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Seven day boarding fee: €7,767 (level of maximum SEC grant)

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For further information and prospectus, contact

The Headmaster,
Mr Adrian G. Oughton B.A.,
HDip. Ed., D.E.M.

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WILSON’S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, MULTYFARNHAM, CO. WESTMEATH
Tel: 044 - 9371115  Fax: 044 - 9371563  Email: wilsonsh@whs.ie
The Bishop Writes

I’m dreaming of a cheap Christmas – an Advent perspective on Christmas

Dear Friends,

This is a difficult letter to write. Advent is upon us, but before you see the next Newslink there will be Christmas and New Year. Advent has been consumed by Christmas which now begins in September, in the shops at least. The retailers know that many of us will spend months planning the greatest ‘consumerfest’ of the year. It was appalled, living in a deprived part of Belfast, that families would borrow from loan sharks more than they could afford, or every repay, just to give their children what they wanted. It was as if parents felt guilty at not being able to provide the wealthy lifestyle they watch on TV every day. Christmas was a frantic attempt to make it all up.

ADVENT HAS BEEN LOST
Advent has been lost. It doesn’t fit in with the fun filled, family, friends, food and frolics of what we call Christmas. Advent is about ‘the end’ times. It is about where we are heading, in the long term. It is about judgment, assessing the true value of our lives as individuals, as families, as communities, as Church. Advent isn’t retail therapy, it is reality therapy.

Dare we ask if our so called Christian life has any meaning in a world of injustice and suffering?

In recent weeks we have watched how one weather system in the Philippines brought devastation to tens of thousands of people, with countless thousands dead. The rebuilding of those villages is a mammoth task - but can the lives of the survivors ever be rebuilt? Where does our ‘ideal’ Christmas fit with what people have experienced in the Philippines?

WE NEED ADVENT
Perhaps we do need Advent to prevent us dreaming of a cheap Christmas. Cheap in the sense that it is superficial and in many respects unreal, an escape into tinsel town.

Of course it’s good for families to get together, especially when we are often separated from those we love by great distances. Let us celebrate our family and friends, peace and joy, freedom and security. But around us, among those we know, even among our friends, there are those who feel alone at Christmas; there are those whose deep sense of loss means there is nothing to celebrate; there are others who cannot face the future. Will the Christmas wreath on our door, exclude them or welcome them to be part of our Christmas?

Mary and Joseph were a couple in desperate need. There was no room for them. A generous inn keeper gave them what he could. It wasn’t much but it was enough. Enough for Jesus to be born safely, and grow healthily until as a young man he could reveal our true worth as beloved children of God, in how he lived, what he taught and how he died. In his birth, Jesus came alongside the homeless. As a new born he became a refugee. So began a life lived entirely for others, reflecting in his all too real human life the very character of God.

ADVENT PERSPECTIVE
An Advent perspective on Christmas calls us to use this season and its celebrations, not as an escape from reality into the unreal world of tinsel town, but rather to see the reality that life can be transformed by those who are willing to come alongside those in need.

I commend Present Aid. Present Aid is an alternative gift website that supports the work of Christian Aid. From goats and bees to bicycles and wells, show a loved one you care and help transform communities in need by buying a unique gift on Christian Aid’s Present Aid website. Just put ‘Present Aid’ into your browser and you will find www.presentaid.org

Also look around, is there someone who needs an open door? It’s challenging following Jesus, isn’t it? Be blessed this Christmas as you seek to share it with others.

Your Bishop
+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams
Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
Rien Roe, Adare, Co Limerick
Tel: +353 (0)61 396244
Mobile: +353 (0)87 9772125
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Trevor Williams has appointed the Reverend Susan Watterson as Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe.

After consultation with Dean Sandra Pragnell (St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick) and Dean Designate, The Reverend Gary Paulsen (St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe) the following appointments have been made to the Joint Chapter of the Cathedral Churches:

- The Reverend Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke to be Treasurer (formerly Canon of Inniscattery)
- The Reverend George Flynn to be Canon (Inniscattery)
- The Reverend Michael Johnston to be Canon (St Munchin’s and Tullloch)

The Service of Installation of the Archdeacon, Treasurer and new Canons will be held on Sunday January 19th 2014 at 7.00pm in St Mary’s Cathedral Limerick

+Trevor (18th November 2013)

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sunday 1st December, 7pm
Advent Carol Service, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Friday 6th December, 7pm
Handel’s Messiah, St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe, DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama, tickets €15

Saturday 7th December, 2-5pm
Christmas Stall in St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Saturday 7th December, 5.30pm
Come & Sing in St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Thursday 12th December, 7.30-10.30pm
Installation of Rev Gary Paulsen as Rector & Dean, St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe

Sunday 22nd December, 8pm
Carols for the City, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

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

Sunday 5th January, 7pm
Epiphany Carol Service, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Tuesday 28th January, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael’s Hall, Killorglin
Editorial -
2014 Subscription Rates

Dear Newslink Subscribers

At the start of 2013 we made improvements to the magazine and reduced the annual subscription for the year. We did so in the hope that subscription numbers would rise to make up for the reduced rates, but unfortunately that has not happened – instead we see reduced subscription numbers for the year. We did so in the hope that subscription numbers would rise to make up for the reduced rates, but unfortunately that has not happened – instead we see reduced subscription numbers for the year. We did so in the hope that subscription numbers would rise to make up for the reduced rates, but unfortunately that has not happened – instead we see reduced subscription numbers for the year. We did so in the hope that subscription numbers would rise to make up for the reduced rates, but unfortunately that has not happened – instead we see reduced subscription numbers for the year.

As a result Newslink will make a loss over 2013 as a whole, which we do not wish to continue into 2014. We have therefore decided to return the 2014 annual subscription to 2012 levels, an increase of €3, with single copies increased by a little more to reflect the new postal charges – see the new rates opposite.

We believe there is scope to increase the volume of advertising in Newslink, and that this is the way to secure the longer term future of the magazine. We are therefore planning a proactive campaign to sell advertising, for which we need firstly a volunteer to manage advertising sales (not unduly onerous – say 1 day per month), and secondly local help in every part of the diocese to suggest leads to advertisers.

The Newslink team thank all of you, our loyal subscribers and advertisers, for your support in 2013, and wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and all the very best in 2014.

God bless,
Joc Sanders, Editor

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadóire, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emily. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan website: 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, although 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.

Editors Contact details:
Joc Sanders
Turraíva, Ballyfin, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987 Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for February 2014, published on Sunday 2nd February 2014. All material must reach the Editor by Friday 17th January 2014 before 6.00pm, by email only to newslink@limerick.anglican.org, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

Bishops’ Appeal Makes Urgent Appeal for Funds after Typhoon Haiyan hits Philippines

Disaster relief efforts are in need of emergency funds after a typhoon with winds reaching 200 miles per hour hit parts of the Philippines causing flooding and extreme devastation. People are being evacuated from severely hit areas. Up to 10,000 people are feared dead and a further 150,000 are in need of assistance to evacuate. Damage to infrastructure and buildings is on a scale not seen before.

The Church of Ireland is responding through the Bishops’ Appeal Emergency Fund. Archbishop Richard Clarke and Archbishop Michael Jackson have sanctioned the immediate release of €10,000 to Christian Aid partners on the ground to provide tarpaulins, tents, food and hygiene kits to those who urgently need them. They urge the Church to respond generously in the face of such overwhelming need.

To donate to this emergency relief response, please send funds to:

Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal
Church of Ireland House,
Church Avenue,
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Or contact: 01 412 5610 for more information or lodgement details.

The Legacy of Hannah Villiers
The Almshouses & Schools

This book can now be purchased from Allan Callender, Limerick.

It traces in detail the success of the Almshouses and Schools through to today. It recalls the social history and in it are a number of early photographs which are of interest to those connected with the above. It would be an ideal Christmas gift. Order from Allan.

Email: aacallender@eircom.net or Tel: 087-1421525.
Price €25
Irish scientists, most of whom made significant contributions towards solving the problems they were called on to deal with. Some were those with whom we have a very close connection, who helped us to be what we are; and there were those with whom we have a more distant connection. There were also more mundane remembrances of people who had given lives to defend freedom in both the two world wars and those that had given theirs for independence. We remember both about thanksgiving for what went before, and casting our own gifts that the past has given. Our acts of remembrance should be connected to the prayer; the person presiding made up his own, always including Jesus’ Words of Institution (‘This is my body... This is my blood...’). Obviously, some were better at this than others, so, in the late 2nd Century, church leaders wrote sample prayers as templates for others to follow. These forms of the prayer were much altered over the centuries, but modern liturgies have returned to the original form.

CONSECRATION

The purpose of the Great Thanksgiving is to consecrate (make holy) the bread and wine so it becomes, in some mysterious way, the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus’ words are not a magic formula (the phrase ‘hocus pocus’ is a corruption of the Latin ‘Hoc est corpus meum’ – ‘This is my body’, originally a Reformation-era parody of the Roman Catholic Mass). Rather, the entire prayer, indeed the entire Eucharist service, is an act of consecration of not only the bread and wine, but ourselves as well. They, and we, are offered to God, set apart for his special purpose, and used to nourish and strengthen his Church and his Kingdom.

Traditionally, the Great Thanksgiving has three sections: the introduction; the description of Jesus’ actions at the Last Supper including the Words of Institution; and the final paragraph, which includes the anamnesis and epiclesis. The anamnesis (which is related to our words memory and memorial) reminds us that as we ‘remember’ Jesus’ words and actions at the Last Supper, we are there, and he is present with us, in the eternity of God. The epiclesis is the calling down of the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine, that they become in a spiritual way the Body and Blood of Christ.

THOMAS CRANMER

When Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer introduced the first English-language Book of Common Prayer in 1549, the Eucharist service was largely just a translation of the Latin service. Because many people didn’t come forward to receive Communion, in the second Prayer Book of 1552 (and its revision in 1662, and Holy Communion One in our 2004 Prayer Book), he moved the place where people received Communion to directly after the Words of Institution. This means that the anamnesis and epiclesis are after people have received Communion, in the prayer after Communion. Holy Communion Two restores that third part of the prayer to its original place. You can see that the prayer after Communion in Holy Communion One ends with, “By whom, and with whom...”, the ending of the Great Thanksgiving in both ancient and modern forms.

Next time we will look at the actual receiving of Communion itself.

The Eucharist: Part VI - The Great Thanksgiving

The Sixth of a series of articles on the Eucharist by Archdeacon Wayne Carney

The Great Thanksgiving, also called the Eucharistic Prayer or Prayer of Consecration, is the central part of the Liturgy of the Sacrament. In the earliest days of the Church, the person presiding was a bishop, with later an elder allowed to preside (in Greek, ‘presbyteros’, which we have anglicised to ‘priest’). There was no set form to the prayer; the person presiding made up his own, always including Jesus’ Words of Institution (‘This is my body... This is my blood...’). Obviously, some were better at this than others, so, in the late 2nd Century, church leaders wrote sample prayers as templates for others to follow. These forms of the prayer were much altered over the centuries, but modern liturgies have returned to the original form.

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Next time we will look at the actual receiving of Communion itself.

Máirt’s Musings – Remembering

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

Last month I finished my article by saying that we should accept the gifts of our past with less judgement as we seek to go forward into the future. This was in the context of things ending, and to make the most of our ending as we go on to new beginnings. Well I suppose I am going back to remembering with this article. In many remembrances, someone from a different culture might find it all a little morbid, but if they did, I would say that they had missed the point.

I know that much of the remembering we might do is personally connected with our own lives, but there is an element that isn’t. For me that element starts with the remembrance of a grandfather that I never knew. It was built into my family’s folk history – whilst I never knew him others of course did. There were other further out remembrances of people who had given lives to defend freedom in two world wars and those that had given theirs for independence. There were also more mundane remembrances – of those who had founded churches, schools or other local institution. There is a sense that there are ripples of remembrance, from those close to us going out, to those with whom we have a more distant connection.

The other side of that idea is that we are touched by ripples from other points and places, of which we may be unaware. I was listening to the radio the other day as they were talking about Irish scientists, most of whom are by no means famous but made significant contributions towards solving the problems they were working on.

Another example that I always think of is the argument between Marconi and Tesla on who deserves the credit for inventing the radio. Americans generally favour the Croatian American, whilst on this side of the pond we tend to side with the London based Irish-Italian cousin of former TD Ivan Yeats. We however may owe more to a Bengali scientist JC Bose for the work he did in bringing about our modern telecommunications age. Whichever one gets the credit, they relied on others whom we don’t know, those that had ideas and passed them on.

All our paths are lit by the lights of others and we can only do what we do because of the gifts that the past has given. Our acts of remembrance should be both about thanksgiving for what went before, and casting our own light into the world. We are only able to do because of others and others will only be able to do because of us.

This is also in some ways the message of the festival of Diwali, the Hindu festival that celebrates light. The story goes that King Rama had been exiled in the forest with his wife and brother for 14 years, but when the exile was over the people lit lamps to show them the way back to civilization. Even a demi-god/king’s path is lit by others – because of their lights he is able to bring back his light to the lives of his subjects.

So let’s remember those who have lit our paths up, and go light up someone else’s path.
United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

ANOIS 2013

Anois 2013 took place in Kilkenny College from the 26th to the 28th October 2013. The theme for this 10th anniversary event was ‘Celebration’, and the feeling of celebration was definitely present!

This year’s Messenger was Jasper Rutherford, Church Army Evangelist currently working with Summer Madness as Outreach and Development Officer. Jasper spoke to us about the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Jasper’s passion for the Gospel, love of young people and personal closeness to Jesus was infectious and impacted all who heard him. Mark Ferguson Band were back to Anois for the second consecutive year, leading our worship music as well as taking full part in the rest of the event, including band members joining our diocesan small-groups. Our Sunday Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Michael Burrows of the Diocese of Cashel, OSSory who reminded us about how we, the people are the Church, not the building. The worship times over the weekend were Spirit-filled and thanks are due to all those who made that a reality.

There were lots of activities outside of worship and small-group times. Whether meeting old and making new friends in the café and tuck shop, chilling out and having fun in the chill zone, getting a makeover at the girls zone (by no means limited to girls!), playing games, or just spending time in prayer in the Sacred Space, there was always something to do. On Sunday, following interesting and relevant workshops led by Love for Life, we went off-site to take part in some afternoon activities, including karting, paintballing, and bowling.

