had for their
Harvest Festival Preacher, Maureen Moss. Maureen who is no
stranger to Newslink regaled us with her experience on the front
line of mission work. She spoke of her time in Swaziland that elicited
from us all how life can be so very tough for those growing up in
a world so impoverished by the Aids virus as well as an admiration
for how faith and resilience shine through. Aids Day on December
1st will see this contributor wearing the familiar red ribbon of
identification with the millions of Aids Sufferers throughout the
world. This Service was enriched by one of the parishioner, Carol,
taking to playing the organ for the first time. Great stuff Carol and
many thanks.
Eyrecourt Parish are yet to have their Harvest Service. This is
at 7pm on October 27th. The Preacher, the delicately dishevelled
one, is one not to miss an Elton John’s Christmas Party so we look
forward to his contribution that will no doubt be spiced with tales
of transient celebrities that we non celebs only read about in those
glossy news magazines that cover the Doctor’s Waiting Room table.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish
St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Pery Sq. and Abington
Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell
The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,
Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061–338697 Mob: 087–2658592
Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net
Rev. Jane Galbraith
50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick
Tel: 061–302038 Mobile: 085–1450804
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS
28th September – Hector Newenham– We extend our sincere
sympathy to his family and relatives.
29th September – Fritz Ischner (Germany) – our sincere sympathy
to his parents Joe Et Marie, his sisters Kayt (Shier) and Uta and the
wider family circle.

SINCERE THANK YOU
A sincere thank you to all who helped decorate our churches for
the Harvest Festivals, sharing their gifts of time and talents.

HARVEST ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH
The congregation were joined by pupils from St. Michael’s
School who brought non-perishable items of food and these along
with lots of fruit and vegetables were donated to Thomond House
School who brought non-perishable items of food and these along

PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR
This took place in Villiers School on Saturday 20 October. All
the stalls did very well and a profit of €4,175 to be divided between
the three churches was realised. The raffle (with a total of 17 prizes)
was a great success and the main winners were – Trailer of Logs – Fiona Cooney; €150 coal voucher – Kevin Beck; the six hampers were won by Russell Cherrie; Val Casey, Gillian Lyttle; Felicity Roche, Christine O’Neill and Regina Tobin. Thank you to Villiers School for the use of their facilities. The organising group are a small group who were helped by others and a big thank you to everyone involved, too many to mention. Very many thanks to all the people who donated prizes, goodies for the hamper, cakes, jams, bottles, plants etc – it all helped to make this event a successful one. Thank you to all who came along on the day to support the event.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to The Rev’d Jane Galbraith on her appointment as Associate Priest in the Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes with effect from 1st December 2013. Jane has been Curate in Limerick for ten years and during her time with us has done a lot of work with the youth clubs, visiting the sick, and also took charge of the parish in the intervening period whilst we were awaiting the appointment of the new Dean. She will be missed in Limerick but we wish her well on her new journey.

WHIST DRIVES

St. Michael’s Church – Saturday 9 November and Saturday 7 December (Raffle).
Villiers Square – Saturday 16 November and Saturday 14 December 2013.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes
Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon
Rector: Rev. Gary Paulsen
The Rectory, Adare, Co Limerick
Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 085 764 0533
Email: adarerector@gmail.com

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin
Rector: Rev. Keith Scott
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087 2885169
E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Our parishes were deeply saddened by the untimely death of Richard Langford in September. Richard was a long time Church Warden at Askeaton, and served many years as a member of the Diocesan Council. The impact he had on the parish was shown very clearly by the number of people who worked so hard to make sure that all that needed to be done to make the arrangements for his funeral was done.

Everyone who knew Richard loved him. He was the sort of person that one can only possibly meet once in a lifetime a true gentleman in every sense of the word, kind, forgiving and wise. A few weeks before his death we all celebrated the baptism of his first grandchild and he was looking forward too the birth of his second. He is survived by his wife Gill and his sons, Richard, Andrew and William. We offer them all our deepest prayerful sympathy at this time.

A former Priest in charge, Bill Romer, made the trip from America for Richard’s funeral and the parish welcomed him not only at the funeral but also at services the following Sunday. Everyone was glad of the opportunity to catch up with him and his wife Molly.

Our Harvest Service took place in Rathkeale this year with Rev’d Lucy Green in the driving seat while Rev’d Keith is still out of action. It was a good night and between collection and auction we raised approximately €560 for the local “Butterfly Club” an organisation which offers care, respite and support to children with special needs. Great job folks!

