Summer flowers delight the spirit

Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name!

Psalm 103:1

Sketch by Maria Croker, 1809

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Synod is very much in the air at this time of year. General Synod (see report on page 18-19) has just taken place. Here in Limerick and Killaloe we are preparing for our own Diocesan Synod on 20th June next.

The 19th century was a time of enormous upheaval in the Church of Ireland. The Act of Union in 1800 signalled the beginning of a long period of economic recession in Ireland as power and influence left Dublin with the dissolution of the Irish Parliament, and transferred to London and Westminster. Even more than before, Irish Bishops transferred their time and interest to London and lucrative Irish “livings” were often held by English clergy who seldom visited Ireland, and preferred to appoint curates to do their work in Ireland. Economically, the country was dealt an enormous blow with the Famine from 1845-50 and Disestablishment in 1869 was seen by many as the last straw for the Church of Ireland – how could the small Church of Ireland ever survive?

A new system of government for the Church had to be created, and the structure of Synods was developed. Up to then there had been very little democracy in Anglican churches. The Episcopal Church in the United States had developed a similar system for its own governance about 1800 but apart from that there was nothing to go on. Synods, involving clergy, laity, and bishops, involved in every aspect of Church governance was controversial. The Archdeacon of Dublin resigned, together with a number of clergy, at the prospect of lay people having a say in the doctrine of the Church; several bishops were lukewarm, to say the least.

The Church continued on, and today’s structure of General Synod, meeting annually for the whole Church, and Diocesan Synods, making decisions for the diocese are derived from this.

It has been my privilege over the years to visit many Synods and Conventions of Anglican Churches around the world. Compared to the Church of Ireland, two things stand out – the Church of Ireland General Synod is enormous, compared to others, with over 500 members – more than any other Anglican Churches. Secondly, very few General Synods meet annually, as the Church of Ireland Synod does.

Over the years there have been many discussions about changing our Synods, but we value greatly our democratic institutions, and are reluctant to change. The Church of Ireland is divided into two Provinces, roughly on a line from Galway to Meath, under the two Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin. General Synod now tends to meet alternately in Armagh or Dublin, though for special reasons it has met elsewhere in Ireland.

We as a United Diocese were well represented this year at General Synod in Armagh. The Agenda ranges from property and finance to issues of mission and spirituality. On every issue anyone may speak, and often long dull debates can be enlivened by a speech which captures the imagination of many, and responds to hitherto unstated concerns and needs. Some of these will arise at our own Diocesan Synod this year, especially conversations about the long term mission of the Church, and Diocesan Boundaries.

So Synods are important. If you are an elected member, of either General or Diocesan Synod, you are privileged to be asked to represent your parish or diocese in one of the oldest democratic systems of Church government in the Anglican Communion.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe
Rian Roe, Adare, Co. Limerick
Tel: + 353 (0)61 396244
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

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**Diocesan Calendar**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 7th June, 1pm</td>
<td>Birr Summer Fete, Oxmantown School, Birr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12th – Sun 14th June</td>
<td>GFS Diocesan Camp, Castledaly Manor, Athlone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 13th June, 1.30pm</td>
<td>Fun Dog Show and Fete, Shinnrone, Co. Offaly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 13th June, 7.30pm</td>
<td>UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick (secondary upwards)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 20th June, 10am – 4pm</td>
<td>Diocesan Synod, Aghancon Community Hall, Aghancon, Co. Offaly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 21st June, 10.30am</td>
<td>Confirmation at St. Michael’s, Killorglin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 21st June, 4pm</td>
<td>Confirmation for Birr, Shinnrone &amp; Clonfert Groups, St Brendan’s Church, Birr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 28th June, 10.30am</td>
<td>Confirmation for Nenagh Union, St Mary’s Church, Nenagh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 28th June, 2pm</td>
<td>Walk in the Slieve Blooms. Meet at Kinnitty Community Centre. Adults €10, Children €5. Contact Keith 086-2349762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 28th June, 2.30pm</td>
<td>Fun Dog Show and Sale, Dunkerrin, Co Offaly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd – Tue 7th July</td>
<td>Summer Madness with UDYC, Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, Co. Antrim. (14 plus years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 19th – Sat 25th July</td>
<td>UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare (10-13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 19th July, 2.30pm</td>
<td>Aghancon Parish Fete</td>
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**A Statement from the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland Following the Result of the Marriage Referendum (Rol)**

The archbishops and bishops of the Church of Ireland wish to affirm that the people of the Republic of Ireland, in deciding by referendum to alter the State's legal definition of marriage, have of course acted fully within their rights.

The Church of Ireland, however, defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and the result of this referendum does not alter this.

The church has often existed, in history, with different views from those adopted by the state, and has sought to live with both conviction and good relationships with the civil authorities and communities in which it is set. Marriage services taking place in a Church of Ireland church, or conducted by a minister of the Church of Ireland may – in compliance with church teaching, liturgy and canon law – continue to celebrate only marriage between a man and a woman.

We would now sincerely urge a spirit of public generosity, both from those for whom the result of the referendum represents triumph, and from those for whom it signifies disaster.
General Synod 2015 passed a motion requesting the Commission on Episcopal Ministry & Structures (CEMS) to bring a Bill for structural reorganisation of dioceses to General Synod 2016. This is likely to have massive implications for our United Diocese.

General Synod set up CEMS in 2012. Its brief is to prepare proposals on the provision of episcopal ministry and structures adequate for needs of the 21st century and compatible with resources. In 2014 the timescale for completion of this work was extended to 2016. Until then the powers of Diocesan Councils to veto reorganisation enshrined in section 31 of chapter 1 of the Constitution are reserved to General Synod, so that General Synod next year can effect reorganisation of dioceses without consent of diocesan councils of affected dioceses.

OPENING DISCUSSION
At the same time as proposing this motion CEMS presented Synod delegates with a paper entitled ‘Diocesan Boundaries – Opening the Discussion’. This articulates a Vision, Principles and Working Guidelines which inform their thinking on reorganisation, and puts forward four examples of possible reorganisation. The Working Guidelines, for which no explicit rationale is given, suggest that after reorganisation dioceses should have both a minimum Col population of 15,000 and a minimum of 30 cures. Our United Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe by comparison had a CoI population of 10,310 in the 2011 census and 17 cures – falling well short of the criteria. This is also the case for all the southern and western dioceses except Cashel Ferns & Ossory and Dublin & Glendalough. Of the four examples: three would break up our United Dioceses and distribute the parts into very large new dioceses, while one would merge our United Diocese with Cork, Cloyne & Ross into a gigantic new diocese of the south west.

Change may be desirable. But there are concerns that distance and travel times in such large dioceses will make them quite unmanageable for a bishop, inefficient for diocesan organisation, and make parishes feel remote from their bishop.

It is urgent that we begin to discuss the implications for these United Dioceses of the reorganisation likely to be proposed next year to discern whether there is a single ‘mind of the diocese’ or competing views on the matter. On that basis we can prepare for the consultation that CEMS has promised to hold with the dioceses.

The debate will start at Diocesan Synod in June. The pages of Newslink are open to letters.

Notice of Diocesan Synod
In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Aghancon Community Hall, Aghancon, Co. Offaly on Saturday 20th June 2015, concluding with the Synod Eucharist. Registration from 10am.