The weekend was a fitting success for the 10th anniversary of Anois. All our young people engaged and seemed to have a great weekend growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other, which after all, is the goal and hope for all events in youth ministry, including Anois, even after 10 years. Here’s to the next ten!

JUNIOR WEEKEND 2013 – REPORT BY CAROLINE DIX

Thanks to leader Caroline Dix for reflecting on her experience on the Junior Weekend in Durrow. Here are some extracts, but the full article is at http://www.udyc.ie/junior-weekend-2013

As soon as I got on the bus, I knew that this event would be different to any other I have experienced with UDYC. I must admit that I had second thoughts, mostly to do with the fact that it was my first time being a leader, and I was afraid. Afraid of failure. But after talking with some of the children, I realised they were the complete opposite of what I worried they would be. So, I swallowed my fear and mentally prepared for the weekend ahead.

Once we were all settled in, we sat down to eat some lovely curry. We had enough time to play a few games, but then we had to go to worship, so the leaders, Alec, Niki, Henry, Ed, Jane, and me, of course, managed to get everyone seated. The theme of the worship sessions over the course of the weekend was ‘Absolutely everything’, where we covered three stories in the Bible: The Creation, The Tower of Babylon and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The next day, after getting the kids ready and finished washing up, we went to an outdoor education centre, where we could go on a climbing wall, take the Leap of Faith, and balance precariously on a wobbly obstacle course, named the Treetop Walk, 40 feet or so in the air. We then had packed lunches that we prepared just after breakfast, and headed off to go a bowling alley to play a game of laser tag, and go bowling, of course.

When we came back, we had about half an hour free time and then worship again. This session was all about the Tower of Babylon, and the group activity was that we had to work together to build a structure, as tall as possible. But we couldn’t speak English. Some of us had to hum; some of us had to whistle, and so on. The disco afterwards was fantastic!

I guess you could say that I faced my demons at that event, because to be honest, I was never the leader for anything before. Always the follower, never the leader, that’s me. Until now, at least. That weekend was hopefully the first of many, as I really hope to help UDYC to stay strong, as it has always been there for me, through the bad times and the good. It was always the people that made it what it is, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to be one of those people.

Junior Weekend fun at Castlecomer Discovery Park

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

UDYC’s Annual Christmas Dinner Dance takes place on Saturday 7th December in Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. Tickets must be booked by Monday 2nd December 2013. Further details or ticket bookings from Kenneth Baker @ 087 9777360.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY TRIPS

Junior Day Trip – Friday 27th December 2013 – 10-13 years
Senior Day Trip – Sunday 29th December 2013 – 13 years plus

Our annual Christmas day trips will include:
• Swimming Centre (Junior Only)
• Circus (Junior Only)
• Worship @ Holy Trinity Rathmines (Senior Only)
• Funderland (Senior Day Trip Only)
• Ice-Skating
• McDonald’s
• Karting

Booking forms will be available for the event soon. Each day trip will cost €60 if booked and fully paid by Friday 20th December 2013, €70 if after Friday 20th December. If there are any 13 year olds that would like to participate in both the Junior & Senior Day
trips the cost if booked and paid in full by Friday 20th December 2013 will be £100 for both trips. Cost includes transport, all admission charges and evening meal. Transport is available to and from: Limerick, Nenagh, Toomevara, Moneygall, Roscrea, and Portlaoise.

Further information about any UDYC activities can be got from Edward (087) 2907553, on our website (http://udyce.ie/) and on our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,
Damian
Email: 05shortend@gmail.com

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Diocesan Council was held on Tuesday, 12th November in St. Brendan’s Rectory, Birr. There was a good attendance at the meeting. Discussions included the finalisation of plans for the annual Christmas Craft Day which will be held in Nenagh this year.

PHILIPPINE ISLAND DISASTER
Once again one of our GFS World Countries has been struck by destruction. Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippine Island. This tragedy is another reminder that nature’s fury is sometimes so immense that it can overwhelm even the most diligent preparations. Combine that with a string of unfortunate circumstances – some man-made – and the result is the disaster of epic proportions that the country now faces. Please keep in your prayers our sisters in the Philippines and their families as they endure this destruction. GFS Diocesan Council agreed to make a donation to the relief work in the Philippines,

NENAGH

Many thanks to Nenagh Branch for organising this year’s Diocesan Christmas Craft Day which was held in St. Mary’s No.2 National School, Nenagh on 30th November. It is always a afternoon much enjoyed by the girls.

Mothers' Union

BALLINASLOE MU

On Monday 11th November, members enjoyed an evening of demonstrations on mini "tasty treats" for the festive season. We now look forward to our Christmas meeting when member Marie Quinnlan will demonstrate how to make a fresh swag for the mantelpiece or stairway. This meeting is on December 9th and all visitors will be very welcome as usual to this meeting.

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

The Anchors were on best behaviour while having a great time when they had a get-together in Jump’n’ Gyms this month! Then the hard work started...all the boys have put so much effort into learning their song/actions/readings and have been so patient and well behaved in rehearsals. They have done themselves proud before we even get to Family Worship! It’s great to see such young people having the courage to stand up and read/act/sing in front of the congregation. Canon Marie has done a great job tailoring "Jonah Man Jazz" and providing readings for all the enthusiastic volunteers! We appreciate the opportunity to show off the boys’ skills and talents and their efforts will be rewarded at the Christmas party! At our Enrolment Service we welcomed Adam, Andy, Angus, Brehon, Jack, Lukas, Oliwier, Robert and William and our new Leader Jim Stone! (See photo P22)

STOP PRESS!!!

The Boys’ Brigade leaders want to say a HUGE thank you and congratulations to the boys of the 1st Nenagh Company for their commitment and efforts on Sunday! They did a fantastic job and we are very proud of them all!

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

On Wednesday, 13th November, we welcomed Charlotte Lewis to our meeting for a fondant icing demonstration. Charlotte showed us how to work with the icing and had a variety of colours prepared for us to use. We watched eagerly as Charlotte made a ladybird to decorate the first bun. She had several buns decorated with different designs to give the girls ideas. We also saw tubes of icing and icing pens which could be used to add finer details along with various cutters and icing tools.

Each girl chose a design and decorated a bun adding more details with icing pens. Everybody was delighted with the results and had a very enjoyable afternoon. Our sincere thanks go to Charlotte for all her preparation and for sharing her talents with us

BIRR

Birr Branch are delighted to welcome five new members this year. A holy communion and G.F.S. Opening Service took place on Sunday 20th October in St. Brendan’s Church. All members present took part in the service carrying the banner, reading lessons, leading prayers, helping at communion etc. Thank you to Archdeacon Carney for his support and for making this act of worship so meaningful for the girls.

The branch are organising their Annual collection of non perishable groceries for the Women’s Refuge in Athlone, along with 5 hand knit blankets made by some of our members.
AUGHRIM MU
Over the past two months the Aughrim Mothers’ Union have had visiting speakers at their meetings in the Rectory. The October meeting held on Saturday 19th welcomed Claire Besynoe who gave the gathering a personal account of her life that has brought her to different parts of our world. Her address was most interesting and well received. The speaker at the November meeting held on Friday 15th was Rev Ruth Gill who spoke on the theme of Advent and the importance of prayer. Many thanks to our speakers who have given of their time to come and be with us in Aughrim.

MU ALL IRELAND AUTUMN COUNCIL
On Saturday 16th November several delegates from the Diocese attended the MU All Ireland Autumn Council at the Springfield Hotel in Leixlip. All Ireland President, Phyllis Grothier reflected on her amazing journey as president since summer 2012 and said that during difficult times she put her faith in God and relied on the prayerful support of all Mothers’ Union members, reminding us of the wonderful work that MU does both within our own communities and in communities abroad helping them to become self sufficient. Phyllis said that we must have “the feet of Jesus, the heart of Mary and the hands of Martha”. A huge “thank you” was given to All Ireland Treasurer, Pat Gray, who has retired after 23 years. Phyllis said that Pat has worked faithfully and tirelessly for Mothers’ Union and wished her and her husband many happy years of retirement. Phyllis mentioned the MU General Meeting which is coming to Belfast on 21st June 2014. Tickets will be available from 17th February from The Mothers’ Union Office at St. Michan’s Church, Dublin and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. During our Eucharist we prayed for all those caught up in the tragedy in the Phillipines and the collection went towards this and also special relief donations can be sent via Us.

SCHOOL NEWS
St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

We welcomed everyone back to school after mid-term break and we also welcomed Ms. Wendy Walker into the senior classroom for her teaching practice.

Recorder classes got under way with our new teacher, Mr. Olsen, and already the senior classes are making some lovely music.

It has been a very musical beginning to the second part of this term as pupils in 1st to 6th classes prepared for their performances in “The Joy of Music”, a concert organised by Irina Demova, one of our parents. Irina is an accomplished musician and she very kindly organised a concert in St. Nicholas’ Church, Adare in aid of the school. The line-up included Helen Houlihan, soprano, Edel O’Brien, mezzo-soprano, Irina Demova, piano & organ, Sybren Oggel & Stefan Kaiser on the trumpets, Ieteke Oggel on cello, Grigory Ramendik on violin and our own school choir. It was a marvellous evening of musical entertainment and thanks to all who helped out with the organisation before and during the event. The pupils sang “We are Marching”, “I Have a Dream” and “Sing” and were conducted by Irina on the evening.

Róisín Meaney, a Limerick author, who has written books for adults and children, is due to visit us soon and we look forward to hearing her read from one of her children’s books and encourage us in the writing process.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Gary Stutte to school recently. Prof. Stutte, a senior scientist who has worked at Kennedy Space Station and who is now based in the CELLS lab in L.I.T. spoke to the pupils in 1st to 6th classes about his life as a scientist, his experiences at the Kennedy Space Centre and his work in L.I.T. developing a system to grow plants in space. We thoroughly enjoyed his visit which was both informative and entertaining. The senior pupils had a very interesting visit to the Desmond Castle in Adare this week as part of their local project.

We were very sorry to learn that Rev. Gary Paulsen will be leaving Adare to take up his new position as Dean of Killaloe. We wish him every blessing as he takes on this new role and thank him for his guidance and support in school over the past number of years.

Dress-Up Day went off with its usual success just before mid-term break with all pupils and staff getting into the spirit of it.
As usual there were some very creative costumes which helped to make the book characters come to life. Congratulations to the three prize-winners in our Autumn poetry/painting competition. Well done to Hannah Smith in senior infants for her lovely picture and to Ingrid Cussen, 2nd class and Christian Oggel, 4th class for their wonderful poems.

It won’t be long until we begin preparations for our carol-singing at the Crescent Shopping Centre and our carol service, not to mention Christmas plays on the 18th December. It is going to be a busy December!

St Mary’s No2 National School, Nenagh

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.
Winter has come.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about the shortening of the days, when the light is scarce and Christmas beckons. No matter how short the day, here at St. Mary’s they are filled with activity.

Our soccer coaching programme continues with Sylvia in November. Beginning in mid-November, Mr. Pat Fitzpatrick will coach rugby.

The Green Flag Student committee is well underway, and our student body representatives are Elaine Armitage, Brehon O'Donnell, Jack Powell, Laura Davey, Emanuel Lustynowicz, Lauren Cao and Ashling Davey. Each pupil is very welcome to their new role and we look forward to their input into our long-term, whole school action for the environment.

Our students raised €138 for Temple Street Children’s Hospital this year. In return for a small contribution, the students were allowed to come to school in costume. It was great to see that, despite these straitened times, there is still compassion for those less fortunate than us.

Our Christmas play and Carol Service will soon be upon us. To that end, we are busy with music, lyrics, dance and drama. There are imaginative costumes to plan and props to source. With each week passing so quickly, the excitement has increased. Forget the X Factor – dreams are made upon the St. Mary’s stage!

The Advent season is just around the corner. May we take this opportunity to wish all of our community; pupils, staff, parents and neighbours a warm, healthy and happy Christmas. Go n-eirí an short the day when the light is scarce and Christmas beckons. No matter how less fortunate than us.

Our PTAs have organized a fundraising Occupational Surnames Quiz. Quiz sheets, costing €2 each, are now on sale and available from every family and from the school. Thank you very much to Miriam Henderson who, once again, very kindly set the questions for our quiz.

Thank you very much to Carola Donaldson who helped the staff and pupils from Fifth and Sixth Class make Advent Wreaths for our school and parish churches. The results were beautiful and the process helped to make the season of Advent more meaningful for all involved. We very much appreciate Carola’s giving so generously of her time and creative talents to help with this important preparation for Christmas.

Our School Carol Service will take place in St. Kieran’s Church on Wed. 18th December at 7.00pm. Teachers and pupils are busy preparing for this service, while also fitting in visits to the theatre and to Borrisokane Community College’s Christmas Concert. We hope that Santa may even have time to visit the school sometime during this very busy month. The collection at this year’s Carol Service will be donated to Borrisokane Community College’s Autistic Unit. All are very welcome to our Carol Service.

School will close on Friday 20th December for Christmas holidays. All at Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. hope that you and yours will have a very happy Christmas, wherever you are, and wish you all the best for the New Year.

Cloughjordan No1 National School

Well done to our Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class pupils who participated in the North Tipperary Primary Schools Track and Field Competition in the indoor stadium in Nenagh on 23rd October. In particular we congratulate Ruán Ó hAnluain who came 3rd in the Sixth Class Boys Shot Putt, Laura Williams who came 3rd in the Fifth Class Girls 300m and Hugh Guest, Laura Hayes, Jacqueline Mooney and Laura Williams who won the Fifth Class Mixed Relay. Many thanks to Charles, Sandra and Carl Williams who generously gave of their time to help the Class teachers prepare the children for this event.

Congratulations to our Third and Fourth Class team of Hannah Austin, Robyn Fitzgerald, Jake Adler, Hugo Ó hAnluain, Ross Austin, Alex Chadwick, Alastair Grant, Andrew Hayes, Tom Larke, Maro Spangenberg and Donncha Speight-Burns who entered the Primary School Indoor Futsal Blitz held in Borrisokane Community College on 8th November, which was organised by Transition Year Students, Miss Cunningham and Ms. Kenny. Nine teams played on the day and after a closely played final, and penalty shoot out, our team emerged victorious. Many thanks to Borrisokane Community College for organising and hosting this very successful event.