Rathkeale Parishioner Shirley Sheehan raised €260 for parish funds out of a sponsored run earlier. Well done Shirley.

We have another fundraiser coming up. Wednesday 4th December at 8.00 p.m. in Rathkeale House Hotel we will have a cookery demonstration by Frank Moynihan. This “Taste of Christmas”

LINKS BETWEEN ADARE AND ONTARIO, CANADA

During a recent visit to Brock Township alongside Lake Simcoe, Ontario, Canada Barbara Bingham, our parish reader, stood between the two headstones belonging to John and Richard Shier. They were brothers of her own great, great, grandfather, Jacob Shier, of Rienroe, Adare. Jacob was the one who stayed at home and became a vestryman for Adare parish while his two brothers gained two hundred acres each on adjoining farms in the newly opened land masses to the north of Toronto in 1828. Barbara felt she knew these boys well; she had read about the trials of the farming and clearing of wood from virgin land, and the newly created community of Limerick Palatine relatives all around them. Jacob was busy himself in Adare, being part of the community life where the vestrymen extended stewardship to a parish suffering the pains of poverty and decline.

The harvest festival at Adare was as usual well attended, there was only standing room left in the church. Our preacher Jackie McNair who is the chaplain at Villiers School reminded us to be thankful. He used wonderful illustrations of how we become used to something and then it becomes an expectation. This is just one of the wonderful points made and we cannot redo his sermon in this article. Thanks to Jackie for coming as many of our second level students attend Villiers School. St Nicholas’ School pupils did a wonderfully animated song with some 40 of them reminding us of the seed and the harvest. A very big thank you to the parents, pupils and staff of the school and to Margaret Brickenden for the effort put into preparing for this service. The church was beautifully decorated by the ladies who do such a great job each year. The children brought up the produce and bakes. Some parents went to a lot of effort and we say thank you. All of these offerings were auctioned in the school hall afterward over a cup of tea. Some €922 was raised in the evening which will be sent to Bishops’ Appeal for the Swaziland project.

There are two more harvest services in Croom and Kilmallock which will see and end of the harvest festival season. November is usually the month of remembrance and of compassion, and we will continue to give God thanks for those who have died and shared in our lives. Christmas is around the corner and evidence of this is already in the shops as they push the commercial trade on the back of this important day in our church’s calendar. However this will be preceded by the Advent Season, but we will ‘wait’ for this.
reception after the service. Saturday, 5th October. There was quite an air of celebration at the local dignitaries, in St. John’s Church, Tralee on the evening of presence of many clergy, both Anglican and Roman, and several our Rector in a Service of Institution led by Bishop Trevor in the We were delighted to welcome the Rev. Susan Watterson as wife, Vida, and his immediate and extended family. held in his local community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his during his years in public office and to the esteem in which he was testimony to the many years he had given in the service of others John Blennerhassett, Ballinorig, Tralee, who died on 22 September. We extend our sympathy to the family of former Senator hospital after recent surgery. Get well soon Hester. We are pleased to hear that Hester Hill continues to recover in are delighted. We welcome baby Ruby Sugrue, little sister for Jake, who was born on 23 September. Mom Heather, Dad Jerry and grandparents are delighted. We are pleased to hear that Hester Hill continues to recover in hospital after recent surgery. Get well soon Hester. We extend our sympathy to the family of former Senator John Blennerhassett, Ballinorig, Tralee, who died on 22 September. The large attendance at his removal and funeral services stood over the past few weeks. demonstration will offer tips and ideas for Christmas treats so don’t miss it. Entry is €10 and there will also be a raffle. Rev’d Keith is still out of action until mid–November. The Rev’d Gary Paulsen is in charge of all pastoral matters until Keith’s return. You can contact Gary on 061 396227 or 085 7640533. The parish is grateful to Gary and to all those who have been leading worship over the past few weeks. But the good news doesn’t end there; we have now heard that we are to enjoy the services of the Rev. Jane Galbraith as Associate Priest in our Group from Advent Sunday, 1 December, following a service of welcome to be held in St. John’s on the evening of Friday 29th November. REV. JIM STEPHENS We cannot look to the future without acknowledging the debt we owe to the Rev. Jim Stephens for the sterling work he did among us during our long vacancy. A less capable hand than his, supported and assisted as it was by Parish Administrator pro tem, Yvonne Blennerhassett, would have seen us struggling to cope from time to time. As it is we appear to have emerged from the experience relatively unscathed. Thank you Jim; thank you Yvonne.