Yvonne Blennnerhassett
Diocesan Secretary

Newslink

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

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

Editor
In addition to news from parishes, schools and diocesan organisations, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved.

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

Contact details:
Joc Sanders
Turravagaun, Dromineer,
Nenagh, 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 July/August 2015, published for Sunday 5th July.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 19th June 2015 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2015
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(contact: Peter Schutz, Arduh, Castlethroy, Co. Limerick, Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2015
(unchanged from 2013)

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Each Sunday
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh and Bishop Ferran Glenfield.
Companion Dioceses: The five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.
7th June, Trinity 1, Green
Diocese: The Girls’ Friendly Society in the diocese, preparing for the GFS Diocesan Camp at Castledaly Manor, Athlone, 12th-14th June; & Students in the diocese sitting state examinations.
14th June, Trinity 2, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Okigwe, Owerri, Nigeria and Rt Revd Edward Osuegbu, Bishop of Okigwe
Diocese: All attending Diocesan Synod on Saturday 20th June in Aghancon, that their deliberations be fruitful.
21st June, Trinity 3, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Olympia, United States of America and Rt Revd Gregory Rickel, Bishop of Olympia
Diocese: The Clonfert Group of Parishes during the vacancy and Very Revd Patrick Towers, Priest-in-charge
28th June, Trinity 4, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Osaka, Japan and Rt Revd Andrew Haruhisa Iso, Bishop of Osaka
Diocese: Young people from the diocese attending Summer Madness with UDYC at Glenarm Castle, Co. Antrim, 3rd-7th July
5th July, Trinity 5, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Oyo, Ibadan, Nigeria and Rt Revd Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe, Bishop of Oyo
Diocese: Visitors to our diocese during the summer holidays, that they may travel safely and return home refreshed

A Prayer for Courage

Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them.
Let me not pray for the stilling of my pain, but for the heart to conquer it.
Let me not look for allies in life’s battlefield, but to my own strength.
Let me not crave in anxious fear to be saved, but hope for the patience to win my freedom.
Grant me that I may not be a coward, Feeling your mercy in my success alone –
But let me find the grasp of your hand in my failure.

Rabindranath Tagore

This prayer was carried during the First World War both by Marjorie Quarton’s father, Standish Smithwick (See Newslink December 2014), and by her mother’s then fiancé, Philip Magnay of the Royal Fusiliers. Her mother had been engaged to Philip since she was 17, but her father wouldn’t allow them to marry until she was 21. She was 21 on April 30th 1917, wedding arranged for early May. However Phil, along with a doctor, nowhere near the front line, was killed – obliterated by a direct hit from a shell on April 17th 1917. She continued to get his letters every day for almost a fortnight.

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Brabazon Trust
STAFF NURSING OPPORTUNITIES - Dublin

Brabazon House Nursing Home
2 Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4.
If I am to meet the deadline for this piece I must write it before Pentecost and when you read it Pentecost will be already past. And so it would be easy to move on, pass by on the other side so to speak, with only the merest acknowledgement of an event which is as important to our faith as Christmas, Easter and the Ascension are. Indeed I think I ought to note that Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost are a trinity of aspects of the same event. The New Testament writers treat them chronologically using the Passover to Pentecost timescale but they really are inseparably part of the one event. John the beloved is perceptively clear about this and more of that anon.

The View from my Pew this Pentecost will be of a church and congregation somewhere in southern Switzerland. It will be the view of a full or nearly full church. It is possible that there will be a Leonardo mural of The Last Supper in the Vestibule and the service will be in Italian. That difference of language will itself be an introduction to the experience of Pentecost, for with very little knowledge of the language we will nevertheless understand and be able to share in the meaning of what is happening, so universal is the significance of the symbols in the Household of God. And thus it was on that first Pentecost Day.

Luke’s description of Pentecost is, as all his writing is, full of meaning drawn from the faith of the Hebrew People. The fifty days – Pentecost - takes us back to the Jewish Passover and the celebration of the end of the wheat harvest, a hugely important time in the life of a people who have moved from a nomadic to a settled existence. Incidentally it certifies the Passover meaning in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus ... he and his friends are on the long march of liberation, of freedom. The sound of the rush of a violent wind takes us back to the story of Creation and reminds us that for our ancestors in the Faith language does not distinguish between wind and breath and spirit. Be careful when you experience any of these for God is at work somewhere at hand.

And so for a moment we go back to John who records that Jesus, on the evening of the Resurrection in the upper room, breathes on his friends and says to them “Receive the Holy Spirit”. It is because of that resurrection gift that his closest friends are enabled to sustain themselves as a community faithful in prayer until this explosive wind-filled moment. So we are to understand that God is exuberantly at work.

Our understanding that that is so is reinforced by the presence of tongues of fire among them and above them. Where have we heard or read of something like this before? A bush burning but not consumed. Moses – “take off the shoes from off your feet for the ground on which you stand is holy”. The presence of God at work. The first event in the long freedom march of the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt on the eventful journey to the promised land. God’s saving Act in History Scene One.

And now this Jesus risen, ascended, glorified, Act One Scene Two. In this Scene the gift once given to the Apostles in the Upper Room is now extended to the greater circle of friends. It is the Gift, the Drama of Empowerment and it is for real. And if that is so, what have any of us to fear from a rushing wind, tongues of flame and the gift of the Spirit? That all empowering Spirit.

So my surprise on this occasion is how we are afraid to take the gift of the Spirit seriously. I say we but maybe I should only say I. Indeed how can I speak for or write about anyone else but myself? I am constantly surprised how often, how frequently, I think, act, take decisions, make judgements without apparent reference to the gift of the Spirit? That all empowering Spirit.

That insight takes us very close to the relationship between God and humankind, for was it not from God that we first learned of the importance of community in the work of the Spirit, when it is announced “and God said let US make man”. So do not be surprised if I start with a look at the Church next time. And don’t say I didn’t warn you.

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Letter to the Editor – Embrace FARM

Dear Editor,

Embrace FARM was set up last year to support families who have been bereaved as the result of a farm accident. It was initiated by Brian and Norma Rohan after the death of Brian’s father, Liam, who was tragically killed on their farm and they discovered there was nowhere to turn for emotional and practical support.

I attended the first ecumenical service in the Roman Catholic Church in Abbeyleix last year and this coming together was something which was obviously very much needed. Both Bishop Michael Burrows and Bishop Denis Nulty attended.

This year’s Embrace FARM Accident Remembrance Service will again be held in Abbeyleix, on the 28th June at 2pm. Those who have survived a farm accident are also welcome. Details of how to make contact with them are below:

**FARMING ACCIDENTS – REMEMBERED & MISSED**

Supporting families after the loss of a loved one from a Farming accident.

We encourage families to contact us

http://www.embracefarm.com

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Gill (Revd.)

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly

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Yours sincerely,

Ruth Gill (Revd.)

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly
Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

Central Council Meeting was on Saturday, 9th May in Armagh at which All Ireland Prizes were announced. Killaloe Diocese won many prizes – congratulations to everyone whose crafts represented this Diocese.