Both schools in Cloughjordan are extremely grateful to Glenn Austin who very kindly ran the Dublin City Marathon at the end of October in aid of both schools. Glenn reached home comfortably in just under 3 hours 19 minutes! Well done Glenn. That evening the Parent Teacher Associations from both schools hosted a welcome home reception for Glenn in The Railway Bar, at which Glenn presented €3000 to each school. We can’t thank Glenn enough for this very generous gesture. Thank you very much also to all those who sponsored this event. Your support was greatly appreciated.

The school was delighted to generously support the Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box appeal again this year. Very many filled shoeboxes were sent into school and gratefully accepted by the charity. These Christmas Shoeboxes will bring great joy to children abroad who will receive no other gifts this Christmas. Thank you very much to everybody who supported this appeal.

Our PTA has organized a fundraising Occupational Surnames Quiz. Quiz sheets, costing €2 each, are now on sale and available from every family and from the school. Thank you very much to Mrs. Carola’s giving so generously of her time and creative talents to help with this important preparation for Christmas.

Our School Carol Service will take place in St. Kieran’s Church on Wed. 18th December at 7.00pm. Teachers and pupils are busy preparing for this service, while also fitting in visits to the theatre and to Borrisokane Community College’s Christmas Concert. We hope that Santa may even have time to visit the school sometime during this very busy month. The collection at this year’s Carol Service will be donated to Borrisokane Community College’s Autistic Unit. All are very welcome to our Carol Service.

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Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

We are all delighted in Kiltallagh N.S. with the news that we are through to the County semi-finals of the Irish Primary School Debating Competition.

Under Ms O’Connor’s tuition, our sixth class pupils participated in this competition on November 11th – opposing the motion that “Homework is a Waste of Time”.

Here are some snippets for the various points which they used to convince the judging panel that “Homework is a Waste of Time”.

• Homework contributes to physical and emotional exhaustion and allows little or no time for leisure and family activities.
• Not all children are academic and it stifles their creativity.
• In Ireland today there is an epidemic of obesity in school age children linked to diet and inactivity. Due to the amount of homework assigned, it is next to impossible to be physically active in daylight hours.
• The weight of children’s schoolbags is also proving detrimental, causing severe strain to their spinal column and back areas. If children didn’t have homework, it would not be necessary to drag home heavy school bags each evening.
• Finally, the PISA Study by the OECD of School performance league tables of educational performance shows that Finland was ranked at or near the top of all studies of since 2000. And why is this? Finland gives minimal amounts of homework and engages children in more creative assignments and play.

Would you dare disagree with them?!

Our county semi-final took place on 25th November where Kiltallagh opposed the motion “Climate Change is not my problem” – we will let you know how we did next Newslink!

Pictured above are our debating speakers- Naoise, Emily, Rosa and Eamonn

WHERE’S WALLY?

Congratulations to Katie Boyle who received a Runner up Prize in the recent “Where’s Wally” Art Competition in conjunction with the Kerry County Mobile Library. Katie received her prize from Kerry Mobile Librarian Barthy Flynn.

DAVRONS SUB-ROLL CAFÉ, MILLTOWN

Congratulations to Katie Boyle, Rachel Boyle and Lauren Griffin – prize-winners in Davrons Halloween Colouring Competition. They all received lovely Halloween treats and had their winning entries displayed on the shop front window throughout Halloween.

JP MCMANUS ALL IRELAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to one of our past pupils Robert Leask who was one of 125 students presented with the JP McManus All Ireland Scholarship Award at a gala ceremony in Limerick last week.

It is now almost six years since the concept of the All Ireland Scholarships was first proposed by JP McManus when he expressed a strong desire to provide funds for the establishment of a third level education scholarship scheme covering the thirty-two counties of Ireland. He stated that the Celtic Tiger would not be around for ever and that education would be the key for success in more difficult times. He is also conscious of the cross border dimensions of the proposed scholarship programme and stated that the All Ireland Scholarships scheme should operate on a similar basis North and South.

The value of Robert’s scholarship is set at €6,750 per annum and will continue for the duration of his Engineering Programme in Trinity College, Dublin.

Participation in the scholarship scheme is confined to students who are exempt from paying Leaving Certificate Examination fees and awarded on the basis of the results of a candidate’s first attempt at the final secondary education examinations in Ireland.

We are delighted for Robert and his family and Kiltallagh School is very proud of their past pupil. We wish Robert continued success in your life ahead.

To all our pupils, families, friends of Kiltallagh N.S. and Newslink readers Nollaig Shona díbh go léir.

St John’s Parochial School, Tralee

We have had a lot of activity in St. John’s School over the last number of weeks. The Senior Room – 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes – registered for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme, with discussion and debate ongoing on a suitable venture. All of this of course is top secret until their plans are unveiled!

The school has registered for the Active Schools Flag and we will have organised activities including scheduled walks to and from school. We also registered for the Incredible Edibles Programme and look forward to receiving our seeds and garden plans early in the New Year.

Well done to all students for their entries in the Credit Union Art Competition and our congratulations to Bethany Odiahi in Senior Infants who won an award in her category in that competition. Well done Bethany.

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Well done to all students for their entries in the Credit Union Art Competition and our congratulations to Bethany Odiahi in Senior Infants who won an award in her category in that competition. Well done Bethany.
With Christmas fast approaching, we have been extra busy. The students responded to the Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal for Christmas 2013 and the school donated their boxes last week. The Christmas Play is scheduled for Sunday 8 December in Tralee Church and all are busy practising ….. for the play, carol and hymn singing, readings and prayers. Also early in December, the Junior Room are going to Siamsa Tire to see the winter play "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". The students have designed their Christmas Cards and are now working on their own designs for the calendar for 2014.

The school will close for Christmas holidays on 20th December and will reopen on 7th January.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all a peaceful and happy Christmas season.

Sian go foil.

Rathkeale No2 National School

TASTE OF CHRISTMAS – COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

We have teamed up with Rathkeale and Askeaton Group of Parishes to organise a joint fund-raiser which will take place in Rathkeale House Hotel on Wednesday 4th December at 8pm sharp, and be given by Frank Moynihan. Tickets, €10, are available throughout the parish of from Sian Wilmot – tel: 087 2735234. Tickets are selling fast so don’t leave it too late! There will also be a raffle on the night. Doors will open at 7:30pm and all are welcome.

GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

Our Green School Committee is busy concentrating on the next theme of Transport. We have had visits from our Green School Officer, Angela from Limerick County Council and she has spoken about what is expected for us to be awarded our next green flag. She came again 20th November to carry out a “Walkability” study with the committee. Hopefully, they will come up with a way of incorporating walking to school without too much difficulty. The biggest challenge is that very few of our pupils are living within walking distance and all live in various directions from the school. We had a collection of clothing for the National Council for the Blind recently and gathered together about 20 bags of clothing.

PYJAMA DAY

The pupils decided to hold a Pyjama Day on 29th November in aid of Fields of Life. In return for wearing pyjamas to school the children will make a donation to the collection. They will then decide what to purchase from the Fields of Life, Gifts for Life website to help a family in Africa.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Our Christmas Concert takes place on Wednesday 18th December. We will have a short pantomime and a musical interlude. Yasmin O’Grady is preparing us for the pantomime and we thank her in advance for all her hard work in writing, casting, rehearsing and directing.

The pupils have been busy designing Christmas Cards and they are now with the printers. Any profits raised will go towards school funds.

School will close for Christmas on 20th December and will reopen again on 6th January.

CONGRATULATIONS

We pass on our congratulations to David in Junior Infants on winning a prize in a local art competition. We also congratulate, Jack in Senior Infants on being one of the lucky few to have been chosen to sing on A Song for Childline. Childline is 25 years old this year and a song has been recorded in recognition of the anniversary and also to help raise funds. The song, Solitaire is available to download from itunes at 99c. It is also available for purchase at Tesco and Golden Discs. If you get a chance you might download the song and support a very worthy cause.

JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR

Limerick Education Centre is in the process of putting together a Junior Science Fair on 6th March and we have been one of five schools lucky enough to be taking part in this, its first year. Between now and March we will be putting a strong emphasis on Science throughout the school and on the scientific approach to experiments. The pupils will be given the opportunity to carry out several experiments in school and will prepare some for the Science Fair which will be held in Limerick.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing all Newslink readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

St Michael’s National School, Limerick

The children enjoyed a popular Halloween disco with many fun games and activities, organised by the PTA. Now, it’s almost Christmas! As usual everyone is busy preparing for the Carol Service on December 11. It is always a wonderful occasion for the school community to come together as we focus on the real meaning of the season.

Second, Third and Fourth classes enjoyed a historical Buildings Trail around Pery Square and its environs, gaining much new knowledge about the history of houses and churches, as well as the People’s Park.

Fifth and Sixth Classes arranged and co-ordinated a highly successful and profitable Cake Sale raising funds for a film-making workshop – €605 - what a fantastic result! The event was greatly enjoyed by all – both vendors and customers alike.

Third and Fourth Classes participated in the FAI Futsal indoor soccer tournament recently, an annual event much anticipated by these pupils. Jenny Lyttle, a past pupil of the school and hockey interprovincial, gave hockey coaching sessions to Second, Third and Fourth Classes. These were hugely enjoyed and future hockey potential was in evidence! Jenny has recently returned from Alaska, where she spent six months’ placement. This followed the completion of her college course in Adaptive Physical Activity, working with those who face physical and intellectual challenges in their lives.

The school said its goodbyes to Reverend Jane Galbraith who, after ten years in Limerick City Parish, is moving to work in the Tralee and Dingle Union. Warm words were spoken of her time spent with, and her efforts on behalf of the children, both within the school and parish community. She had also been involved with the management of the school. This has been greatly appreciated by the pupils, staff and parents. Cards made by the children in
We're in a world of school visits, school newspapers, outdoor pursuits, debates, quizzes, the development of a “Community Group” working to promote positive mental health in our School, adult education and lots, lots more - all designed to create interests, opportunities and skills for our students whose learning must be more than just that that takes place in the classroom.

News from the Villiers Sanctuary

November is a time of year when our thoughts turn toward Remembrance. The Villiers service of Remembrance was held in St Mary's Cathedral on Wed 13th November and as ever it was a wonderful, if somewhat sombre, occasion. This is the third year that this service has taken place and it is very quickly becoming established as an event of great importance. It allows people the opportunity to sit and reflect on individual loss while listening to beautiful music. Everyone was given a candle as they entered the Cathedral and during the service they were invited to come forward and have their candle lit. Afterwards they placed their candle on a large wooden cross on the floor.

The sight of 200 candles on a six foot cross lighting up an area of this beautiful Cathedral was a sight that I will hold in my memory for quite some time. I would like to say thank you to Dean Sandra for the use of the Cathedral and to Fr. Frank O Connor for the Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Centre and to Rev. Paul Ritchie from the Limerick Baptist Church for not only attending the service but for taken an active role in the liturgy. I would also like to thank all the students who came forward to offer their help to make this occasion such a wonderful experience, and of course to all those who came in search of comfort and hope.

Congratulations to the Villiers Community group for all the hard work that they have done since the beginning of the year. This group is playing an active role in promoting positive mental health in Villiers. They are busy putting up the positive thought for the week in the school and have started the Random Act of Kindness campaign by giving out lollipops to all the 3rd and 6th years during the recent exams. A trip to the RDS to take part in the Cycle Against Suicide Student Congress is being planned where the group will give a presentation on these and many other activities that they are doing.

Keep it up Guys!!!!!!

Congratulations also to Ms Emily Sexton and to all those in Villiers who were involved in the shoe box appeal, we managed to collect sixty-two shoe boxes for Team-Hope.

I am always blown away by the level of commitment by the students to help that exists in Villiers and this was really highlighted this past few weeks.

God Bless one and all!!!!

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Help Wanted

Newslink Seeks a Volunteer to lead a proactive campaign to increase advertising. Please contact Joc on 087 699 6775 if you would like to help.
Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes
Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

From 12 December
Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen
The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare
Tel: 061-376 687
Mob: 085-764 0533
Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Sunday 1st December; Advent Carol Service in St. Flannans Cathedral at 6pm.
Sunday 22nd December Christmas Carol Service in St. Flannan’s Cathedral at 6pm.
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve Holy Communion in St. Caiman’s Church, Mountshannon at 11.30pm
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day,
9.30am – Holy Communion at All Saints, Castleconnell
10.30am – St Caimin’s Church, Mountshannon
11.30am – Holy Communion St. Flannans’s Cathedral, Killaloe

HANDEL’S MESSIAH
The DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama will give a performance of Handel’s Messiah in St Flannans’s Cathedral at 7pm on 6th December. The group consists of 70 choir members and 10 musicians. Tickets are €15 and can be purchased at the door and all proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Cathedral.

NEW DEAN
We are looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Gary Paulsen who has been appointed Rector of the Killaloe and Stradbally Group of Unions and Dean of Killaloe to the Parish. Rev. Gary has been Rector in the Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes for the past 2 years. He will be installed as Dean in St. Flannan’s Cathedral on Thursday 12th of December at 7pm.

A HAPPY OCCASION!
Was it in the context of “The Gathering” that the Vaugh family got together recently? Whatever the reason, the sun shone for this cheerful photo! Parents Sylvia and George are standing, Sylvia behind the young man on one knee on the left and George behind the even younger man on the right.

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
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057-913-5341 Mob: 087-948-4402
Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER–ADVENT 4
Lockeen: 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Lorrha: 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Birr: 11:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Birr: 7:30 p.m. Ecumenical Carol Service
TUESDAY, 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE
Lockeen: 7:00 p.m. Pageant & Family Communion
Birr: 11:30 p.m. Traditional Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY, 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY
Dorrha: 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Lorrha: 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Birr: 11:30 a.m. Holy Communion
SUNDAY, 29th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS 1
Birr: 11:30 a.m. Service of the Word & Carols
WEDNESDAY, 1st JANUARY – THE NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST
Birr:11:30 a.m. Holy Communion
SUNDAY, 5th JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY
Dorrha: 9:30 am Morning Prayer
Lorrha: 10:00 am Holy Communion
Birr: 11:30 am Holy Communion

BEST WISHES
Our best wishes go to Mr Charlie Ardill who is now living in Mount Carmel Nursing Home in Roscrea. We also remember those in other nursing homes, Mrs Pauline Hickie, Mr George Watkins and Mr Alfie Dyer.