AWARD At an awards ceremony held recently in the Manor West Hotel, Tralee, St. John’s Church was declared runner up in the Public Buildings and Parks Section of the Tralee Chamber Alliance and the Tralee Tidy Towns Group competition. Full credit and our grateful thanks are due to the small band of volunteers who work so hard week on week throughout of the year to keep the building and grounds looking so well. ORGAN RESTORATION Work is finally under way on reinstalling the organ in St. John’s, Tralee after what amounts to a complete renovation and reconstruction from the ground up. The latest news is that they ‘hope’ to finish the work during November. We look forward to having its mighty tones to accompany us again, especially for the Christmas services when everyone likes to open their throats and shake the dust off the rafters, and to the several concerts and recitals which are planned when the instrument is finally re-voiced.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross (Vacant) Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley. Mob: 087–619 4733 Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com CANON SUE’S RETURN Approximately 12 parishioners from St Mary’s had an “away” evening in our neighbouring parish of Tralee on October 5th to welcome Rev Sue back to the Kingdom as Rector of Tralee E Dingle Union. The sermon at Sue’s investiture was given by another from St Mary’s, Andrew Eadie, who synopsised the attributes Sue brings to Tralee to perfection. He stated that Sue would bring a passion for ministry and that her insight and commitment to the Ministry of Healing would benefit and hopefully grow the congregation at St John’s and the other churches of the Union. But he also said that Sue would challenge the congregations to better understand and spread the Good News and that he had no doubt that they would rise to that healthy challenge. Andrew alluded to the fact that during the vacancy the congregation had learned new skills in running the parish and he urged them to continue to use these skills to aid Sue in her determination to breathe new life across the Union.

KILLARNEY & AGHADOE VACANCY It goes without saying that Tralee’s gain has been Killarney & Aghadoe’s loss and the quest has begun to find a worthy successor. Moves are at an early stage but already a team of three has been selected from the vestry to tease out the available options. Let us pray that they are guided in their quest and that any problems they may encounter in their work can be overcome with humility and
YANKEE DOODLE DANDY
The congregation at St Mary's is about to get a little smaller as one of our number has decided to take a sabbatical in the USA for a while. Maud Eadie hauls anchor early in November to journey to the eastern seaboard for some chill-out experience before returning to commence her third level studies – a heart-felt Bon Voyage from all of us; you will be constantly in our prayers and remember to enjoy yourself throughout what will be a great experience.

HARVEST
A sincere thanks to Hilda, Linda, Susan, Gavin, Richard, Tom and all who helped to decorate the church for this year’s Harvest Service which was held on Sunday 13th.

CONCERTS
Upcoming concerts include:
- October 26th: St Mary’s Cathedral Choir
- December 11th: Killarney Golf Club and St Oliver’s NS Choirs

THE GATHERING
St Mary's was the only church to have its own service on the day of the Gathering in Limerick and the large attendance much appreciated the opportunity to worship as most were unable to go to Limerick for various reasons. However, we got a taste of what was obviously a great day the following Sunday when Canon Brian used his sermon to describe what he and others got from the Gathering. His enthusiasm for the project made many of us wish we had been able to attend and will certainly be marking the next such event in our calendars.

BOOK CLUB
Rev Máirt organised a very interesting joint meeting between ourselves and Kilcoleman Union in the Aghadoe Room at St Mary’s where David Norris’ autobiography was the chosen topic. It led to discussion, division, reconciliation and was certainly great fun. Let’s hope these “joint ventures” continue.

These are extracts of emails I received from our German visitors.

The trip was a huge success, they were able to see the Ring of Kerry, Killarney and Muckross, Killalagh School and Church where they joined us for a service and they shared with us their experiences of the closing of a small school and its damage to community life. They went to the Sceilig Experience and had a tour of Aghadoe. We took them to some community facilities and fired their enthusiasm for Men’s Sheds! We shared our cultures and friendship and for a few days we lived the Pentecost experience that all are one in Christ and different languages and backgrounds need not divide.

Heartfelt thanks to all who took part and got involved in the catering and entertainment to make this such a success. Our Book Club in conjunction with Killarney Parish is up and running and if any one has any ideas for articles to read please let me know. THE SALE OF WORK
Again thanks to all who have got involved. It is a big undertaking but if we all pull together it is amazing what can be done. This year there were some who are no longer with us as well as others who happen to be away so thanks to all those who set to to make this the event that it has been.