Handcrafts: Junior Candidate: HC Charlotte Roe, Roscrea 
Candidates: 1st Lucia Eades de Souza, Birr
Junior Member: 1st Julia Swigon, Birr and 1st Robyn Fitzgerald, Cloughjordan
Members:  HC Ema Mooney, Roscrea and Tara St. Leger, Roscrea
Snr Members: HC Lorraine Armitage and 1st Michelle Armitage, Cloughjordan
Townsend Member: HC Grace Healy, Cloughjordan

ROSCREAA BRANCH
Roscrea Branch Enrolment Service took place in St. Cronin’s Church, Roscrea on Sunday, 10th May at 10.45am. Girls took an active part in the Service led by Rev. Jane Galbraith. They showed their skills with sign language and crafts by using banners during the prayers.

CLoughJORDAN BRANCH
Cloughjordan Parents’ Night took place on Friday, 15th May. It was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Ruth Gill to present the badges to the girls, one badge for Science and Nature and the other for Music. There was also a Bible Study presentation and All-Ireland results. The Branch Craft this year was based on recycling and yielded some beautiful results. Crafts, Bible Study and Branch Work were all on display.

The Talent Show was very entertaining. The girls sang two hymns with lively actions. Poems were beautifully read. Abigail Quinlivan played the tin whistle and the flute beautifully. Two action poems were performed. Laoise Gaffney gave a lovely performance on the keyboard. There was a “Teacher Show” and dancing and a raffle followed by refreshments.

Sincere thanks go to Mrs Pearl Whiteford for taking care of amplification. Congratulations girls. We are very proud of you all.

NENAGH BRANCH
Girls enjoyed a great morning with Michelle Hennessy of MY Music in Nenagh. This was part of their Music Badge. On Saturday, 16th girls received their badges for Nature Study and Music. The year ended with a great pizza party. Well done to all girls for their hard work and joyful participation in all events organised for them.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Diocesan Camp 12-14 June in Castledaly Manor Castledaly, Athlone. Girls will enjoy Icebreaker games, dancing and crafts. We will visit Athlone for shopping and enjoy sports at Baysports, Hodson Bay, Athlone. Attend Church in St. Mary’s Church, Athlone. We also celebrate 25 years of Diocesan Camp – celebration cake on Sunday. Best of all enjoy lots of fun, fellowship and friendship together. For further details please contact your Branch Leaders.

CONFIRMATION & EXAMS
Some of our Junior leaders are preparing for state exams and other girls are preparing for Confirmation. We wish everyone all the very best of luck and we will keep you all in our prayers.

We thank our advertisers for their support - please quote Newslink when contacting them.

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1st Nenagh Co. would also like to acknowledge the support of chip cookies – the list goes on!

The delicious cakes baked by the volunteers and parents included onsite events and went above and beyond the call of duty! Thank you goes to Sinead at Nenagh College who facilitated the coffees and superb lunch offerings for the Group Leaders. A special thank you to all the parents and volunteers who turned out to support with teas, event and are grateful to the well-behaved boys who attended and provided. Nenagh Boys' Brigade were really proud to host this each 25 minutes to ensure everyone got a turn at the events.

The boys were supported by 22 leaders and rotated their activities of 115 young boys enjoying an action packed afternoon of indoor hockey, basketball, high jump, soccer and a bouncy castle. Six Boys' Brigade Companies attended from the host town Nenagh along with Edenderry, Portarlington, Killeash & Geashill, Carnalway and Roscrea.

On Saturday 25th April Nenagh College reverberated to the sound of hospitals, schools, women's groups, schools for the deaf, and for the Anglican church still continues its outreach – supporting clinics, chronically depressed by the harassment and denial of freedom. But needs, how to cope day by day, also supporting those who are frustrated by the harassment and denial of freedom. But families with special needs: travel restrictions can deny a young mum access to her own mother: natural help and wisdom is denied. Shafeeqa's daughter works as a fundraiser for a charity helping the multitude of orphaned children.

Shafeeqa is a Palestinian Christian, and the wife of the Bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Dean Sandra met up with Shafeeqa and her daughter Thalia recently in Jerusalem to hear the main challenges to them and women's ministry throughout their dioceses. It's a depressing picture as access to church on Sunday is hindered by travel restrictions, breaking down the sense of community. Local clergy have a huge task to reach their scattered flock. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the weather makes it impossible to travel, breaking down the sense of community. Local clergy have a huge task to reach their scattered flock. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered. Housebound parishioners rely on the clergy visits, as travel is restricted. Sometimes, the village becomes divided, with the result that congregations become scattered.

Roscrea again organised a great joint night with soccer and fun in the Playpark at the superb Moneygall facilities – followed by supper in our own party room at Barack Obama Plaza.

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The boys were supported by 22 leaders and rotated their activities each 25 minutes to ensure everyone got a turn at the events provided. Nenagh Boys' Brigade were really proud to host this event and are grateful to the well-behaved boys who attended and all the parents and volunteers who turned out to support with teas, coffees and superb lunch offerings for the Group Leaders. A special thank you goes to Sinead at Nenagh College who facilitated the onsite events and went above and beyond the call of duty! The delicious cakes baked by the volunteers and parents included gorgeous cupcakes, butterfly cakes, chocolate brownies, chocolate chip cookies – the list goes on!

1st Nenagh Co. would also like to acknowledge the support of Tipperary Education & Training Board.

1st NENAGH CO. NEWS BLAST!

We would like to thank St. Mary’s No.2 Schoolhouse Trust for their generous donation – it is very gratefully received. The best of luck to two 6th Class Members as they leave St Mary’s No. 2 to start their secondary school education – Daniel Sviridov and Denis Sheehy – we hope to still see them at Boys’ Brigade! Nenagh Fire Station gave us a roaring night! A safety talk in the classroom and then off to the station where all the boys got to have a go with the fire hoses. From this picture it is hard to see who was enjoying the whole event more.

Learning how to use the fire hose

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At the Barack Obama Plaza Playpark

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The boys were supported by 22 leaders and rotated their activities each 25 minutes to ensure everyone got a turn at the events provided. Nenagh Boys’ Brigade were really proud to host this event and are grateful to the well behaved boys who attended and all the parents and volunteers who turned out to support with teas, coffees and superb lunch offerings for the Group Leaders. A special thank you goes to Sinead at Nenagh College who facilitated the onsite events and went above and beyond the call of duty! The delicious cakes baked by the volunteers and parents included gorgeous cupcakes, butterfly cakes, chocolate brownies, chocolate chip cookies – the list goes on!

1st Nenagh Co. would also like to acknowledge the support of Tipperary Education & Training Board.

1st NENAGH CO. NEWS BLAST!

We would like to thank St. Mary’s No.2 Schoolhouse Trust for their generous donation – it is very gratefully received. The best of luck to two 6th Class Members as they leave St Mary’s No. 2 to start their secondary school education – Daniel Sviridov and Denis Sheehy – we hope to still see them at Boys’ Brigade! Nenagh Fire Station gave us a roaring night! A safety talk in the classroom and then off to the station where all the boys got to have a go with the fire hoses. From this picture it is hard to see who was enjoying the whole event more.