PASTORAL
Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had to spend time in hospital. Mrs Barbara Haslam has been in Tullamore and we pray that she and all those who are ill will feel God’s presence in the healing ministry of medical staff and receive strength and encouragement from the prayers of so many well-wishers.
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

NOVEMBER
The darker days of November bring quieter times, but as you read this we will be in the middle of our preparations for Christmas and details of Carol Services, Christmas Services and other activities will be announced in the Parish Newsletter.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
The day was observed with the appropriate Act of Remembrance, silence and wreath laying. This year also, young people laid poppy crosses, symbolic of the poppy as a remembrance of the past and the cross as a sign of hope for future peace. The Poppy Appeal benefitted.

THE SICK
At the time of writing Bert Wallace has returned to hospital while George Stanley is spending some time in Clover Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone. Des Young is home and looking well, while Averil Doughan is also making good progress at home after having a lengthy hospitalisation in both St. Vincent’s and Portlaoise. Little Josh Pearson was in hospital in Dublin, but is now home and doing well, while little Rachel Hodgins is now also home from Portlaoise. Our concerns at present are for newly arrived baby, Iris Reid, granddaughter to Des and Florence Reid who after birth was transferred to hospital in Dublin. We pray for a full and speedy recovery for all.

SYMPATHY
Our sincerest sympathy to John Whiteford on the passing of his nephew in Kilkenny in October.

MOTHERS UNION
Members from this parish and their friends enjoyed an interesting evening in Dooley’s Hotel, Birr with Carmel Ryan followed by refreshments sponsored by Birr MU. On December 5th, members are invited to afternoon tea with a ‘man in red’. Is it the Bishop, or is it someone from further afield accompanied by reindeer? All will be revealed on the day. And on December 9th, members will be on the move again, this time to Cloughjordan for hymn singing and songs from the musicals.

BOYS’ BRIGADE
Ticket selling for a monster raffle with attractive prizes is currently keeping members busy, while earlier in the month of October the Anchors enjoyed a Halloween evening when the Juniors went bowling to Portlaoise.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Short Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held in Patterson’s Nursing Home and Villa Marie in October, while the parish was represented at a Mass in Mount Carmel Nursing Home where the name of former parishioner and resident, Bob Dunne was remembered in prayer. This year’s annual ecumenical service of remembrance for those who died from Roscrea in World War I was held in The Abbey Hall. Adrian Hewson was the preacher and all churches in the community were represented.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Trevor and Michelle Austin on the arrival of Rhea, who is now home and progressing well after taking everyone by surprise with such an early arrival. Also well done to Heather Evans, Vivienne Wallace and their team of helpers on preparing 350 Christmas Shoe Boxes for the overseas lorry. Children in Eastern Europe and Africa are going to have a better Christmas, thanks to this idea. And, as we go to press, we congratulate Evie Lupton on becoming a first time great-grandmother which now makes George and Lorraine Clarke grandparents.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
Have all the children written to Santa Claus yet? The writer understands that the little elves are keeping an eye on our vacant parish! We take this opportunity to wish all our readers and parishioners a Happy Christmas and everything you wish for yourselves in 2014. In particular our greetings to all who will not be spending Christmas in their own homes this year, to those who are housebound and to Elsie, Heather, Charlie, Violet, Gladys, Betty, Bertie, Florrie, Alice and May, our parishioners in local Nursing Homes.

And finally, will the parish find a new Rector in its Christmas Stocking? Poor Santa will be busy!

ST CRONAN’S YOUTH CLUB, ROSCREA
The Youth Club would like to thank Rev. Lesley for all her help over the years and we wish her well in her new parish of Clontarf.
Our Youth Club meet monthly in the Methodist Hall from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. It is open to all secondary school students with a fee of only €2 each per night. Jono Griffin came in September and introduced us to the ‘surf project’.

On October 19th, 26 teenagers and 5 leaders went surfing. We left Roscrea at 9.30 am and arrived in Spanish Point at 11.30 am. After a safety talk and our picnic, we were kitted out, headed down to the beach and given a surf board. After a few instructions, boys, girls and even the leaders were in the water trying to catch the waves. We had a few hours of fun in the water, got changed, enjoyed delicious hot meal followed by some team building challenges organised by Jono – finishing off with a thought for the day. We returned home tired but with great memories of a great day.

Thanks to all who organised this fantastic day and to Jono and his crew in Spanish Point for their hospitality and surfing tips! We look forward to another surfing trip in the New Year.
We will meet again in December for our Christmas party night.
Laura Gee

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templenenagh, 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

DECEMBER SPECIAL SERVICES (in addition to normal timetable)
Advent 1, 1 December, 11.00 RSCM “Veni Emmanuel”, St Mary’s - joint choirs and congregation
Advent 2, 8 December, 5.00 pm, Community Carols by Candlelight, with poems and readings, Killodiernan Church.
Advent 3, 15 December, 11.00 am, Family Worship St Mary’s: Assembling the Nativity, also, Community Carols by Candlelight, with poems and readings, Templenenagh Church 6.30 pm
Advent 4 The Carol Service, St Mary’s, with Nenagh Town Band, 3.30 pm
Christmas Eve: 7.00 pm Templenenagh; 11.00 pm St Mary’s Christmas Day: 10.00 am St Mary’s, 11.00 am Killodiernan

JANUARY
Sunday 19th ‘The Light of God’s Glory’, RSCM Service for Family Worship, St Mary’s, 11.00 am
Tuesday 21st - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service: “Is Christ divided?”, St Mary’s, 8.00 pm

Continue to page 21
The Benedictine ideal of a human is not someone who accomplishes things, but rather it is the wise and mature person who knows how to bring people together, and who creates around themselves an atmosphere of peace and mutual understanding.

This is the description of the ideal, and Benedict says no one can simply decide to become a peacemaker. He says only those who have created peace within themselves can make peace. And only those who have become reconciled with themselves, with their own weaknesses, faults, needs and desires, ambitions and so on. Because he says that peace is not a programme of action but rather arises from inner peace.

He says this inner peace is achieved through the struggle for inner purity and through prayer in which one seeks to accept everything God presents, whether it is your own weakness or the weakness of others. Our normal reaction to the weak is that of annoyance and anger.

LEADERS

Each leader wants to be proud of that which he/she leads, and so when there is a ‘black sheep’ in the family, community, or company, they are pushed to the margins and we prefer not to notice them. We also don’t want outsiders to see them, because that will ruin our reputation. ‘What will the people say and think?’ We often see parents’ negative reaction when children cause them embarrassment.

Benedict requires that the abbot (leader of community) surrenders all ambition regarding the reputation of the community and to follow the individual in their weakness, going after them like the good shepherd. This of course applies equally to family, work, church and so on. Benedict says this is what a true physician will do - one who permits him or herself to be wounded by the wounds of others and to keep them in God’s healing love.

Therefore the ability to heal is a precondition for the abbot to be able to make peace in the community. He says that peace cannot be dictated or established through discipline, but that it must grow out of a love that is strong enough to take up, and heal the others’ failings. This demands an extraordinary amount of love.

FACE THE DIFFICULTIES

We are tempted to want to suppress conflicts, or bring down our wrath on the other who causes conflict and embarrassment to us. Or we tend to build up a wall that separates us from the weak and this leaves us alone in our apparently intact world.

Benedict says we are not to suppress conflict but address it openly. This peace that is spoken about is not achieved by just giving in and not addressing issues that need to be addressed. So many people just give in and don’t address the issues because they want to keep the peace. We see this in so many marriages, where one partner keeps quiet to keep the peace. This will only lead to more frustration and internal turmoil.

In family life this does not mean that parents do not discipline children in case they throw their toys out of the cot so to speak. This is not the peace that is being referred to - this is a false peace.

For Benedict, peace comes about when each admits his or her own desires and needs. There needs to be discernment in order to decide to what degree the needs of individuals can be taken into account.

For me it is so important in our families that we listen to each other: that parents listen to their children, and children listen to their parents; that partners listen to each other to listen to the other’s needs. The gift of listening to each other is a precious gift that we can give to one another.
GRUMBLING

Grumbling threatens peace in the home just as in any community. Grumbling, says Benedict, shows that you are dissatisfied with yourself. And instead of admitting to your dissatisfaction with yourself, you project it onto the rest of the family or community. This creates conflict and confusion.

Therefore you become critical of everything, seeking the reasons for your dissatisfaction with yourself in other people. You are too afraid to admit that behind this love of criticism lies the unrecognised dissatisfaction with yourself.

And because you often cannot bear yourself or your own weaknesses, you refuse to bear the weaknesses of others. So you can’t stand it when your partner does not meet your standards, or your children and so on. Then we often see that conflict arises.

Improvement is possible when it happens out of love, and acceptance for your own weaknesses as well as the weaknesses of others, listening to each other, to discern the validity of the other’s struggles.

There is increasingly the inability to achieve peace. And so polarisation takes place in so many contexts of life. Moving away from each other is so common. People so easily regard others as the enemy and fight against them. People want to continually fight with those who have an opinion contrary to their own ideal. And therefore we have to find ways to be peaceful.

We are meant to become positive people who can build up without destroying others. This challenge is the way of love that Jesus showed us. Benedict says we should not want to establish great programmes, because programmes can be used to avoid what is concrete, and what is right in front of us.

It is a matter of simply doing what we have recognised as good and worthwhile, without always aiming our actions against someone. It is a question of living out our Christianity without claiming to be the best people in the world.

Benedict simply says we should go about doing what we should be doing and make peace a reality. This peace will not grab and change the world at once, but starts where we are as we practice it in our context.

Stop grumbling but look toward why you are so dissatisfied. Benedict says this inner peace is achieved through the struggle for inner purity and through prayer in which one seeks to accept everything God presents, whether your own weakness or the weakness of others. Deal with the underlying issues in your conflicts with love, and not trying to fix the other.

So our baptism into Christ challenges us to change and transformation. This is what we are about as followers of ‘the way’ of Jesus. Let us make peace a priority and reality in our lives and influence the atmosphere to be one of peace and mutual understanding.
What the Incarnation means to me
by Damian Shorten

Christmas is a special time of year for many people, not just Christians. But sometimes even Christians can get so caught up in the preparation and presents and planning that even we can forget the true ‘reason for the season’ - it is a ‘yearly remembrance’, as the old BCP ‘Collect for Christmas Eve’ says (p 245), of that central Christian fact the Incarnation. So what does the Incarnation mean personally for me?

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

The Incarnation, when ‘the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us’ (John 1:14), is the fact on which the rest of our faith depends, even before the Atonement. Because if the Jewish rabbi Jesus who was executed on a Roman cross is not who we believe and trust him to be - the Word Incarnate, the second Person of the Trinity, ‘true God from true God’ - then that crucifixion does not mean anything else but a bloody death. But if Jesus is who he claimed to be, which his Resurrection and promise-keeping prove him to be, then he truly is ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’ (John 1:29).

GOD BECAME ONE OF US

So we can say that the Incarnation is what makes Atonement, the reconciliation of our broken relationship with God. But even more than that amazing grace, why the Incarnation means so much to me is how God in his loving wisdom has accomplished this. God made us one in him, in Christ, by this same Christ taking ‘our nature upon him’ (BCP, ‘Collect for The Nativity of our Lord’, p. 246) and becoming one of us. Jesus, true God, ‘emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in our human likeness’ (Philippians 2:7), becoming fully Man. This solidarity of Christ towards us is a firm foundation and support to me as I seek to follow him in my daily life, ‘for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin’ (Hebrews 4:15).

So whenever things are tough, whether because of my own sin, or the sin of this broken world, I have faith in God’s love for me, because I know ‘that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.’ (1 Timothy 1:15) He that was and is perfect love, who knew no sin, was ‘made to be sin’, ‘so that in him we might become the righteousness of God’. (2 Corinthians 5:21) An analogy expressing the depth of Christ’s closeness comes from former Anglican Bishop of South Carolina, U.S.A., ‘Fitz’ Allison: ‘Somehow, Christ’s saving accessibility to sinners must be preserved for us to get on board. In Christ, God’s train stops at our town even if its very name is Sin.’ (C. Fitzsimons Allison, The Cruelty of Heresy: An Affirmation of Christian Orthodoxy (1994), p. 124)

So this is what the Incarnation means for me, as it gives value and drive to my daily commitment and devotion as a disciple of Jesus Christ in every area of my life. My hope and prayer is that this Advent and Christmas season, you may find or rediscover power and beauty of the Incarnation, the love of Christ, ‘the image of the invisible God’ (Colossians 1:15).
What Epiphany means to me
by Marjorie Cavanagh

It never ceases to astonish me how quickly the seasons of Advent and Christmas pass – the carolling, the Nativity Play, Christingle, the bustle in the shops and market-place, all in preparation to meet and receive the most precious gift of all time – the gift of Incarnation in the form of the infant Jesus.

And then follows the season of Epiphany. A new start – a new year filled with promise and opportunity. There's a noticeable change in the air and 'a great stretch in the days' (this is a new one on me, but I rather like the way it describes the turn of the year and the increasing daylight).

In some ways Epiphany is more meaningful to me than Christmas – all the preparation of Advent is behind me, the Christmas shopping is over and done with, the kitchen larder is beginning to return to 'normal' and our family and friends have returned to their homes. Beans on toast take on a new charm after all the treats and exotic cuisine. The Christmas cards have been gathering dust (some of them for more than a month) and the Round-Robin newsletters emerge from beneath piles of miscellany that have found their way into each and every room in the house. The Christmas Tree has been taken down, the Nativity Set is carefully put into its box for another eleven months or so – I double-check to make certain no shepherd or donkey (or pig even! – don't know how that got there…) has fallen beneath the hallstand to be rediscovered around Easter time.

And now, at last, there is time to reflect – time to take another look at the cards and the letters – time to consider and give thanks for those relationships forged through a lifetime. A time to look back; a time to stand still; a time to look forward. A time to take a closer look at myself and my relationship with God. A time to thank Him once again for His most precious and amazing gift.

TIME TO REFLECT

The Epiphany refers to a realisation that Christ IS the Son of God. Western churches generally celebrate the visit of the Magi as the revelation of the Incarnation of the infant Christ, and commemorate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas. But many Protestant churches celebrate Epiphany as a whole season, extending from the last day of Christmas until Ash Wednesday, with a number of different aspects.