WELCOME BACK
Welcome back to Jim Stephens who rejoins us and is taking the family service in Killorglin, it is great to have his input back in the parish. We have had a service remembering all who died in the last year – having had the service commemorating Aine just a few weeks ago, it is a good time for us to think about the idea of the Communion of Saints and give thanks for those who have held the Christ light for us and now bask in its full glow.

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes
Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312
Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS
We began the year with a service of blessing of the plough – asking for God’s provision of the things we should need in the year to come. This month, as the stillness of Autumn replaced the warmth of Summer, we celebrated His faithfulness in our Harvest Thanksgiving, having received His blessing throughout the year, reflecting on the creation story in the second chapter of Genesis.

He gave us trees that were pleasing to the eye, trees good for food, life itself and the wisdom to take these things and produce the harvest. Planting, watering, harvesting, and planting again. What a wonderful metaphor for the ministry of believers – in thanking God for the harvest, we remembered those through whose faith and dedication we were ‘planted’ and fed; and in turn, we plant, feed and nurture the next generation. As the mustard seed grows into the greatest shrub, so the love and care we show to the very youngest of our family will blossom in their lives as they in turn live the Gospel of truth and freedom. The real harvest thanksgiving is more than just word and song of praise – it is our commitment to planting of the seed for the future.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Killalagh and Glenbeigh
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mob: 087-619 4733
Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

“...I would like once again to thank you for the wonderful days in Ireland. We may be tired, but full of beautiful memories on Tuesday morning by 2 clock was back home. I wish you God’s blessings, much joy and strength to go through the days.” Viola

“...Many members of our group are still a little tired because of all the good things that they have experienced. All liked their trip and are very enthusiastic about the partnership relations.

Regarding the future of the relationship I talked to Viola. We hope to see a group from Kilorglin (and around) in Guentersberge in 2014. Guentersberge plans a trip to Wittenberg, but would like our guests to spend some time in their guest families. We also have the idea to have an afternoon at which we may talk about different forms of church service (why do we stand singing or not and so on). What do you think about a possible date?

We also like the idea of exchange that someone might come to the highlights of the other’s community life.

All the best, kind regards and very warm greetings to your family and your parishioners: God bless you!”
November is perceived to be the month of deadness … the landscape dies, leaves pile up in gutters and every corner of the garden, evenings grow darker, the days shorter.

In ancient Ireland our pagan ancestors celebrated ‘Samhain’ to mark the end of the agricultural year and the beginning of winter. The Druid priests believed the dead returned to haunt the living. They dressed up in fancy clothes and wore masks to confuse the returning spirits and also lit fires to scare them off. The commercial world has revitalised ‘Samhain’. But let’s be clear – at Hallowe’en, our children are not thinking of ‘Samhain’, it is all just good fun.

In the 8th century, the Church moved the festival of All Hallows/Saints from May to November 1st because of the uncertainty of having enough wine at that time of the year to celebrate the martyrs and heroes of the faith. Christians then and now were persecuted for their faith. I met a student wearing a t-shirt with the words “Ask me about my grandmother.” November is an appropriate time to salute all those who have helped to shape and strengthen our Christian faith: Parents, Aunts, Uncles, Carers, Grand-parents, God-parents, Day and Sunday school teachers, Clergy, Leaders of Uniformed organisations and Youth Clubs. A religion of love should remember those whom Archbishop George Appleton named “the risen ones”, those who have died. We must also remember those yet to be born and leave behind a habitable planet.

Remembrance Sunday falls in November. Thankfully, now in the Republic of Ireland, the sacrifice of Irish men and women in the great world wars, is recognised and remembered. I have personally been in the Roscrea GAA Pavilion. The Annual Christmas Card Fair and Sale will be held in Adare in November, a time for prayer and a time to raise the very necessary funds to sustain mission in many different parts of this island. On Sunday 10 November the Rev Liz will be going to Portlaoise Methodist Church to exchange pulpits with Rev Bill Olmsted, who will conduct worship led by Rev Liz. We had hoped to welcome a visiting preacher to the Harvest Supper on Monday evening but, alas, he became ill and Rev Liz had to step in at the last minute! It was good to be able to welcome visitors from other churches in the area to the Harvest Celebrations in both churches.