Learning how to use the fire hose

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those with physical and mental disability, a vocational and training centre, and after school music programme, nurseries, kindergartens. The diocese covers Israel/Palestine, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan: all churches in Jordan and Syria have been closed, and Palestinian Christians from those parishes have, if they can, moved to Lebanon. The rest are in refugee camps but as we know from our news, Islamic State is not far from them. Thalia’s generation gives hope: educated, and determined to build a better future and stem the brain-drain of young Palestinians wanting to move abroad.

Dean Sandra urges us to pray for the work of MU locally and around the world, especially for MU members living in difficult situations.

**United Diocesan Youth Council**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

At the Annual General Meeting of the United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe, held in Kilmurry Church, Limerick on the 25th of April, the following were elected to the committee in accordance with the Constitution of the Youth Council:

- **President:** The Venerable Wayne Carney
- **Chairman:** Edward Hardy
- **Hon. Secretary:** Kieran Sparling
- **Hon. Treasurer:** Charlie Brickenden
- **Public Relations Officer:** Henry Cooke
- **Newslink Correspondent:** Sophia Levie
- **Representative to the Board of Mission:** The Rev’d Jane Galbraith
- **Youth Ministry & Diocesan Resources Development Officer:** Vacant
- **Representative from Diocesan Council:** Alan Armstrong
- **Student Representative from Villiers School:** Laura Cooke
- **Ardfeart Representatives (2):** Maud Eadie, Ciara Fitzell
- **Killaloe Representatives (2):** Andrew O’Brien, Sandra Wakefield
- **Limerick Representative (2):** Oscar Ebqulam, Damian Shorten
- **Ordinary Committee Members (5):** Beverley Callender, Emma Gardiner, Jordan Lewis, Alec Perrott, Valerie Walker.

**CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT – CONNECT DAY “BIG ISSUES”**

This event took place on Saturday 16th May at Church of Ireland Theological Institute, and was a well attended event. It was great that Bev Callendar and Damian Shorten were able to attend from Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe. During the day participants were able to learn about and discuss issues relating to mental health including self-harm, eating disorders and bereavement.

**U.D.Y.C. FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

The fellowship group met again on Saturday 16th May and once again a good evening of fellowship was had by those that turned up. The theme for the evening was “freedom”. We would encourage all those in secondary school and upwards to come along to the final meeting pre summer of the group which is scheduled for Saturday 13th June at St. Michael’s Church Hall, Pery Square, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm The group continues to be open to all persons attending secondary school and upwards.

**SUMMER MADNESS – FRIDAY 3RD – TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2015**

**What?** Summer Madness is an amazing event….The first Summer Madness camp began in July 1987 with less than 250 participants…… the event now attracts about 4000 people each year…. with participants from throughout Ireland and beyond........5 days for fun, friendship and freedom …a pure camping experience. The Summer Madness Festival offers an opportunity for faith building encounters, an action packed programme and a mind blowing mix of music, worship, workshops, seminars, outdoor activities, debates and worship. Why not visit www.summermadness.co.uk for more information.

**Where?** The event will again take place this year at Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm, Co. Antrim (www.glenarmcastle.com).

**Who?** In order to join the U.D.Y.C. group you must be 14 years or older. The festival is primarily designed for a teen to twenty somethings who want to wrestle a little with their faith and develop a lifestyle that reflects God’s all embracing love.

**How Much?** The cost will be €150 up to Friday 26th June 2015. This includes return transport, food during event & entrance ticket to Summer Madness.

**SUMMER CAMPS 2015**

**What?** It’s nearly summer time, long summer holidays and time to book for U.D.Y.C.’s Junior & Senior Summer Camps….. Both summer camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. Book today and don’t delay!!!!!

Junior Summer Camp – Sunday 19th July – Saturday 25th July 2015

Senior Summer Camp – Sunday 2nd August – Saturday 8th August 2015

**Where?** Our Junior Summer Camp will take place at splendid Catherine McCauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare and our Senior Summer Camp at Lissadell Youth Centre, Lissadell, Co. Sligo.

**Who?** Our Junior Summer Camp is for 10 – 13 year olds and our Senior Summer Camp is for all those 13 years and over. Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Summer Camp is Friday 10th July and for Senior Summer Camp is Friday 24th July.

**How Much?** The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee will be same as last number of years at €220 for 7 days.

**SPECIAL OFFER – £20 discount off every booking (Summer Madness, Junior & Senior Summer Camp) over summer months if booking for more than one event from same family.**

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Henry on 086/2235735, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our website (http://udyc.ie/) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia Levie
Diocesan Board Of Mission

MISSION EVENING REPORT
At the third mission evening of 2015, held at the Woodlands hotel, Adare on 22nd April, the main speaker was the Rev. William Olmsted , Minister of Adare & Ballingrane Methodist churches, who spoke on the subject of ‘Home mission at the National Ploughing Match’. As a minister he had been amazed that the simple task of offering a cup of tea, friendship, and somewhere to sit down away from the crowd, could attract so many people to their stand. This confirmed his belief that the visible presence of the Church among God’s people is essential in modern society. God’s plan for our lives is very simple, in that he wants us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. However we can’t do it without help. We need the Good Shepherd to save us from a selfish, sinful lifestyle and lift us back onto our feet with a changed heart and life. Christian fellowship is an essential part of this process.

CONTAINER FOR SWAZILAND.....progress report
On 27th. May, in Teach an Solas, Tralee, we sorted out, packed and listed all the items received to date. This aspect of the work is essential both for the ship’s manifest and for customs in Swaziland. The boxes will then be stored, along with the vegetable washer, in the Agricultural Engineering Department, IT Tralee until we get word from Us Ireland as to which port we must transport the goods for packing into a container, hopefully no later than the end of July. If the cost of shipping the container is included along with a couple of generous donations from parishioners who wish to remain anonymous, the people of the United Diocese will have contributed over €72,000.00 to the Luyengo Farm Project since 2011 - not bad going by any account!
Irrespective of what is ‘coming down the line’ with regards to redrawing diocesan boundaries, parish reorganisation etc., the parishioners of the United Diocese can feel proud that they rose to the occasion when asked to contribute to a project in Swaziland, based on the principle of self-determination and especially on the need for self-sufficiency. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The members of the Diocesan Board of Mission, Us Ireland and of course our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Anglican Community in Swaziland say WELL DONE & A BIG THANKYOU!

Church of Ireland
LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING
WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE
THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE
AT: 8.00 P.M.

GLOBAL MISSION WITHIN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

BY:- Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon

* This will be our final Mission Evening of the season and we would ask for a good attendance. It is a golden opportunity to get a perspective on global mission in a rapidly changing world situation from our Bishop, who has travelled widely within the Anglican Communion.

* As usual tea & coffee will be served both before and after the meeting

Children's Ministry Network

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB RESOURCES
Summer is a’comin! And with it there are lots of opportunities to engage with children through Holiday Bible Clubs. The great news is there are excellent resources and programmes out there to help you put together a brilliant Club programme. Children’s Ministry Network & Sunday School Society of Ireland have hand-picked some of their favourites.

Further information from Rev Jane Galbraith, Diocesan Children’s Ministry rep 087 382 5336.

The Cops and Robbers Holiday Club is based on the Old Testament story of Joseph and explores how Joseph was able to turn bad circumstances to good because of his trust in God. Organised into five two-hour holiday club sessions, the theme is explored through an exciting mix of songs, up-front talks, theme illustrations and team challenges, daily dramas with the ever-popular Watt family, crafts, games, puppet sketches, dramatised Bible stories, quizzes and fun sheets.