On January 1st we celebrate the naming of Jesus – and what a lovely name – a name chosen by God. Jesus means in Hebrew: "God saves." At the annunciation, the angel Gabriel gave Him the name Jesus as his proper name, which expresses both his identity and his mission. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, "will save his people from their sins".

PLOUGH SUNDAY

An ancient tradition in the church takes place on the first Sunday of Epiphany – this is Plough Sunday when a plough is brought into the church. Gathering together around the plough, prayers are offered as we ask God's blessing for the new agricultural year – a sort of 'please' in anticipation of the 'thank you' at harvest time. In preparation for the 'growing season', we pray for God's provision, His goodness and His faithfulness as we begin to plough the field and scatter the good seed on the land. But there's another important perspective – we pray for the nurturing and growth of our churches; we pray for our young people from the tiniest ones to those who are becoming young adults and for those whose needs are special. I can't remember how many times I've heard it stated that our children and young people are the 'future' of the church. Not only are they our future but more importantly – they are the 'present' and a very important present!

OTHER EPIPHANIES

We celebrate the baptism of Jesus on 12th January. One week later sees the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; a wonderful opportunity to get together with our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominational backgrounds – we are stronger together and have much to share – not to mention what we can learn from one another.

Blessing the plough
The conversion of St Paul is celebrated on 25th January! The Christian Church owes so much to St Paul for his encouragement, teaching and scriptural legacy. Praise God for all the saints whose hard labour enables us to journey on in the faith of Christ Jesus.

The presentation of the Christ Child in the temple is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Epiphany – the Feast of Candlemas. (Luke 2:22-40). Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to complete Mary’s ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15 etc).

And so continues the cycle of the Christian Church year. Whilst there is something so reassuring about this, we must never become complacent – it’s too easy to continue to do the same things in the same way on year. In the words of Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury – "we cannot live for our cause to win. We have to live for His cause to win. We need to be a risk-taking church!"

So many different celebrations. But for me, it is Reginald Heber’s ‘Brightest and best’ – THE Epiphany hymn – based on St Matthew 2:11 – that sums it all up:

"... Cold on his cradle, the dew-drops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall, Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all..."

Lord now letest thou thy servant depart in peace – Simeon blesses Jesus in the Temple

Armchair Christmas Quiz
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Very Revd Denis Sandes,
Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary
Competitor Name & Address

ANSWERS: Found around the house
Example: not heavy - LIGHT

1. Could be a knight of this ___ T
2. This C could be hurt ___ U ___
3. Sounds like someone putting on clothes ___ S ___
4. Aladdin genie lived here ___ M ___
5. Do this, or swim ___ N ___
6. Treasure ......of bloomers ___ S ___
7. Kojak's actor ___ L ___
8. Be quiet, owned by both of you, sounds like! ___ H ___
9. Your wheels and your dog! ___ P ___
10. Bird Gais or ESB might be here! ___ L ___
11. Sounds like pussy's lower jaw! ___ H ___
12. Hospital Dress? ___ R ___
13. J Edgar ............ US President ___ O ___
14. For night or flowers. ___
15. Southern implement! ___ T ___
16. Found Australia, er ___ K ___
17. Short saint with nice tunes! ___ T ___
18. Sounds like a drink can do! ___ B ___
19. Sounds like its far away ___ F ___
20. Not wax, but overhead! ___ L ___
21. Students should do this! ___ D ___
22. Fox's tail ___ R ___
23. Could cool the car engine ___ D ___
24. Shoot this location ___ R ___
25. This change is not heavy ___ T ___

Please feel free to copy this and pass it among your friends
Mission Evenings

22ND OCTOBER- REPORT BY ANN MCKEE
LUYENGO SCHOOL AND LUYENGO FARM

On 22nd October a meeting of US Church Mission on schools in rural Africa brought Maureen Moss to speak to us. Maureen from Portumna volunteered as a teacher at the primary school near Luyengo Farm in Swaziland.

Conditions are basic but we listened intently as she described all she was able to do. She taught English to children from five years upwards. English is needed for children to work their way out of poverty, for their futures and their employment.

Maureen worked on improving the school library and found boxes of helpful education material to sort and distribute to the teachers and children, where applicable.

The Government is encouraging the children to read – at times the Bible can be the only family book around. While spiritual, the children need books with lots of pictures and simple texts to facilitate learning. Maureen set up a sports day and this was an event that the children absolutely loved and enjoyed!

With funding she could go to the Care point and buy food and clothes for the children.

A new kitchen has been built and a nurse is available from US funding to give care and medical assistance to the children.

Pencil cases are important and if not needed in this school there are another 25 schools in the diocese. Books are needed that are suitable for children living in Swaziland and helpful for their education. A container is due to be shipped out in the New Year.

14TH NOVEMBER – REPORT BY DAVID FRIZELLE
DEVELOPMENTS AT LUYENGO FARM, SWAZILAND

Three crops in the year, are possible’, Linda Chambers from Us Irl, was speaking at the Mission Evening on 14th. November. on current developments at Luyengo Farm, and how the requirement for a reliable water supply was crucial to the long term viability of the project. Since the old canal system, which supplied water from the Great Usuthu River, was in urgent need of repair, it was decided in Feb 2013 to build a reservoir on the farm. This work was completed by July along with a pump house and ancillary equipment to supply the irrigation system.

Linda went on to tell us of the range of crops currently being grown on the farm, along with plans to get surplus produce out to the schools within the diocese. The manager, Tiki de Beer had also started a small pig farm to consume by-products from the vegetable processing unit.

At their September meeting members of the Diocesan Board of Mission had decided to pay for the loan to build the reservoir. All present were pleased to see that the work was completed and as a result vegetable production had increased especially with regards to the carrot crop for which there was a big demand. The aim is to raise €15,000 as our Mission Sunday Project for 2013.

Carrot washing facilities on the farm are totally inadequate. As a result, two third year students, currently studying Agricultural Engineering at I.T. 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. Brenda O’Sullivan and John Doyle both from Kerry, gave a presentation on their work to date; everyone was impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment to the project.

The Chairman Archdeacon Wayne Carney asked those present to consider running events/activities within their own parishes in order to meet our target of €15,000. With this in mind consideration was given to the proposal of a sponsored cycle rally from Clonfert Cathedral to Killaloe Cathedral, a distance of about 55 miles, to be run in June 2014. Accordingly a few youthful, ( and some not so youthful), members agreed to review the proposed route and the detailed planning required to meet current health and safety legislation and, to report back at the next Mission Evening to be held on Tuesday 11th. Feb 2014 when, we hope to have the Rev Laurence Graham, Methodist Supt for Killarney, to come and speak on the subject of, ‘home mission’.

An enjoyable and informative evening closed with prayer and the Grace.

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NEWS

November, the month for remembering, began with our annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at Ballymackey Graveyard. The weather was ‘inclement’ to put it mildly, and we were all very grateful for the lovely refreshments afterwards at Jean Hodgins’ home. We celebrated All Saints in our churches on 2 November, and Joc Sanders gave an excellent address on Saints and saints! (You can read his address at: http://godtalk-joakim.blogspot.com) A short ecumenical Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths took place at the War Memorial Ashe Road, Nenagh, on Saturday 9th. The main Act of Remembrance took place on Sunday 10th at Killodiernan Church.

We welcomed Henry Norman Joachim into the Christian family at his baptism in St Mary’s on 27th October. Our theme was Stewardship, and we gave hearty thanks for the generosity, both financial and talents, of parishioners of the past, and of the present.

Family Worship on 17th was livelier than usual (and that’s saying something!). Boys Brigade enthusiastically presented Jonah Man Jazz, to the largest congregation ever (so far!) in a Family Worship! They were assisted vocally by Junior and Senior Choirs. Nine new boys were enrolled.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY

And so we begin preparations for the wonderful seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Musically we are book-ending Christmas with the RSCM Veni Emmanuel Service on Advent Sunday, and then a service which is new to us but which looked really attractive when the choir visited St Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick back in September for the RSCM ‘Meet the Director Day’. It’s entitled ‘The Light of God’s Glory - The Epiphany Procession’, and we hope to engage in this wonderful “hymn-full” act of worship on Family Worship on 19th January.

Of course in the middle we have The Carol Service, Sunday 22nd December, St Mary’s, 3.30 pm, and this year we are being joined by

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Nenagh Town Band. Junior and Senior Choirs will lead the singing, and Boys’ Brigade will also sing.

It’s not all music of course (though you might be forgiven for thinking so!). There will be three Advent meditations with Compline by Candlelight on Mondays 2nd, 9th and 16th. And also on Saturday 7th there will be a workshop on.....Angels!........

Killodiernan (on 8th December, 5.00 pm) and Templederry (on 15th December, 6.30 pm) will host Community Carol singing by Candlelight, accompanied by poems and readings. Collections at both these events will be for Our Lady's Children’s Hospital, Crumlin.

We pray for continued healing for Clodagh Allman-Smith, Elizabeth Stephens, and Mildred Clarke.

It seems odd to lay out the schedule for January so early, but in addition to the Epiphany Procession service mentioned above, St Mary’s will host the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service on Tuesday 21st. The powerful theme for 2014 is “Is Christ divided?”

All of us here in the Nenagh Union wish each and every one in our Diocesan family a holy, blessed and peaceful Christmas and the time to catch your breath and marvel at the wonder of it all.

Boy’s Brigade enrolment, with new leader Jim Stone

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 – 2328172
Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website: www.modreeny.com
Stephen’s blog: www.paddyanglican.com

BAPTISMS

Welcome to the family of the Church: Matilda Lorna Parker, daughter of Christian & Kirsten Parker - baptised in Borrisnafarney Church on 5th October;

Hugo Walter David Graham, son of Jason & Cathy of Coolnagower, Cloughjordan - baptised on 20th October in St. Kieran’s Church, Cloughjordan;

Jessica Mae Williamson, daughter of David & Jane of The Rock, Borrisokane - baptised on 26th October in Borrisokane Church;

Madison Angel Susan Donovan, daughter of Adrian & Charlotte - baptised in Ballingarry Church on 27th October.

At the time of going to press another baptism is imminent with the baptism of Bill Robert Walsh, son of Liam & Lynda Walsh of Borrisokane. Bill will be baptised in Roscrea Church, Lynda’s home parish and where she and Liam were married.

We wish all these children of God every blessing in their lives.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the Ralph family on the tragic death in an accident of Liam on 20th October. His death came not long after the equally tragic death of Richard Greene his close friend only weeks earlier. The service took place in Ballingarry Church of Ireland and was presided over by Rev’d Brian Griffin of the Methodist Church and assisted by the rector and Fr. Pat Gilbert, chaplain of St. Brendan’s College. Liam was buried in Ballingarry Churchyard. A large guard

The example of St Brendan

St Brendan the Navigator (c484-c577) has close links to our United Dioceses – he founded monasteries at both Ardfert in Co. Kerry and Clonfert in Co. Galway, where he is buried. He is renowned for his legendary quest for the ‘Isle of the Blessed’, which led him and his monks to venture in a skin boat into the wild Atlantic, perhaps as far as Iceland, and some suggest America.

He has much to teach us in this age of change and migration about courage to face the unknown, and commitment to Christian faith. This lovely prayer is inspired by him:

Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for You.
Amen

"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."
of honour was provided by the Free Spirits Biker Club of which Liam was a member. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Olive, Rachel, John, Liam Jnr, Dot, Heather, Lena and all his family and friends.

Deepest sympathy is also extended to: Norman Carter on the death of his father: Alan Davis on the death of his uncle and: George Whiteford on the death of his nephew.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

On 24th October John Wilde along with family members and friends gathered for a short prayer service and blessing of headstone at the grave of Carrie his wife in Ballymackey Churchyard. It was the 1st anniversary of Carrie’s death and we remember her with fondness and appreciation.

HARVESTS

The last two harvests of the season were very well supported. In Ballylongarry we heard Rev’d Denis Sandes share his own perspective on harvest from both a farming and clerical background and it was a most interesting and informative address.

In Templeharry we had a thoroughly ecumenical harvest this year with Rev’d Gary Paulsen (Dean elect of Killaloe) as preacher and Fr Joe Kennedy (PP Moneygall) taking part along with a sizeable number of his parishioners. It was a special weekend in Moneygall with St. Joseph’s Catholic Church celebrating its 200th anniversary and the rector was delighted to be invited to take part in that celebration only a couple of nights previously where a large number of the Church of Ireland community were present. Both churches benefited from the rich heritage of our different but complimentary traditions.

CLOUGHJORDAN MAN RUNS HIS FIRST MARATHON IN AID OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Glenn Austin who is married to Fiona and the father of two boys set himself a challenge. Having only taken up running two years ago Glenn set his sights on the Dublin City Marathon. Glenn who trains five times a week covering some forty miles finished just marginaly over his target time of 3 hours 15 mins which was a considerable pace for a first Marathon. Cloughjordan had a very good reason to get behind Glenn in his efforts as he had very generously opted to raise funds for the two primary schools in Cloughjordan, the Church of Ireland school where his own sons attend and St. Michael’s Catholic National School. As a parent Glenn saw the serious effects the cutbacks are having on the schools. Both Boards of Management and Parent Teacher Associations were behind Glenn’s efforts and this unity was reflective of the tremendous ecumenical / community spirit in Cloughjordan. A substantial 4 figure sum was raised through Glenn’s efforts.

PHILIPPINES FUNDRAISING

Apart from the official response of the Church of Ireland to the disaster in the Philippines there have been two local initiatives in Cloughjordan in aid of the Philippines.

On Friday 25th October a fundraising Harvest Fayre was held in Aghancon Community Hall. This included an auction and sale, with entertainment for children, sale of bric-a-brac, cakes, produce, raffle and many other items. A sum of €4,870 was raised and many thanks to all who helped in any way.

SPONSORED CYCLE

Many congratulations to parishioners and friends Ben Atkinson, Adam Stanley, Jade Quinlan, Danny Benn, Alex Mooney, Libby Quinlan, Ben Talbot, Aisling Stanley and Ruby Benn, pupils of St Cronan’s NS Roscrea, who undertook a 5km sponsored cycle in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation. This was entirely their own idea and was undertaken on a day of terrible weather, but they completed the cycle in 28 mins. Their collecting and cycling efforts meant that €1,147.10 was collected for the foundation.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon 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

BIRR HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning in aid of Birr Hospice was held in Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse on Thursday 24 October. A substantial sum was raised and many thanks must go to Richard Abraham for organising this, and to all who supported.