MISSION IN IRELAND

In November every year a Home Mission Sunday is planned in all the Methodist Churches in Ireland. This is a time for exchanging news about the mission of the Church in different communities in Ireland, a time for prayer and a time to raise the very necessary funds to sustain mission in many different parts of this island. On Sunday 10 November the Rev Liz will be going to Portlaoise Methodist Church to exchange pulpits with Rev Bill Olmsted, who will conduct worship in Adare and Ballingrane.

An Auction will be held on Friday evening 15 November in conjunction with Cappagh Community Council. This will take place in the Community Hall near Ballingrane Church. Proceeds will benefit the funds of both the Circuit and the Community Council.

The Annual Christmas Card Fair and Sale will be held in Adare

METHODIST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WRITES

This year the Methodist Church in Ireland issued an important statement on Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS). Whilst the report acknowledged there can be considerable suffering at the end of life, it felt that the answer to this is not to assist in suicide, but to improve terminal care. This thoughtful report can be found in full on the website irishmethodist.org – go to Resources; then Council on Social Responsibility.

Already shops are displaying signs of Christmas. November will be followed by Advent when once again the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the Word, who promised “because I live you also will live” - John 14. v19.

I saw a notice in a school office which read: “If you don’t believe the dead come back to life, you should be here at quitting time.”

The only death to be feared is spiritual death, life without meaning and purpose. Jesus said “anyone here who believes what I am saying right now and aligns himself/herself with the Father, who has in fact put me in charge, has at this very moment the real, lasting life … and has taken a giant step from the world of the dead to the world of the living.” - The Message: John 5. 24

Rev Brian D Griffin
Superintendent of the Midlands & Southern District

METHODIST NEWS

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396236
Email: mliz.hewitt7@gmail.com

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

HARVEST FESTIVALS

The Harvest Services were enjoyed once again in both Adare and Ballingrane! Family Services were arranged for the Sunday morning celebrations. Adare Harvest comes first and the children and young people of the Circuit took part, contributing drama, prayers and songs to the worship which was led by Rev Liz Hewitt. The Harvest Supper took place on Monday evening. The praise was led by the Choir from Holy Trinity Abbey Roman Catholic Church and the guest preacher was Rev Wesley Campbell from Bandon Methodist Circuit.

As well as preaching, Rev Wesley told us about a project of training for lay preachers and ministers in the Ugandan Methodist Church. He hopes to go to Uganda to lead this project in January 2014. We are pleased to be able to make a financial contribution to the work of the project from the proceeds of our Auctions of Harvest Produce, held after the Harvest Suppers in both congregations. The remainder of the money raised will be sent to the Methodist World Development and Relief Fund. Almost €1,000 was raised this year – thank you to everyone who contributed to the bidding. As always, the auctions were conducted with a sense of fun – and generosity. In Ballingrane, the Sunday Harvest Celebration was also all-age worship led by Rev Liz. We had hoped to welcome a visiting preacher to the Harvest Supper on Monday evening but, alas, he became ill and Rev Liz had to step in at the last minute! It was good to be able to welcome visitors from other churches in the area to the Harvest Celebrations in both churches.

BIBLE STUDY

The group Bible Study will recommence on Wednesday 30 October. This will be held in the Manse. Methodist Women in Ireland (MWI) will also recommence in November. The date is to be confirmed.

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The Annual Christmas Card Fair and Sale will be held in Adare
Open House has come and gone, marking a second year of success in Limerick.

In the evening a group from Christ Church met in Central Buildings. Heather and Des facilitated a conversation about ‘now and next’ for Christ Church. It was good to focus on what’s going well and to think about how we can move forward together. There was great discussion and music and a real sense of hope and desire to discern and to get on with what God is calling us to do as his people in Limerick.

Open House has come and gone, marking a second year of success for their event. We enjoyed their stay in CB1 and now, amongst other things, we’re making plans for an art exhibition featuring work from our own members. There will be a launch in early December and we’ll certainly let you know the details.

As their first public event since their relocation to Central Buildings, and as part of The Gathering, Doras Luimni launched their latest report, Treated Differently, looking at evidence of racism and discrimination from a local perspective. We were delighted to offer Christ Church as a venue to help Doras Luimni raise awareness in Limerick of such important information.