The Sports Academy Holiday Club contains five complete 2.5 hour programmes, plus extra ideas for a special service or event. Many great sporting heroes come from very ordinary backgrounds – often it’s sheer hard work and self-belief that earns them success.

When linked to a life of faith, such stories of success can be compared to one of the great Old Testament heroes: David – a small town boy who made it big! The material links the biblical teaching to contemporary living by exploring five essential ingredients of sport, not just for healthy living, but also as a tool for spiritual well-being on the journey of faith.

The Adventure Cruise Holiday Club: Pull up the anchor and get ready to sail as The Adventure Cruise launches into a programme of fun-filled activities for 5-11s. Cruise six ‘C’s meet people along the way whose lives changed course when they met Jesus. Discover their stories through the six ‘C’s of choice, courage, call, change, commitment and challenge, and find out how we too can get on board with Jesus.

Each of the six themes is unpacked through an exciting mix of songs; up-front talks and theme illustrations; team challenges; daily dramas with the ever-popular Watt family; crafts; games; puppet sketches; dramatised Bible stories; quizzes and funsheets.

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Let’s Get Together! is an exciting mix of creative ideas designed to encourage the whole church family to relax and have fun together in a variety of situations. The resource includes themed starter activities, Bible-based storytelling, action-packed drama, punchy puppetry, instant crafts, team games, reflective prayers and take-home Bible bloodhound challenges. Ideal for One-off specials, Midweek events, Holiday programmes, Away days, Sunday worship and Churches Together initiatives.

Messy Family Fun! Nothing else we’ve tried has had anything like the same impact’ Fun, low-cost holiday time for your Messy Church families that strengthens their relationships with each other - and yours with them! Messy Family Fun gives you everything you need to run a holiday club programme for children and adults together. It includes: Messy Family Fun Club: five three-hour session plans (including meal time) designed to be run on consecutive days.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMMES ARE AVAILABLE TO ORDER FROM www. brfonline.org.uk Price range £9 - £12 and shipping is £5.50 to ROI
St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

Dale Treadwell spent the day in school on May 7th when he took the pupils out and about in the school grounds exploring the habitats and identifying the trees in the locality. Everyone really enjoyed his enthusiasm and great sense of humour as we learned a lot about our local environment. Thanks to Ms. Hayes for organising the day.

We were delighted to hand over a cheque for €125 to the Irish Cancer Society last week. This money was raised by 6th class pupils when they organised their coffee afternoon last February.

On Wednesday 13th May the senior pupils headed off to Villiers School for their annual Primary Schools’ Sports Day. Once again we were treated to a well-organised and enjoyable day. We were blessed with warm sunshine and the Transition Year students looked after the pupils and teachers so well. Games of soccer, tag rugby, and basketball were played and orienteering around the school grounds. Many thanks to Neville Atkinson and his team for another wonderful day in Villiers.

Thanks to the organisers of the Festival of Faith & Flowers, our senior pupils along with the senior pupils from the other village schools, Scoil Naomh lósaf and Our Lady’s Abbey, were treated to a scavenger hunt around the church and school grounds, an art session with Leonora and a session of archery and falconry in the playground. All the children were divided into three groups, very cleverly called the Augustinians, the Trinitarians and the Franciscans to represent the three abbeys in Adare. The younger pupils were not forgotten as they spent the morning listening to stories with a touch of magic thanks to Mr & Mrs Williams and making some fabulous art under the guidance of Marie Doherty.

We were delighted to be asked to make a display in the church as part of the festival so we decided to create our display with the theme ‘We are walking in the Light of God’.

The pupils brought in some old shoes and boots which were planted up under the watchful eye of our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne. The woollen flowers and flower pots created by the junior classes, along with some footprints and a vibrant rainbow brought together our display. It represents all the feet that have walked on this site for the past 700 years and in particular the feet that have walked, run, skipped and jumped in St. Nicholas’ School for the past 200 years. Some pupils featured in Nationwide planting up their shoes and boots. No homework that evening as all eyes will be fixed on the television screens!

Three of our quiz teams were in action again at a recent Credit Union Quiz Evening. One of our teams was joint leader until the tie-breaker question when they were narrowly beaten by another team. Well done to them and to our other two teams.

Our ‘quiet’ area in the school playground is almost complete. Thanks to the Butler and Hales families for their kind donation of two picnic benches. We have also added a garden bench and some wind chimes. ‘Barnaby’ our new school scarecrow is in his proper place, guarding the vegetable patch. Pupils now have a quiet place to sit and think if they want some time-out from the hustle and bustle of the busy playground.

This is an eventful time of the year and we look forward to our school tours, sports day and many other activities in June. 6th class pupils will also prepare for their move to secondary school - so all in all a busy time ahead in June.

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

The plains are decorated with my beautiful colours, and the air is scented with my fragrance
-Khalil Gibran “Song of the Flower”

It has come to the final weeks of the school year once again. The copies are full to bursting and pencils are worn down to little bitten stumps. It is time to harvest the learning. Standardised testing took place on the week of 4th to 8th of May. Teacher-designed tasks and tests will continue throughout the month of June.

However, it isn’t all examinations, as the final term has it's own fun. On Wednesday 20th May, Nenagh Fire Brigade came to give a
talk to 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes. Many thanks to them for their time and their willingness to educate all on the importance of fire safety. Junior and Senior Infants experienced a most enjoyable trip to Toroe Pet Farm on 21st May, while First to Sixth Classes will be enjoying all kinds of adventures and reptiles in Castlecomer and Goran on Thursday, 18th June. The next day, June 19th, will be our annual Sports Day (weather permitting).

The Senior students took part in the Villiers’ Activity Day on 13th May. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children and we are thankful to the staff and students who make this event so enjoyable each year.

Mme Healy-Bernard’s French conversation classes continue until 18th June this term, and we thank her for her contribution this year.

Infant Induction morning will take place on Wednesday, 10th June. We look forward to meeting all our new students. Tá faíte romhaibh!

Our Open Morning takes place on Thursday 11th June. We invite the parents, guardians and grandparents of our students to visit the school, have a look at the classrooms and enjoy the artwork displays and portfolios around the rooms.

Our Graduation Service takes place in the Croft Hall on 25th June. Grandparents, parents and siblings of 6th Class pupils are welcome to attend. Our Sixth Class pupils are Therese King, Denis Sheehy, April Hayes, Daniel Svirdov, Sarah Maher, Krysztof Konarski, Lauren Cao, Lukas Pavilionis, and Dylan Morrison. Fond farewells to each of you, and may the road rise before you, a chairde.

Our last day of term is Friday, June 26th.

May we take this opportunity to wish everybody a warm and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing everybody again when the new school year begins on Thursday August 27th 2015.