HARVEST FAYRE

On Sunday 3rd November we welcomed into the family of the Church Harry Thomas, son of Edwin and Amanda Drought. His baptism took place at the morning service in Aghancon church, and a reception was held afterwards in the Community Hall. We pray for Harry as he begins his journey of faith.
WEDDING

The marriage of Sinead O'Meara from Coolderry and Shane van Rhyn from South Africa took place on Friday 22nd November in St Finnian’s, Kinitty. The Rector and Fr Kieron Blake of Coolderry officiated at a lovely ceremony. We wish them a very happy life of wedded bliss.

BEREAVEMENT

Our condolences and prayers go to the family and friends of Dorothy Kenny who passed away at the age of 97. Her funeral took place in St Mary’s, Shinrone on 31st October, with burial in Quakerstown cemetery. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

Onward into Advent-Christmas, and the richness for our sensibilities - and hopefully spirit and spirituality - of insight into the CHRIST story. WAITING, WATCHING, HEARING are words of calling as we gather in Bethlehem...

For some of us it began at the Christmas Tree Opening in the Ennis Markets, with Brass Band and Carols, where Lions International and Rotary International members launched their annual Christmas Tree Remembrance campaign, linking us with the Bereaved but also the Missing through emigration. This was followed by an inaugural Festival of Light opening programme including a Midnight Torchlight procession through the Town, ending in our St Columba’s Church, lit up by a paschal bonfire.

Special moments on the way are the Ennis Town Carol Service, hosted this year by the Church of Ireland but strategically sited in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Ennis, when Bishop Trevor joins the Rector and Bishop Kieran O’Reilly of Killaloe. Also coming is the Christmas Eve ecumenical Christingle in St Fachnan’s, Kilfenora (4pm) and the Christmas Eve Eucharist at Kilnasoolagh (8pm).

(See website for full programme)

MISSION

We prepared for the November Mission Day with a heavy heart for the people of the Philippines following the disastrous storm there leaving thousands dead and hundreds of thousands without shelter and other basic needs too horrid to contemplate. However also in mind was our adopted Swaziland and the Luyengo Farm, providing new hope and jobs. It was great to hear first hand from Linda Chambers in Adare.

NEW FACES

Welcome to Gary Paulsen as our new Clare clerical neighbour. He is taking up the post of Dean of St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe in Advent, having served in Adare for the last three years.

Blessings to Sue Watterson, who will fill the role of Archdeacon of Limerick and Ardfern vacated by her predecessor in Tralee, Robert Warren. Jane Galbraith, who moves from her 10 year stint in Limerick City Parish, to join her in Tralee to make up all female team.

Blessings also to new Canon Michael Johnston, present Registrar on his accession to the Canony of St Munchin and Tulloh, to George Flynn, new Canon of Inniscattery, and Canon Rowley Brooke on her appointment as Treasurer of the Joint Chapter.

HEALING

We pray for a strong recovery for Mrs Jackie Reid after surgery in Limerick Regional Hospital

MARRIAGE

We pray rich blessings on George Tottenham and his bride Niamh (née Ennis) of Howth, Co Dublin who married recently in Christ Church, Spanish Point. George is a son of the late Robert Tottenham and his wife Jane. The ceremony was undertaken by the Rev Kevin Brew, Rector of Howth.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Canon 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 from the Clonfert Northern Parishes. We have put behind us the trauma connected with the ‘twister’ that caused much chaos in and around Clonfert Cathedral. Thankfully no one was seriously injured but with some frightening moments with a mobile home destroyed and family members traumatized, the main devastation was restricted to the grave yard and adjoining forestry. The assessment and clean up and making safe the affected trees will continue for some time.

On a much more cheerful note we in Aughrim and Creagh extend our congratulations to Rev Gary Paulsen on his appointment as Dean of Killaloe, and to Rev Jane Galbraith on her appointment to the Ministry team in Tralee may Almighty God enrich and bless them in their ministry.

Since the last edition of Newslink St. Catherine’s was the last parish to have their annual harvest thanksgiving Service on the last Friday in October with Rev Liz McElhinney from Roscommon giving a very inspiring address. The large congregation appreciated the skilful work of our parishioners who created a wonderful harvest scene and provided refreshments following the service. Many thanks to Michael McCullagh for providing the music.

ST JOHN’S CHURCH BALLINASLOE

The parishioners of St. John’s were alarmed with the news that a cast iron pipe that diverted rain water from the Clock Tower down to an egress outlet onto a drain pipe had fractured causing a deluge of water to pour down into the porch of the West Door. Thankfully this has been repaired under the guidance of Kevin Cuniffe and Martin O’Duffy, the carpet tiles fully dried and all is well with no structural damage to the tower walls.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

For the first time in six years the Remembrance Service in Ballinasloe did not have the customary United Remembrance Day Service with the Reserve Defence Force Personnel. However the service was held this year in Ballinasloe with recorded Last Post and Reveille remembering from our parish and community the service men and women who gave their lives for the peace that we enjoy today in our land. This act of remembrance was repeated in Aughrim and Ahascragh.

CREAGH CEMETERY

All Saints Day was marked in Ballinasloe with the Creagh Development Association erecting a new Crucifix in the shared cemetery. Fr Garvey, Fr Costelloe and the Rector were joined by a good gathering of community members and parishioners. Following prayers and some music at the site of the New Cross the gathering moved to the Protestant section of the cemetery for prayers for our departed loved ones. John Molloy and his hard working committee...
must be complimented for all the work that they have undertaken in making this cemetery a beautiful and peaceful garden of rest.

ARDRAHAN

Agreement has been reached with parishioners and Aughrim Union of Parishes for the go ahead of the much awaited Sunday School/Meeting building to be erected in the Church Grounds. It is anticipated that this will be completed before Easter 2014

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

Editor: The Newslink team are greatly saddened to hear of the death of Les Bertram, who for many years has been a marvellous reporter of news from the parish – his coverage was comprehensive and his copy never late. We welcome Maureen Moss who has now taken over this role.

SERVICES

Christmas Eve 7pm, in Portumna, Carols by Candle Light, followed by Hot Punch and Mince Pies.

PARISH NEWS

Maureen Moss was the speaker at the Diocesan Board of Missions meeting in Adare on the 22nd October. She spoke about her time in Swaziland and was able to give a first hand report on Luyengo Farm and the Blessing of the new Reservoir by the Bishop Rt Revd Ellinah Wamukoya. The Farm will again be the recipient of the Bishops Appeal. See the report on page 20.

Ann Menheneott continues to make a steady recovery. We continue to pray for Ann and her family. Ann sends this message:

"Greetings at Christmas and Thanks
It is some months since I was able to participate in church services due to my health. I am taking this opportunity to send my thanks to all who have sent me get well wishes. A very special thank you to the people who have kept me in their prayers. Believe me, these have been a great comfort to me and my family. I send my very best wishes to each and every one of you. God’s Blessing to you all for Christmas and the Year ahead.” Ann

Remembrance Services were held in each of our churches and a collection was taken for the appeal.

BEREAVEMENTS

Margaret Broddle passed away on the 30th October. She was a very good gardener who produced beautiful flowers and plants, which often brightened up our lives in St. Paul’s Banagher. She often read lessons in church on Sunday. She was a beautiful, spiritual person and we shall all miss her. May she rest in peace.

Leslie Bertram passed away on the 25th October. Les worked tirelessly to help our churches in the Clonfert group of parishes in whatever way he could. The recent repair work to St Paul’s roof and outer walls in Banagher would not have happened without Les’s input. He was a loyal & steady vestry man who always provided words of honesty and wisdom whenever they were needed. On All Saints Day 1st November Banagher Church was packed with people wanting to pay their respects to a man who had helped so many in his own quiet way. Les will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his widow Val at this time.

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL

Last month a sudden and violent wind described as a small tornado hit the woods and graveyard of Clonfert Cathedral. As with tornadoes the width of the wind rush was limited to a few hundred yards. The Cathedral was untouched but grave head stones were blown over and sixty or more trees were severely damaged or felled. Very large and ancient trees falling upon the boundary walls did considerable damage. The County Council informed the parish that trees adjoining the road will have to be felled as the storm surge has left them a danger to road users.

On Wednesday November 6th a Meeting was called to examine the damage and also to assess the ongoing condition of the Cathedral. Joining an assembly of many people were the Clonfert Churchwardens and Parish Treasurer, Archdeacon Wayne Carney with our Diocesan Secretary, and Treasurer. Also present was Mr Hyde whose knowledge of the trees of Clonfert reached back a long way. With him were officers from the County Heritage and Conservation Department along with their colleagues from Rural Development, the Rural Social Scheme, the National Monuments Service, and the Forestry Service. The Conservation Engineer was there as was The Conservation Ranger and the Galway County Council Area Engineer and The Forestry Service Archaeologist. Mrs Mairin Doddy, Architectural Conservation Officer of Galway County Council chaired the meeting. The two hour meeting and site inspection were extremely valuable. Soup and sandwiches were provided by the Parish. The Parish are digesting the recommendations made.

On Saturday, November 2nd Mr Joe Sanders of The Ecumenical Pilgrim Fellowship led a moving Ecumenical Service in Clonfert. The Service was a most peaceful antidote to the turbulence of the tornado.

The Harvest table spread in Portumna

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

VACANT CURACY

During the vacancy, we are grateful that Rev. Denis Sandes, recently retired Rector of Clifden, has agreed to help the Dean with some of the Eucharists in the three churches. We welcome Rev’d Denis and look forward to his ministry with us.
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gillian & Michael Sheehan who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

A HAPPY ENDING FOR LILLIAN OKECHUKWO AND FAMILY:

After nearly nine years of waiting, there has been good news for Lillian and her children. They have been granted leave to remain in Ireland. She is now free to leave the direct provision accommodation where she has been living for many years in so many different places. She plans to return to Limerick with the children as soon as she can find somewhere to live. Lillian is overjoyed and sends her thanks to everybody here for their prayers and support. Indeed, those prayers have been answered. It has been a long and difficult wait and has involved many letters by many people to Ministers and TDs but the final, last minute, breakthrough came in Millstreet when her very compassionate GP insisted that she make one more effort by contacting the wife of a local councillor who in turn contacted a local TD. The TD took the case on board and made successful representations to the Minister.

CHRISTMAS STALL

7th DECEMBER 2pm - 5pm, in St. Mary's Cathedral followed by 'COME AND SING' at 5.30pm: - come along and find some novel Christmas presents. There will be lots of gift ideas.

FAREWELL TO REV. JANE

The Farewell Evensong at St. Mary's Cathedral on 17th November was a parish family event, attended by the Bishop and many clergy and lay people from other churches and organisations in the city, to wish Jane well in her new post in Tralee and Dingle. The music was carefully chosen, and the choir learned a modern Christian hymn, Speak O Lord (by Stuart Townend) which is one of Jane's favourites. During the ceremony, a Lectionary was dedicated by the bishop: it had been donated by Michael White in deep appreciation of the hard work by Jane and the Rev'd Stan Evans during the long interregnum before our new Dean arrived. Jane was presented with a beautifully turned oak bowl, handcrafted by Brother Ciaran Forbes of Glenstal, suitably inscribed, and flowers and a cheque. Many thanks to all who organised this special service, and to those who prepared the magnificent tea which followed.

Rev Jane and Churchwardens

LIMERICK CITY PARISH WHIST DRIVES:
Saturday 7th December (RAFFLE) – St. Michael’s Church
Saturday 14th December (RAFFLE) – Villiers Square
Saturday 11th January 2014 (RAFFLE) – St. Michael’s Church
Saturday 25th January 2013 – Villiers Square, 8pm sharp. - €5 includes supper) - All welcome.

LIMERICK CITY CAROL SERVICES:
Sunday 1st December @ 7pm – Advent Carol Service – St. Mary’s Cathedral
Saturday 7th December @ 5.30 p.m. – Come & Sing in St. Mary’s Cathedral
Wednesday 11th @ 6.30 p.m. – St. Michael’s NS School in St. Michael’s Church.
Friday 20th of December @ 12 noon - Villiers School in St. Mary’s Cathedral
Sunday 22nd December @ 10 a.m. – St. Michael’s Church Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December @ 8pm – Carols for the City in St. Mary’s Cathedral.
Friday 29th December @ 8pm – Abington Church Carol Service
Sunday 5th January @ 7pm Epiphany Carol Service in St Mary’s Cathedral.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon
Vacant from 12 December 2012
Priest in-charge: Rev. Maurice Sirr
Address: 17A Knock Hill, Ennis Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 277 372
Mob: 087 254 1121
Email: msirr@iol.ie

ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Irina Demova arranged a wonderful evening of music at St Nicholas church in aid of school funds. The professionals sang beautifully but the children themselves sang most beautifully. The parents can really be proud of their children and all that the school does to nurture them not only academically but culturally as well.
**BOOK CLUB**

The ‘Reverend Readers’ Book Club has just had their third meeting of the 2013/14 season. During September we read ‘Snowdrops’ by A.D. Millar, A crime story set in Moscow, October was ‘Z’ by Therese Anne Fowler, a novel based on the life of Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of Scott Fitzgerald and for November we read ‘Nothing to Envy’ by Barbara Demick, about life in North Korea, anyone should read that book, it makes one appreciate the life we have here. Our next meeting is on December 3rd in Woodlands Hotel, Adare at 8 p.m.

**ST. NICHOLAS YOUTH CLUB**

It has been an interesting 2 months in the youth club which meets every second Saturday evening from 7.30pm - 9.30pm in St. Nicholas Old School.

Started back after the summer break with a games night. Nikki Downes and Damien Shorten, with help from other young youth leaders have organised an activity night in Delta karting. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Leaders have organised an activity night in Delta karting. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator. Other events coming up will be an outing to experience a flight simulator.

**MOTHERS’ UNION**

Limerick Area Mothers Union is up and running since the summer break which started with the annual Opening Service in St. Nicholas Church Adare. On November 11th. Dr. Sylvia Cooke gave us a very informative talk on healthy living inclusive of body mind and spirit which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We are very grateful for the amount of time and effort that went into this presentation. It was great to see so many young ladies at the meeting. A pamper evening has been arranged for young mums on November 22nd at Embury Close.