People are beginning to move into CB2 as part of our involvement in Limerick City of Culture. We’ve just welcomed Music Generation. Music Generation is Ireland’s National Music Education Programme. It helps children and young people access music education in their own locality. It provides funding and support to Local Music Education Partnerships to develop music education services and is funded by U2, the Ireland Funds and local partners. So, let’s end with a quote about the project from Bono!

“As a band, we believe music tuition should be available to anyone who wants it, whatever their background. We want to help to make this happen for Ireland’s children and young people – our ‘music generation’ of the future. We hope that Music Generation will inspire Ireland’s young musicians, who might not otherwise get access to such valuable teaching. We are delighted to see the progress of Music Generation and to be involved in this much-needed initiative for Ireland.”

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

Killarney Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney
Sunday Services. 9 and 11 am (inc. Children’s programme at 11am)
Prayer meetings Monday – Thursday 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
Bible Study Meetings - Wednesday 8.00 p.m. ; Friday 10.00 a.m.
Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10am – 12pm
Impact Youth Club (13+) 2nd & 4th Fridays 8pm.
Kingdom Krew Junior Youth Club (9-13) 2nd & 4th Fridays 7-8pm.
Women’s Fellowship 1st Monday of the month 10am-12noon.
KENMAR “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.
Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

MILLSTREET
Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Meeting in Drishane Castle.
Bible study every Tuesday at 8pm in Millstreet Enterprise Centre on the town square. Entitled “Step by Step Bible Group” this group is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and grow in their faith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
As well as all the regular activities listed above the Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group will meet on Thursdays 7th and 21st November at 8pm.
In Lispole (Dingle) the Home Fellowship group continues on the last Thursday of each month at 8pm. However we are hoping soon to begin another meeting each month in the Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre on Green Street in Dingle town. The first meeting is planned for Sunday 10th November at 6.30pm. We plan to continue these meetings on the second Sunday of each month.

The recently commenced Home Fellowship meeting in Castlesislnd continues on the third Monday of each month at 8pm at a home in the town. Contact Laurence for details of the location. Please also keep this new initiative in your prayers. The November meeting of this group is planned for Monday 18th November.

All being well the next month will bring an exciting development of our work in Millstreet. Permission and funding has just been finalized so that our planning to rent a small shop premises in the centre of Millstreet. This will act as a 'window' for our Church. We will have our Tuesday evening Bible study there and we also hope to open the centre on Thursday mornings when people can drop in for coffee and conversation. We also hope to have cards etc. as well as having free literature available. We also hope to use the shop window to advertise all of our activities. Sunday night services will continue in Drishane Castle Asylum Seeker Hostel. Please pray that this development will increase our profile in Millstreet and provide a means by which anyone who's interested can find out more.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Brian Griffin
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Email: beg08@eircom.net

The winter 'Bible Studies' will recommence in Borrisokane Methodist Hall on Monday 4 November at 7.30 pm; in Roscrea Methodist Hall on Wednesday 6 November at 8.00 pm. The Rev Brian Griffin will lead a series of studies on the "I am" sayings of Jesus from St John's Gospel. In the past, these sessions have been enriched by members from the Catholic Church and Church of Ireland. There is a warm welcome to all.

Methodism was 'Born in Song'. The Methodist Chaplaincy, TCD, invites you to an evening of celebration and inspiration entitled: "My heart was strangely warmed", remembering that famous Anglican, John Wesley, and his Aldersgate experience 275 years ago. (see Newslink May 2013, page 27). Music by the Trinity College Chapel Choir under the direction of Eleanor Jones Macauley and Organ Scholar Joseph Bradley. The Rev Dr Heather Morris (President of the Methodist Church in Ireland) is the special speaker and the evening will be directed by the Rev Julian Hamilton (Chaplain). Come and enjoy. Members of the circuit are hiring a bus to join in this memorable event on Sunday 10th November at 7.00 pm.

"Home Mission" is the focus of the Methodist Church in Ireland in November. On Sunday 17 November the Rev Laurence Graham (Killarney) will preach at a united service in Cloughjordan at 10.15 am and then in Roscrea at 11.45 am. The Rev Brian Griffin will preach in the Waterford Church where there is a multi-ethnic congregation.