Le gach dea-ghuí

St Michael’s National School, Limerick

School Sports Days and Standardising Testing are happening so we know another academic school year is nearing an end. St. Michael’s pupils have enjoyed another visit to Villiers School to participate in the now annual Primary School Sports Day. It has become an event much loved by our students as is the Limerick City Sports Day held in UL. On both occasions pleasant weather made the event most enjoyable.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

We have many welcome visitors to school this term, including: Mr Gilbert Williams to teach ball and hurling skills to our 1st – 4th Class pupils, Mr Paddy Fitzpatrick to teach tag rugby to our 3rd – 6th Class pupils, Ms Fanny Healy to teach French to pupils from 3rd – 6th Class, Ms. Lily de Sylva who has been working on the May Day project with 5th & 6th Class pupils, our School Garden Volunteers who are continuing our School Gardening with all classes and Mr. James Scott, and helpers, from the FAI, as part of our Active School Week, Tracey Hayes, a past pupil, on work experience. During her time with us Tracey spent time in every classroom and was a tremendous help to us all. We wish Tracey continued success with her studies in Trinity College Dublin.

Pupils from 3rd & 4th Class joined with pupils from St. Michael’s N.S. for hurling training and matches, by kind invitation of Mr. Dooley while our 5th & 6th Class pupils played a basketball blitz at school, kindly organised by Mr. Patsy Farrell. It was a pleasure to welcome staff and
pupils from Aglish, Borrisokane and Corvillie National Schools, and some of our parents on the day. Our players played their best and were narrowly beaten in some of their games. Congratulations to Borrisokane N.S. who emerged victorious this year.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome docents from the Limerick Hunt Museum to school. The docents delivered a very enjoyable and educational costume workshop which showcased exact replicas of costumes ranging from the 13th Century up to the 1900s. Continuing on from their very successful “Treats and Treasures” showcase event in school our 5th and 6th Class attended another showcase event in Gaelscoil Bhride, bringing to a close their participation in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The programme was a resounding success with all pupils in 5th & 6th Class agreeing that it was a very worthwhile experience and one which they would highly recommend to others.

3rd – 6th Class took part in the Borrisokane Athletic Club Primary School Competition 2015, on Wed 13th May, by kind invitation of Mr John O’Farrell, at which the girls won the Greg Starr Shield, much to their delight, while the boys came in second place.

We said farewell to Sophie Platt as she and her family moved to live in Romania. We will miss Sophie very much and wish Sophie, Carol, Stuart, Robert & Rachel every happiness as they settle into their new home abroad.

Ms. Cromer, Hugh Guest, Laura Hayes and Ruairi O’Hare represented the school at the Green Flag Awards Ceremony in Kilkenny on 20th May and returned to school with our fifth Green Flag. Thank you to everybody who made this possible and in particular to Ms Cromer who did so much work on our behalf, and to 3rd & 4th Class who were a great support to her, preparing and submitting our application. We look forward to a very special guest raising our Green Flag at our Sports Day later this month.

Junior Infants – Second Class enjoyed their School Tour to Birr Outdoor Education Centre and playground last month while our Senior pupils are looking forward to their tour to Shannon.

All in all the summer term has been a hive of activity and industry to date. We wish our past pupils every success as they sit Junior and Leaving Cert exams this month and hope that they will reap the reward of all the preparation they put in.

**Oxmantown National School, Birr**

**LENTEN PROJECT**

A representative from The Simon Community in the Midlands area visited the school and informed the pupils about the work they do locally and the cases that they assist. The sixth class pupils presented a cheque for €1,695, which was a great final total. All of the fifth and sixth class students had run stalls selling cakes and goodies, nail-bars and competitions throughout Lent. All of the pupils got sponsorship for learning their spellings; we finished with an Easter Egg Raffle sponsored by the teachers. We are very grateful to the parents and the children’s extended families for all of this support. There are always so many opportunities for learning in participating in the Lenten Project.

**GARDENING CLUB**

Our after-school gardening club is up and running again with renewed energy thanks to three parents Evelyn Armstrong, Stuart Smith and Wendy Coghlan, who are doing this in a voluntary capacity. It is for pupils from fourth to sixth class and vegetables and flowers are already sown and are being nurtured along by the students. A club outing is being organised by the parents to show the children an established garden.

**SCHOOL TOURS**

Our junior tour this year will be to ‘Jumping Jacks’ in Tullamore and the seniors are going to Mullingar to a sports centre and then to visit a monastery.

**SPORTS AT VILLIERS**

A huge thanks to Mr. Atkinson and to Mrs Storey for organising the sports day at Villiers again this year, this was a lovely opportunity
for us to meet with pupils from other schools, to compete in tag rugby, soccer, basketball and orienteering and to enjoy using the fine facilities there. All of this including lunch and transport is provided free of charge.

RETIREMENT
Mrs Deirdre Hamilton has announced that she will be retiring this June. She has been teaching at Oxmantown N.S. since leaving college in 1980. We all wish her well in her retirement; she will be missed by pupils and colleagues.

The Glebe National School, Aughrim

Editor: We are delighted to welcome The Glebe National School back to the pages of Newslink

SECOND TEACHER POST
The Board of Management of The Glebe NS recently received confirmation from the Department of Education and Skills that a second teacher post will be granted to the school for the 2015/2016 school year. The Board is delighted about this and the staff, parents and members of the school community look forward to being a two teacher school. The school is still taking enrolments for this September and a pre enrolment form can be downloaded from www.theglebens.com

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Congratulations to the children for successfully completing a 6 week swimming course in the Kingfisher Club in Ballinasloe. The children recently started tennis and hurling. Both are going very well and all classes are enjoying and benefiting from these activities.

HANDWRITING COMPETITION
Well done to the pupils from Senior Infants to 5th Class who participated in the An Post Handwriting Competition before Easter. Everyone did a wonderful job.

GARDENING
We sowed pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds earlier this month. The children take very good care of them and water them everyday. The pumpkin seeds will be transferred to our vegetable patch soon. We also planted watercress last month, which to the amazement of the Infants grew so tall within a week! We enjoyed tasting it and putting it into our sandwiches. Everyone got to bring their watercress plant home.

Villiers School

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY
Once again we welcomed ten primary schools to Villiers for our annual primary schools sports day on Wednesday 13th May – counties Tipperary, Offaly, Limerick, Galway and Kerry were represented.

Pupils from 4th – 6th classes attended and participated in basketball, tag-rugby, soccer, orienteering and fun games. Many thanks to our Transition Year Students who shadowed and ran the activities under the guidance of Villiers staff. The day was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

THE JACK & JILL FOUNDATION
This term we held a very successful fundraiser for the Jack & Jill Children’s Foundation, whilst simultaneously attempting to purchase our very special Villiers pig, aka “Lady Villiers”.

The pig project was a super initiative and enabled our myriad of international students to put their art skills to work, while at the same time exchange information about their own culture. They were also ensuring that the entire Villiers community contributed to the Jack & Jill foundation.

From 1997 to date, over 1700 families have been given home respite to help them with the care and nursing needs of their ill child.

Well done to all involved in contributing to this wonderful foundation.

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

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

Phone: 01 2962200
Fax: 01 2964049
Email: info@pact.ie
Web: www.pact.ie
ECO-UNESCO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS
Congratulations to our Transition Year Students who were shortlisted for a national award recently in Dublin. This is testimony to their environmental efforts on the school campus.

INTER-SCHOOLS ATHLETICS
This year’s inter-schools athletics was hosted by Ashton School. Bandon Grammar, Midleton College, Newtown School and Kilkenny College competed in both track and field events. Special congratulation to Dan Connolly in third year who came 2nd in high jump, and Zara Bolger who won her u16 100m.

NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Best wishes to Roisin Harrison who competes in the 100m and 200m at senior level. To Zara Bolger who competes 100m & 200m at junior level. To Luke Devine who competes in the 800m at inter level and finally to Ellen Larkin who competes in the pole-vault at senior level.

FORM 6 GRADUATION
Best wishes to all our 6th years who graduated on Friday 22nd May. Our awards ceremony was held in the Sports Hall which included certificate presentations, speeches from pupils, parents and staff, 6th form choir. This was followed by a dinner for students, family and staff. We wish them well in their leaving certificate, third level education and in their future careers.

See page 33 for News from Villiers Sanctuary.

St David’s National School Naas/Naas No. 2 National School
Are you a past pupil/have a connection with this School? Would you like a final chance to revisit the school building before it moves to its new location in September and also to catch up with past class mates/friends?
On 13 June 2015 we are celebrating 125 years. On this day there will be a Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving in St David's Church, Naas @ 2pm, followed by a reception and an exhibition of memorabilia in the school.
If you can attend the celebrations it would be great if you could contact Janet Fletcher 087-8315996 or e-mail stdavids125@gmail.com
We hope you will be able to join us on June 13.

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Students discover and reach their full potential with the assistance of dedicated staff who offer individual personal, academic and pastoral support throughout their time in school and with the transition to 3rd level education and career choices.

A beautiful and inspirational 80 acre campus offers extensive facilities for over 20 different sports and a wide range of musical, arts and drama activities providing opportunities for elite achievers in all areas while promoting positive health, welfare, fitness and fun for all students.

- **28 academic subjects include:**
  - 5 Sciences
  - Economics, Accounting & Business
  - 5 Curricular Modern Languages
  - Dedicated 1 to 1 Study and Career Advice
- **We also offer:**
  - 5 & 7 Day Boarding options
  - Bursary Support and Fee Assistance with additional SEC related assistance for boarders
  - Easy access to campus situated at the M50 & M4 junction, close to Dublin City and Airport

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The King’s Hospital - A school and a Way of Life

**Headmaster:** John D. Rafter
B.A.(Mod), B.Sc., HDipEd.

For more information please call or visit us - or if you prefer - we will travel to meet with you. Please contact 01 643 6564 or email: enquiries@kingshospital.ie

www.kingshospital.ie
Creation - God is One

The 4th of 7 articles on Creation by Rev Simon J Lumby, Rector of Killarney Union

The Shema, “Hear Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is One”, comes in Deuteronomy 6:4, after which come the words Jesus famously quoted: the Greatest Commandment - that we are to love God with absolutely everything we are.

In linguistic terms the word “one” can mean a single minimal entity; eg one cent. However, there’s a more technical meaning: a totality, there is only one “everything”.

In Western society—at the heart of our philosophy—is the idea of separation. Descartes famously postulated *cogito ergo sum*; because he concluded that the mind and the body were separate entities coexisting. We call this dualism. A dualism is defined by the existence of a boundary that separates things. Therefore it is natural for us—who are inculcated with this philosophy—to imagine a boundary between us and God.

However, this boundary cannot exist. Simply because if Creation was separate from God then God couldn’t be everything.

We understand God to be omnipresent and yet we treat God as though a great chasm separates us. Just listen to the prayers we offer up; they speak of our perception of God. Most of them imply that God is off somewhere else and unaware of our need. Jesus himself counters that logic; God “knows what you need” even before you can think what your real needs are [Matthew 6:8].

An omnipresent God cannot be inside Creation, in the sense that Creation is less than God. Therefore Creation must subsist within God. That is the sense in which God is present. Everything happens “within” God; God has no boundary. Nothing can exist “without” God.

Interestingly, in many non-westernised cultures, the idea of individuality doesn’t exist. For such cultures, the “who am I?” is answered by identifying the community. It’s kind of like saying “I’m a Yorkshireman, Simon son of Thomas son of Thomas”. This is much more the sense of embeddedness that suits the notion that God is One. There is then a clear distinction between the idea of individuality and of community. They are opposites in the sense that their defining contexts are opposable; that is to say they are not antonyms.

In the last article we saw how it’s possible for humanity to act as a relationships-builder within Creation. We are able to invent and build things that make otherwise unrelated things work together. However, in terms of the article before that, our capacity for such work has to be constructive. It must facilitate the evolutionary tendency of Creation to become more than the sum of its parts. Therefore thinking in terms of ‘boundaries’ will be misleading. Boundaries are inharmonic if there is no bridge across them. The question then becomes: is it because we instinctively think in terms of separation from God (that God is elsewhere) that we are perturbing Creation? Does our mindset cause us to act as though there is a real separation? When in fact there can be no separation at the ontological level (the level of our ‘being’). So our mental frame of reference is at odds with the actual frame of reference embedded within Creation.

Taking this a step further; does this imply that our Spiritual nature is where we sense this error? This error, that lies in our Intellectual nature, that we are separate from God? Does our Intellectual nature drive humanity’s wanton destruction of our planet, our acquisitive greed for profit? Is the name of this false idea of separation: Ego?

Jesus, said there will always be the poor; what he meant was there’ll always be the rich! Is it then the role of the rich to create the necessary economic flow that provides the poor with access to wealth? Well, no, not if there are always poor. Our talents are given in different measure. However, Jesus did not say there will always be those who are powerless. He majored on helping them. So, it must be the role of those who are powerful to create the necessary flow that provides the powerless with access to influence, dignity and respect.

Creation exists because of the flow of energy. Energy is variously stored in appropriate vessels. However, the flow of energy is accessible to everything. Since God is One, we are part of that Oneness. So we are bound by that *Imago Dei* to show at the Spiritual level (and therefore in the Intellectual and Physical levels) what that oneness means: the bridging of apparent boundaries.

You shall love ... with all your heart, soul and mind. Everything: One!
One of the highlights of this year's General Synod was the visit by Archbishop Eamon Martin, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Armagh, who addressed Synod on the second morning. Bishop Eamon explained that in preparation for his ordination as Archbishop he travelled to France to retreat with the Benedictines. He was asked to come back with a motto to take with him into his new ministry. Maybe it was the music in the Abbey, but he came away from the retreat with the text Cantate Domino canticum novum: Sing to the Lord a New Song – Psalm 96. In listening to our deliberations Archbishop Eamon sensed that maybe we were also considering a New Song. His experience on returning from retreat had been that there was nothing wrong with the old song, but that he needed to perform it differently to be attractive to others. He suggested that maybe we need to sing our song in a different key, finding ways of performing which would enhance our ministry and mission.

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS
In his President's Address Archbishop Richard Clarke referred to last year’s watchword - ‘Long term’. It was something of a watchword for this year too. Archbishop Richard was concerned that the Church of Ireland was still not considering the ‘Long term’, but continued a sort of hand to mouth existence struggling to keep going. He recommended three projects:

• Honouring the 150th anniversary of Disestablishment in 2019 by completing the re-writing of the Church of Ireland Constitution
• Commissioning an outside body to advise and inspect our systems
• Supporting ‘Flesh and Blood’ a cross border partnership promoting blood and organ donation as part of our ‘giving’.