Our Christmas party is planned for December 9th at Embury close in Adare at 8pm.

It was with some shock that we heard of Rev. Gary’s move to the Killaloe and Stradbally Union, and although we will miss him greatly we wish him God’s Blessing as he moves to his new post as Dean at Killaloe Cathedral.

**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

Christmas is coming and the parish is getting busy. We are looking forward to our Cookery Demonstration on Wednesday 4th December at 8:00 p.m. in Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale with Frank Moynihan. Tickets are €10.

The Christmas schedule will include a community Carol Service at St. Mary’s (Roman Catholic Church) on Sunday 15th December at 7:30 p.m. The group parish service will take place on Sunday 22nd in St. Mary’s Askeaton at 11:00 a.m. There will be no other service that day. Everyone is welcome to either or both of these services.

Christmas Day services are as follows:
- 24th December: Castletown Church 11:00 p.m.
- 25th December: Holy Trinity Rathkeale 09:00 a.m.
- 25th December: St. Mary’s Askeaton 10:30 a.m.
- 25th December: St. Brendan’s Tarbert 12:00 noon.
- Sunday 29th December: Holy Trinity Rathkeale 11:00 a.m. Joint Service.

Please note that there is only one service on 29th December as it is a 5th Sunday.

Our parishes were saddened by the recent death of Dawney (Kathleen) Lynch. Dawney was for many years the organist at Castletown Church. She was 94 when she died and had spent her last few years living in Thorpes Nursing home where Rev. Jane Galbraith and Dean Sandra Pragnell visited her. Her funeral was in Castletown Church on Friday 15th November, lead by Rev. Keith and Dean Sandra Pragnell.

Rev. Keith is back taking services and looking after urgent matters.

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**Ardfert Diocese**

**Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes**

**Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney**

Rector: Ven. Sue Watterson
Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe
45 Liosdara, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Mob: 087 689 2025 Email: swmatt1@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Galbraith
Mob: 085 145 0804
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Parish Office: Teach an tSoilas, St. John’s Church, Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry
Tel: 066 712 2245 Email: tralee@ardfert.anglican.org

**DECEMBER SERVICES**

1st December Advent Sunday.
H.C. – Kilgobbin 10 am, St. John’s Tralee 10.45am. St James’, Dingle 12 noon
M.P. – Ballyseedy 9.45am. Ballymacelligott 12 noon

8th December
School Play with Special Visitor St John’s Tralee 10.45am
H.C. – Ballyseedy 9.45am. Ballymacelligott 12 noon
M.P. - Kilgobbin 10am. St James’ Dingle 12 noon

15th December
Carlo Service St. John’s Tralee 10.45am.
MP - Ballyseedy 9.45am. Ballymacelligott 12 noon
No morning services in the West.

Ecumenical Carol Service in Camp – St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church at 2.30pm. Carol Service – St James’ Dingle at 7pm.

22nd December
HC with Carols St John’s Tralee 10.45am
No service Ballyseedy. Morning Prayer Ballymacelligott 12 noon.
HC – Kilgobbin 10am and St James’ Dingle 12 noon

Christmas Eve.
Holy Communion Ballymacelligott 10pm.
Christmas Day.
United Family Communion St John’s Tralee 10.45am.
HC – Kilgobbin 10am and St James’ Dingle 12 noon
St Stephen’s Day
HC – Ballymacelligott 11am. St. John’s Tralee 11am.

29th December
United Family Communion Service Ballyseedy 11am
HC – Kilgobbin 10am. St James’ Dingle 12 noon

5th January
HC – Ballyseedy 10 am. St John’s Tralee 10.45am. Ballymacelligott 12 noon; Kilgobbin 10am and St James Dingle 12 noon

**WELCOME**

The Rev Jane Galbraith was greeted as Associate Priest in the Union of Parishes at a Service of Welcome on 29th November in Tralee, and will also be warmly received on Advent Sunday as she leads worship on the Dingle Peninsula for the first time. Ecumenical colleagues in the West will be present to meet Jane at Carol Services in Camp and Dingle in 15th December. Every blessing in your ministry amongst us Jane.
SOUP KITCHEN
The Quiz held by Tralee Lions’ Club in Meadowlands to support the soup kitchen on Thursday 14 November was a great success. The parish was well represented in the 17 teams that took part. A good time was had by all.

YOUTH CLUB
Good news! All the paperwork has been sorted out so the club is ready to resume its activities and everyone is raring to finally get the new season under way. The first meeting of this season will be held in Teach an tSolais from 4.45pm to 7pm on Saturday 7 December. Registration will be at the beginning of the meeting. (Yearly membership €10)

MEETING THE NEIGHBOURS/HEALER PRAYER
These two groups will combine their meetings in a reflection on Advent in Teach an tSolais at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 December. The January meeting of the Healer Prayer Group will take place on Tuesday 6th. It is hoped that in January a monthly Communion with the Laying on of Hands for Healing will take place on a Wednesday morning. All are welcome.

THE ORGAN
The new organ in St. John’s Tralee is nearing completion although the Dedication will not take place until the new year. We are grateful to Myrtle Boyle our organist, who has now teamed up with Anne Mackenzie who will lead the choir and also play the organ. Thank you once again to the sponsors of the organ and to all who contribute to the music each Sunday.

THANKS
During the vacancy Rev Jim Stephens worked tirelessly in the parish and will be missed now that he has returned to Kilcolman. Jim’s pastoral presence has been greatly appreciated and we extend our thanks to Jim, to our Diocesan Readers - Margaret, Yvonne, David, Peter and David, and to Rev Joe Hardy for their valued ministry during the year. Thanks also to Rev Maurit for his presence in the Parochial School.

LINKS
Congratulations to Olive Flynn and the Links Ladies on the completion of their book of poems and prayers which was launched by Bishop Trevor on 29th November. The book has been produced in aid of ‘Living Links’, a local group promoting suicide awareness issues, and offering help to families and loved ones affected by suicide.

NEWS FROM THE WEST
The Peninsular Parishes are happy to hear that they are to have a ‘lady of the cloth’, living among them in Kilgobbin Rectory and wish her every blessing in her new post. They will be well represented at Rev. Jane’s service of welcome and at her first services of Holy Communion in the West on Sunday 1 December. They are resolved to support her in her work among them in any way they can. Next Sunday, 24 November is Mission Sunday and this year they are again supporting the Luyengo Farm Project in Swaziland, by helping them to pay for a reservoir which they had to build in March. Posters and handouts will be available on the day to encourage your support, especially since two of the students at the Agricultural Department of ITT, Brenda O’Sullivan and John Doyle, both from Kerry, are in the process of designing and building a much needed carrot washer for the farm (See photo P20). Local support for these local students in this essential work would be very much appreciated. Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes
Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross
(Vacant)
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirtín Hanley.
Mob: 087-619 4733
Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

ADVENT
Advent will be upon us by the time these notes are read and we will all be in preparation mode. The word Advent comes to us from the Latin word adventus – meaning “coming”. The Nativity, or story of the birth of Jesus, is described in the gospels of Matthew and Luke and describes not only the hardship of Mary and Joseph, but also the wondrous signs and omens which took place two thousand years ago. With the birth of this infant the world would change forever and that is why we Christians of all denominations prepare to celebrate during the season of Advent.

So, as a congregation, we will prepare ourselves, in a spiritual sense, as we do each year and the crib and Christmas tree will find their way to the south transept at St Mary’s. We will have our Carol Service and dress up in our finest for Holy Communion on the big day itself; we will wish each other and visitors to the church a “happy Christmas” and tuck in to the most special meal of the year. For my own part, I will reminisce the special moment I had earlier this year when I finally knelt and prayed at the exact place where the Messiah came into the world in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in Palestine.

But, is that all Advent and Christmas are about – carols, crib, new clothes and turkey? Each Saturday morning throughout the year I gather the prayer requests left at St Mary’s and write them up in the book for mention during the Sunday service at the intercessions. This year, in particular, many have been unimaginably sad; there has been an increasing sense of desperation in a lot of the requests – some bordering on absolute despair. Undoubtedly, some of the prayer requests are left by people who no longer attend any church; people who have given up on prayer; people, perhaps, who have even given up on God.

So as we prepare ourselves for the Christmas season this year, we should all make time in our lives and prayers for those we do not know, those who cannot or will not pray for themselves, those who leave hurried, scribbled notes in the basket at the rear of St Mary’s – and the other churches – that they may once more see the loving, forgiving Jesus Christ for what He is; our Saviour and Redeemer. We should pray that those who have visited our churches throughout the year and left in despair will find peace in the often turbulent world in which they live. After all, if we remember the time when Jesus lived amongst us; without exception, He always made time for strangers and outcasts. This Advent and Christmas we should make a special effort to follow in His footsteps and set aside a little time to pray for those both known and not known to us.

THE RAILING:
Thanks to the efforts of Bob Harmon it looks as if the damaged railing will be replaced shortly. Once this is completed we will need to have a look at all options open to us to decide what to do with the remaining older sections of the railing. The cost of replacing it would be in the order of €500 per foot, so this is not an option. However, Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce have offered assistance in cleaning and painting it with us, so this and all other options will need to be examined.

CONCERTS:
Dec 11th – Killarney Golf Club and St Oliver’s National School Choirs
Dec 15th – St Mary’s Carol Service at 3.30 pm
Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Midnight Service – 11.30 pm

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Kilgallagh and Glenbeigh
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirtín Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mob: 087-619 4733
Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org
Compared with the previous couple of months, it has been a fairly calm November. A few people have been away on breaks to refresh themselves and unfortunately some people have had hospital stays but from what I gather all are on the mend and we all seem ready for the coming season.

Our celebrations start with our Advent Carol Service held in conjunction with the school. As ever this is on the first Sunday of December at the evening service in Kiltallagh. There will be tea and coffee after the service in the school. By the time this is being read this service may have happened so I will also say thanks to all involved, this has been a great start to Advent over the last few years.

There will be Evening Prayer on the 3rd in St. Michael’s, book club in Killarney on the 10th and another evening prayer on the 17th. The Killorglin Carol Service will be on Sunday the 22nd at 6pm and there will be no morning service in St. Michael’s that day.

Christmas Day services are at the usual times, as are the Sunday after Christmas. On the 5th of January, it being a first Sunday, there will be an evening celebration of the eve of Epiphany in St. Cartach’s Castlemaine. We are then back into our regular rhythm for the new year.

At this time I suppose that it is only natural for us to cast a look back at the year that has gone. We have suffered some great loses in our parish family this year and to add to that some members of our community have lost friends and relations based in other parts of the world. However those who are with Christ are never far from us as Christ is always with us. It has also been a year of gains as we have seen a lot of Christenings and some new families joining the congregation. The hall has been used more and we have seen a number of successes in the community and individually for people in the parish. So here is to a new church year, may the light of Christ guide our way and lead us on.

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
1st December - Sneem 10.00 a.m. Advent Sunday Communion; St Patrick – Kenmare 12.00 noon Choral Advent Communion.
8th December - Sneem 10.00 a.m. Christingle Service St Patrick’s, Kenmare; 12.00 noon Christingle Service Kenmare town; 1:30 p.m. Carols in the Square
10th December - St John Valentia , 7.30 p.m. Ecumenical Carol Service
15th December - Sneem 10.00 s.m. Holy Communion; St Patrick’s Kenmare 12.00 p.m. Holy Communion
22nd December - Sneem 10.00a.m. Holy Communion; St Michael’s Waterville 11.30 a.m. Advent Communion; St Patrick’s Kenmare 12.00 noon A Service of the Word; St Patrick’s Kenmare 7.30 p.m. Carol Service
23rd December - Sneem 7.30 p.m. Carol Service
24th December - St Patrick’s Kenmare 11.15 p.m. Christmas Communion
25th December - Sneem 10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion; St Patrick’s Kenmare 12.00 noon Church Family Communion

WHAT IS A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE?
The Christingle service originated in the German Moravian church in the 1700s, as a means of symbolising the Christian story and helping to explain it to young people. It is now very much a part of the Advent tradition across all denominations.

The Orange represents the world; the red ribbon the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ which encompasses that entire world; the dried fruits and sweets, attached by cocktail sticks, are God’s provision for the four corners of our world; and the candle is the light of Christ, sent to us at Christmas. In our Christingle service, we remember all these things, and the responsibility we have to take that light even into the darkest places to demonstrate God’s unconditional love for all His creation.

PRAYER CORNER
Collect Reflection –
St John the Evangelist (27 December)
by Canon Michael Johnston

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church;
that, being enlightened by the teaching
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord.

This is one of the few Prayer Book collects that can be traced back to the 7th century collects of the oldest known Leonine sacramentary. The Prayer Book revisers simply added the phrase “so walk in the light of your truth”.

The theme of light in this collect is appropriate. Christmas is the season of light; Christ is the Light of the World, whose birth at Christmas enlightened the darkness of the world’s night. To have fellowship with Christ is to walk in the light. And so we pray in this collect for all Christians, that we may receive the illumination of the Holy Spirit, both to understand the teaching of the faith and also that we may carry it out in our daily lives. For it is not enough to KNOW the truth, we must also DO the truth.

Partners in Prayer –
December 2013

EACH SUNDAY
The Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert and Bishop Trevor Williams
Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

1st December, Advent Sunday, Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of West Virginia, The Episcopal Church, USA and The Rt Revd William Michie Klusmeyer
Our Diocese: Killarney and Aghadoe Union and those providing pastoral care during the vacancy period

8th December, Advent 2, Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Western North Carolina,
The Methodist District
Superintendent writes

Our children grew up with the cartoon featuring 'Popeye' the sailor man, and his girlfriend 'Olive Oyl'. It also featured big bully 'Bluto' who abducts Olive Oyl. When Popeye attempts to rescue her, he is beaten to pulp by Bluto, until, miraculously, the tin of spinach appears from Popeye's pocket, it spills into his mouth, injects him with a burst of energy which enables him to demolish the villain and rescue his beloved.

Every episode followed the same pattern. No-one learns anything from these encounters; they never sit down to discuss their differences.

The theologian William Wink, wrote about the "The Myth of Redemptive Violence" that dominates the film industry today and has such a powerful hold over the life of the world. It is the belief that violence saves, war brings peace and might makes right.