A Sale of Work by the MWI (Methodist Women of Ireland) of Borrisokane and Cloughjordan will be held on Thursday 21 November at 7.30 pm in Cloughjordan.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning in Roscrea Methodist Church hall on Friday 29 November from 10.30 am to 12 noon.
Trek to Everest Base Camp - places are limited to participate in this exciting fund-raising event for World Development and Relief. The trek in October 2014 is organised by Beth Griffin for the Methodist Church in Ireland. Beth has worked in Nepal, has successfully led many similar groups and this one will prove to be a fabulous spirit-filled pilgrimage to the base camp of the world's highest mountain. Contact Beth: beth@irishmethodist.org

PRAYER CORNER
Collect Reflection – 2nd Sunday before Advent
by Rev. Michael Johnston

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
Grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory,
we may be made like him
in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

This collect was written by Bishop John Cosin for the 1662 Prayer Book. It was originally one of the 'wandering collects', which were used either after Epiphany or at the end of the church year, a position it now holds permanently in the new Prayer Book.
The collect begins by reminding us of the purpose for which Christ came, which was accomplished on the cross. The power of sin was broken and we were brought into a new relationship with God. The implications of this new status have to be worked out in experience. We must purify ourselves, make way for our new nature to express itself in our daily life. We do this by continually looking to Jesus as our model. We thus become transformed, changed into his likeness. The ultimate transformation awaits us on the last day when we shall see him as he is.

Partners in Prayer – November 2013

EACH SUNDAY

The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and Bishop Paul Colton
Our Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldaña Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

3rd November, 4th Sunday before Advent (Proper 26), Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Udi, Enugu, Nigeria and The Rt Revd Chijoike Augustine Aneke
Our Diocese: Tralee & Dingle Unions – Sue Watterson & Jane Galbraith

10th November, 3rd Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday (Proper 27), Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Utah, The Episcopal Church, USA and The Rt Revd Scott Hayashi
Our Diocese: All those who from our diocese have lost their lives in war or violence and those who serve in our defence forces today

17th November, 2nd Sunday before Advent (Proper 28), Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of the Virgin Islands, The Episcopal Church and The Rt Revd Ambrose Gumbs
Our Diocese: Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh – Bob Hanna

24th November, The Kingship of Christ / Mission Sunday (Proper 26), White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Washington, The Episcopal Church, USA and The Rt Revd Mariann Edgar Budde
Our Diocese: Our Mission link with Swaziland through Us (formerly USPG) and the Dam Project sponsored by our Diocese
The Spirit will help you!

Barney says

Hello friends,

Sometimes it can be really hard to find the right words to say.

It may happen if a teacher tells you off for something you didn't do, but you can't find the words to explain what happened.

Or, it may be standing up in front of your school to help with an assembly.

But, Jesus promises that when we need the right words, the Holy Spirit will help us.

You may be comforting a friend who is upset or encouraging them to do something new or different that will help them.

Whatever it is, whatever situation you're in, ask the Holy Spirit for the right words.

Love, Barney

Barney's Jokes

Why did the robber take a bath before he robbed the bank?
He wanted to make a clean getaway!

God's Word

"The Holy Spirit will give you the right words even as you are standing there."

(Luke 12:12 (The Message))

Power of the Spirit

The Bible says that the Holy Spirit came down like a dove and like tongues of flame! Colour in this picture that represents the Holy Spirit.

Talk to the Holy Spirit!

Dear Holy Spirit, please help me to have the right words to say in difficult situations, so that I may bless others. Amen.

Sail Away

Andrew and Simon fished with nets from the shore or from small boats. You could make a fishing fleet of small boats and decorate their sales with St Andrew's cross.

You will need a polystyrene box or tray like the ones you see at the fruit shop or supermarket.

Using a bread knife, carefully cut out several different shapes and sizes.

Find a thin stick for the masts (you could use a pencil) and cut out a sail in paper. Thread or stick the sail onto the mast.

How do fish go into business?
They start on a small scale.

St Andrew

Feast day November 30th

The Bible tells us that Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first disciples to follow Jesus. They were fishermen working at their nets when Jesus called them. It was a hard thing to do, to leave everything for an uncertain way of life but Andrew knew that Jesus was so special that he had to share this wonderful knowledge with others.

Andrew followed Jesus for the rest of his life. After Jesus' death he travelled widely spreading the message and building the early church. He was arrested for being a follower of Christ and condemned to death on the cross. Legend says that he was crucified on a diagonal cross.

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and his cross is on the Scottish flag which is a white cross on a blue background – the blue is for the sea which seems right for a fisherman.

What day of the week do fish hate?
Frydays.

Why are gold fish orange?
The water makes them rusty.
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Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com