The year 2014 is the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, which was to end all wars. I would not want to diminish the courage and sacrifice of those who participated in that war. I am gratified that now, in the Republic of Ireland, the service of the Civil War and post partition pogroms in Belfast, and ultimately Irish politics which, he argues, led inevitably to the Anglo-Irish war, the troubles that endured for 35 years.

Dr McMaster asks: "Did Carson, Pearce and the Somme Generals know fully what they were doing? Did they think through to where their actions would lead?"

In 2012 the centenary celebrations of the Ulster Covenant led to a brief re-assertion of the old Protestant Unionist hegemony. Dr McMaster wonders whether 2016 will be used to assert the old nationalist rhetoric, or, dare we hope, we might rather focus instead on actually trying to fulfil the vision of the Easter Proclamation "to cherish all the children of the nation equally."

These children now include our New Residents who have so enriched life in Ireland through sharing their culture and thus enabling us to become aware of the blinkered preoccupation with our own perceived culture. They are the backbone of our medical services and have brought unexpected revival to so many Methodist Churches. Oh that we might embrace change, as they have done.

Once again this month, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, "The Prince of Peace", who rebuked His disciples for wanting to rain down fire on a Samaritan village. When, at the moment of His arrest one of the disciples cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant, Jesus said, "Put away the sword, for all who live by the sword will die by the sword."

Rev Brian D Griffin
Superintendent of the Midlands & Southern District
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

COVENANT SERVICE

Two fund-raising events for much-needed Circuit funds, kept everyone busy in November. The first event was an ‘Auction of Goods’ which was held on 15 November and was organised jointly with Cappagh Community Council. The Community Hall is close to Ballingrane Methodist Church. The total raised was €2,251 which was shared, 50-50, by the Circuit and the Community Council.

This was followed by the Annual Christmas Fair & Charity Christmas Card Sale which was held in the Village Hall in Adare on Saturday 23rd November. We appreciated the generous support of many people in the community who came to buy Christmas cards and thus support local charities. The Circuit benefited from the proceeds of the various stalls and by providing teas and coffees while everyone shopped. The total raised is not available as we go to print before the 23rd.

The success of both events means a great deal to the congregations.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study Group will meet at 8.00pm on Wednesday 4 December

ADVENT

December 1st is Advent Sunday and there will be a special Advent Communion Service in each Church as we begin our preparations for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Family celebrations at Christmas are looked forward to eagerly, and the Church is no exception! The ‘Church Family’ will be joining together for a United Carol Service in Adare Church, on Sunday 22nd December at 11.00am.

Christmas Day Service on Tuesday 25th December will also be united, in Ballingrane Church at 10.00am.

There will be ‘Readings and Carols’ at our monthly United Fellowship meeting in Charleville at 7.30pm on Sunday 15th December.

We also look forward to hosting the ecumenical Red Cross Carol Service for the village in Adare Methodist Church at 8.00pm on Sunday 22nd December.

BRINGING CHRISTMAS TO OUR OLDER RESIDENTS

Members of the Circuit will be visiting the homes of some of our folk who are no longer able to attend Church. We plan to sing carols and bring gifts to some of our senior members. We hope that this will help the people we visit to feel a part of our Christmas in the Church.

LIVE CRIB

Each year, the congregation of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church organises ‘A Live Crib’ in the village of Adare. This will take place from 2pm – 5pm on Sunday 15th December. A stable is set up, in the open air, and the characters in the Nativity form a tableau. Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus are represented by families who have had a baby Baptised in the past year; the families take it in turn to complete the tableau, for 15 – 20 minutes each. This is a lovely way to draw the community together as Christmas approaches. At the same time, donations are requested for local charities.

2014

The first Sunday in January is set aside in all Methodist Churches for the Annual Covenant Service. This will take place in both congregations on Sunday morning 5th January 2014.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesdays 8th and 22nd of January.

Plans are in hand, among the churches in Adare, to arrange a joint service/event to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity between the 18 and 25 January.

GOOD WISHES!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our good wishes to our ‘neighbour’, Rev Gary Paulsen, as he leaves Adare and our congratulations on his appointment as Dean of Killaloe. We will miss his thoughtful words at our joint services – and of course, his infectious laughter!!

We wish everyone in the Diocese and District a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed and Peaceful New Year!

Christ Church Limerick,
united Presbyterian & Methodist and
Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist,
Presbyterian and Church of Ireland

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

Like most other people, I’m sure, Christ Church folk said goodbye to Rev Jane Galbraith with a mixture of sadness and joy. Obviously sadness that Jane will no longer be a constant in the Limerick community but joy that she is moving on to begin something new and exciting in her ministry. Jane had a very traditional Evensong ‘send off’ in St Mary’s which no doubt she enjoyed immensely along with the wonderful bell ringing which welcomed us all into the cathedral.

Rev Helen Freeburn joined the congregation in Christ Church to lead the service and preach on Home Mission Sunday. Rev Helen is the Presbyterian Minister of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Church in Galway. In fact we ‘swapped’ and I went up to lead the Presbyterian Minister of the United Methodist and Presbyterian lead the service and preach on Home Mission Sunday.

Rev Helen Freeburn

Don’t forget CB2 on the first floor for your training days or meetings. The location makes us a great place to get your message ‘out there.’

Perhaps you have an idea for an event and you need a space. Don’t forget CB2 on the first floor for your training days or meetings. Give us a call or email us for more information.

The days do seem to move very quickly at this time of the year. We had our last baptism of this church year on November 24th, Christ the King. There was a great welcome for Molly Quinn as she
entered the Christian Church just one day before her first birthday and we look forward to watching her grow up and in time join her brother Jack in Sunday School.

Our first Advent Candle has been lit and our Christmas Services are being prepared – quietly! We’re trying not to take part in the early Christmas onset that is becoming more and more obvious as the years go by. Just one quiet word about our Nativity Service – we’re telling the truth about Christmas....ssshhhhh.....till December 15th when we’ll be letting the secret out.

Our Art and Craft Exhibition opens on Wednesday December 4th with a 6.30pm launch by Helen O’Donnell from the Hunt Museum. Everyone is most welcome to join us for a lovely evening. The exhibition continues to be open from noon each day through to Saturday December 7th. Most of the exhibits (all the marvellous creative work of Christ Church members) will be for sale with the proceeds going to Christ Church. Please do drop in and browse – buying isn’t compulsory! – and maybe even share a cup of tea and a chat with Brian, one of our artists, who will be there most of the time and no doubt will enjoy the company!

CHRISTMAS ART & CRAFT SHOP
Opens Wednesday 4th December 6.30pm, launched by Helen O’Donnell of the Hunt Museum.

All profits will be donated to Christ Church.

Central Buildings, 51a O’Connell Street.
Thursday 5th 12.00 - 17.30, Friday 6th 12.00 - 18.00
Saturday 7th 12.00 - 17.00

Then the New Year will see another launch. Central Buildings Community Project will be officially opened by Dr James Ring and friends from the Civic Trust. We are having an Epiphany Moment on January 6th at 6.30pm. You’ll just have to come along to see exactly what that means but certainly it will be fun. Do put it in your diaries now and make a note to bring a friend, or two. We look forward to seeing you there.

LIMERICK
Sunday Service 11.30 am.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Family Service 3rd Sunday
Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays
Lectio Divina Tuesday 11 am in the meeting room (access from the lane)
Youth Group Mondays 7.30 – 9pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch
SHANNON
Fellowship group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details
Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday 6pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Christmas Services – Limerick
Nativity Service Sunday December 15th 11.30am
Carol Service Sunday December 22nd 11.30am
Christmas Day Service 10.30am
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Covenant Service - Limerick
Sunday January 12th 2014 11.30am

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches
(port of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit)
Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613
Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org
Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:
Ed & Jean Ritchie
Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY METHODIST CHURCH EAST AVENUE, KILLARNEY
Sunday Services. 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 am (inc. Children’s’ programme at 11.00 am)
Prayer meetings: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00am - 9.00am, Wednesday 9.15 – 10am
Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8.00pm, Friday 10.00am
Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00am – 12.00pm
Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10 am – 12pm
Impact Youth Club (13+) 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays 8-10pm
Kingdom Krew Junior Youth Club (9-13) 2nd & 4th Fridays 7-8pm
Women’s Fellowship 2nd Monday of the month 10am -12noon.
KENMARE “GATEWAY” GORTAMULLIN, KILLARNEY ROAD, KENMARE.
Sunday Service: 11am (preceded by coffee)
(inc. Children’s’ programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8.00 pm
Wednesdays at 10.00am
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00pm
MILLSTREET
Services every Sunday evening at 6.30pm Meeting in Drishane Castle.
Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. 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 5th and 19th December at 8pm.

In Lispole (Dingle) the Home Fellowship group continues on the last Thursday of each month at 8pm. In November we had our first monthly meeting in the Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre on Green Street in Dingle town. There was a great turn out and it was a really good service. We plan to continue on the second Sunday of each month so our next service will be on Sunday 8th December at 7.00 p.m.

The recently commenced Home Fellowship meeting in Castleisland 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 December meeting of this group is planned for Monday 16th December.

NEW PREMISES IN MILLSTREET
By the time you read this we should have opened our new premises in Millstreet on the town square. You’ll have to come and visit and see what it’s called because at the time of writing we’re not sure yet! This premises 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 plan to have cards etc. as well as free literature available. We 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.

Men’s Breakfast in Killarney is scheduled for Saturday 14th December from 8.30 – 10.00 am The speaker will be Pastor Larry Schleen of Grace Baptist Church in Killarney.

We’re planning a big Carol service at Drishane Castle Asylum
Dealing with Christmas Pressures

A letter from the Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland

Christmas – the season of goodwill, celebration of God’s amazing free-gift of himself in his son Jesus Christ. Born as a baby, his arrival was the best news the world will ever hear – but it so often becomes the most stressful time of the year.

SEASONAL PRESSURES

If marriages are under pressure, the cracks are often seen during the holiday period when expectations of happy families are so high; some divorce lawyers are at their busiest in January. Choosing to be patient, kind and forgiving is the best Christmas present any spouse can give to the other.

The root cause is often the pressure of spending too much money on Christmas – gifts, food and drinks, parties and nights out. January is often a miserable month as people struggle to pay for overspending at Christmas.

THINK PRACTICAL, THINK REALISTIC

We want to encourage churches to set out a few basic ideas – which are just good common sense, but can make all the difference. Some suggestions include:

• Instead of asking ‘What do you want for Christmas?’ – work out how much you can afford to spend and then ask ‘What’s the best possible Christmas we can have on our budget?’

• Recognise that our children may put us under pressure for the next new thing – but the best gift we can give them is our time, attention, love and security.

• Work out how much you really want to eat and drink, and don’t buy more than you need that will end up thrown away.

• Stop giving unnecessary presents – what about a family gift rather than something for each person?

• Arts and crafts and baking are back in fashion, and what could be nicer than someone spending their time and energy on making a gift for you?

SHARING THE SEASON

At Christmas almost everybody wants to sing carols – invite your friends and family to your church carol services, Christingle services, Sunday School plays and any other Christmas events your church wants to run. Remember how lonely Christmas can be for people on their own, or away from home, and look out for people who would welcome an invitation to join in with your celebration.

ASK FOR HELP

If you are worried about money don’t let the pressure get too great – speak in confidence to your rector, or contact an organisation which specialises in helping people cope with their debts – Christians Against Poverty is just one example (capuk.org).

Please remember, all the good things of Christmas can magnify the problems people can face, so don’t be afraid to seek or offer help where it is needed.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

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

The Local Preachers of the North Tipperary, Birr and Athlone Circuits invite their Lay Reader counterparts in the Church of Ireland to join them for the annual Advent Service of Holy Communion on Thursday 11th December at 8.00 pm in Shinrone Methodist Church. There will be a time of fellowship and seasonal refreshments.

Nativity Live will again appear on the Mall, Roscrea, in front of the Methodist Church on Saturday 14th December from 3–5 pm. Arranged by the local branch of MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland), there will be live animals, goodies for children, tea/coffee and traybakes, free, for everyone. Come along...

On Monday 16th December at 8.00 pm the usual Roscrea Community Carol Service will be held in the Methodist Church. Includes special music and seasonal refreshments.

The Carol Service in Cloughjordan will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 7.00 pm.

There will be a service of Holy Communion in Shinrone Methodist Church at 9.30 pm.

Christmas Day Services: Borrisokane, 8.30 am, Cloughjordan 9.15 am, Roscrea 10.15 am.

The Watch Night Service will take place on Tuesday 31st December at 11.15 pm in Shinrone Methodist Church.

The Annual Covenant Services, when Methodists re-commit their lives to Christ as He committed Himself to us at Christmas will take place on first Sunday of the New Year, 5th January.
Barney says

Hello friends,

Candles are an important part of Christmas - I love singing carols by candlelight and they also decorate our festive tables.

Jesus was called the Light of the World and Christmas is the time when we remember his arrival in the world.

The first few verses of John 1 are often read at Christmas. It's a wonderful promise from God.

John 1:5 reminds us that Jesus' light is so bright that it can never be put out. Some people try, but it's impossible.

However you celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, have a very happy time!

Love Barney

Barney's Jokes

Why is it cold at Christmas? Because it's December!

What is a parent's favourite Christmas carol? Silent Night!

St NICHOLAS
Feast Day 6 December

St Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. Lots of stories are told of his kindness and generosity. He is the patron saint of Russia, children, scholars, merchants and sailors.

God's word

"His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it!"

John 1:5 (The Message)

Let's talk to Jesus!

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to be the light of the world. Please light up my path this Christmas and in the year ahead. Amen.

Happy Christmas!

STOCKING DECORATIONS

You will need some Christmas-coloured felt, a needle and thread, fabric glue, ribbon and sequins or buttons for decoration.

Fold the felt in half and cut out two simple stocking shapes. Sew these together with a simple running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Sew a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking.

Now you can decorate the stocking with scraps of felt, lace, buttons or sequins. Glue them on carefully and leave to dry. You could even try writing a name in glue and sprinkling on glitter to cover it.

This would be nice to give as a present with a little present or sweet inside or to hang on the Christmas tree as a decoration. You can make them any size you like.

How many presents can Santa fit into an empty stocking? sprayed all over

Why is a foot a good Christmas present?

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