COMMISSION ON EPISCOPAL MINISTRY & STRUCTURES
The report of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures was the one that everyone was waiting for. Two motions were passed.

The first called for a Bill to be brought to Synod in 2016 reforming the procedure for electing Bishops, proposed by Archdeacon of Ardboe the Ven Andrew Forster. The Rev. Stephen Farrell in seconding, assured members that the process would be undertaken prayerfully. The second called for a bill to be brought to Synod in 2016 to reorganise diocesan boundaries was introduced by Mrs Ethne Harkness who asked Synod to acknowledge the need for Diocesan restructuring, so that in consultation with Diocesan Councils, the Bill might be brought to the next Synod.

The debate moved up a notch when Bishop Paul Colton expressed concern that the report seemed to make “assertions without argument, and conclusions without reasoning”. Bishop Paul didn’t see how the report could be about mission - there was a need to ‘join the dots’. If the criteria for a diocese insisted that each of ten Dioceses should have at least 30 parishes and every parish 80 members attending weekly, there needed to be more consultation before losing two Bishops and creating huge Dioceses. He expressed concern that if matters were not resolved this year, they may be brought to Synod in 2016 as having been agreed, when in fact they were not. Bishop Paul had driven 16,000 kilometres this year, and spent 33 hotel nights in Dublin for meetings. Would a larger Diocese mean more time away? How could this promote mission? How could we disregard the suggestion of Suffragan Bishops simply because we had not had them before?

In replying, Mrs Harkness agreed that consultation would be the basis for any conclusions, and felt that as it was not within the competency of the Commission they needed to ask the question – ‘What are the core roles of a Bishop and could there be expertise and skills available elsewhere’. Mrs Harkness agreed that there was much more to life and more to Bishoping than committees. Repeatedly throughout Synod there were assurances that this is not about money, but that if there were savings they should resource ministry, especially Episcopal ministry - allowing more time for prayer and study, and for building of relationships with clergy and people.

Hopefully in our own Diocesan discussions we can find ways forward which consider mission and Long term Church, and equip us to ‘Sing a New Song’ for the future of our parishes.
General Synod 2015 in Armagh
A lay view from Kieran Sparling

Since I was elected as a member of the General Synod for the Limerick end of these dioceses at our last Diocesan Synod, I had the privilege of anticipating (with a more than ordinary sense of elation I must admit) attending this year’s General Synod. Although this year’s gathering in Armagh was my first experience as an elected member, I had been introduced to aspects of the General Synod in 2014 at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, assisting with the Church of Ireland Youth Department in making thousands of cups of tea and coffee and perhaps providing even more biscuits for this annual gathering. I was fortunate to be able to attend this year despite it taking place during third level exams, as I had only one exam left by the time General Synod came around! Travelling up to Armagh early on Thursday morning, the diverse membership of the Church of Ireland was reinforced, even on the motorway, as we crossed into a different political jurisdiction and were aware that thousands of our fellow Church members were exercising their democratic franchise in the polling stations throughout Northern Ireland for the UK general election.

Arriving in Armagh city we were in good time for the Synod Eucharist. The scene within St. Patrick’s was very impressive with hundreds of individuals seated in the cathedral pews and many having to sit in additional seating set up along the side aisles. Everybody present received a sampler edition of Thanks & Praise which is currently being developed by the Liturgical Advisory Committee to be a supplement to the Church Hymnal. The selection of music from the supplement sung during the Service rolled from the tongue and I believe will be highly conducive to participation from congregations throughout our local Church communities.

Following the Service, the formal procedures of General Synod began in the Armagh City Hotel – among the documents laid before the gathering being the Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick and Killaloe. At the opening of the session each day, our bishop, the Rt. Rev’d Kenneth Kearon led the Synod in reading from Scripture and offering some prayers – recalling during the Friday session the 70th anniversary of VE Day. The Most Rev’d Richard Clarke, in his Presidential Address, referred to the statistics from the church-wide survey as being “by any standards a necessary reality check” and reiterated that if the Church cannot embrace the missional challenge “with confidence and with hope in Jesus Christ, we may as well close the doors of our churches now. We must relate to reality, and we must also relate to the future ahead of us, a future towards which God is always calling us”.

After the first day of Synod I was slightly perplexed by the parliamentary style of proceedings relating to Bills. I certainly have no issue with procedure, but it would seem that the current system (a modification of the Westminster system adopted at disestablishment) results in protracting business at the preliminary stages, leaving less opportunity for discussion and certainly not resulting in the effective conduct of business. The Standing Committee’s Report did include a discussion paper on an alternative to the current procedure which will hopefully result in a Bill to simplify the current system being put to the General Synod in 2016. As a sage-like neighbour of mine often said in a phrase that never made much sense – “slowly but surely brought the snake to Jerusalem!”

Many Synod members were very animated during the discussions following the Report of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures on the second day. Nonetheless the motion accepting the general principles on the need for restructuring diocesan boundaries was approved by the Synod and a Bill for structural reorganisation will be brought before the General Synod next year. The Commission emphasised that the samples of diocesan reorganisation in their discussion document were not, at that point, options to choose from but rather examples to open the discussion. But it is worth being aware that in all four examples our own United Diocese is adjusted.

Following a busy three days at the General Synod, it was difficult to identify what my feelings were upon leaving Armagh. However I was even more convinced that there are many challenges facing the Church, not only within, but in how we relate to the rest of society. In facing these challenges we need to be assured (to paraphrase the Archbishop of Armagh) that there is a future towards which God is calling us as members of the living organism that is the Church.
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St Molua
By Adrian Hewson, Roscrea Group of Parishes

While it was Flannan who gave his name to Killaloe’s diocesan cathedral it was Molua who gave his name to the diocese: Cill-dá-Lua – the Church of Cell of Lua. With time that same monastic name, Killaloe, became a placename in Canada’s Ontario. Molua is also remembered in another parish in Killaloe Diocese, that of Kyle in Co. Laois, his burial place. Two churches are dedicated to him in Clogher Diocese: Drumsnatt, Co. Leitrim and Magheracloone, near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. A church in the village of Killaloe, near Callan in Co. Kilkenny also bears his name. The most recently built church dedicated to him, in 1962, is located at Stormont in the Belfast area of Down Diocese – all very much in keeping with Molua’s ministry, as during his lifetime in the second half of the 6th century he is alleged to have founded over 1000 monasteries throughout Ireland. For his zeal and energetic success in spreading the Gospel message nationally he could well rival St Patrick as patron saint of Ireland.

Born in the Shannon Basin area of Limerick, his father was named Cartach, a Munster man, while his mother was Sochla from Ossoy in Leinster. He was one of three sons, while tradition also suggests that he had a sister who was mother to St Flannan. Limerick Diocese still honours his name with three holy wells dedicated to him at Doonndonell, Ardagh and Emlygrennan. Further, regarding his family, one of his Latin Lives tells us “Molua was youngest in age and greatest in grace” and miracles were worked by him from his boyhood. Like the young King David his childhood work involved caring for his father’s sheep. It was there that he was spotted by St Comgall of Bangor asleep in the rushes of Moses-like fashion, with the rushes around him “burning with a divine fire”. Comgall persuaded his parents to let him take the boy with him and educate him in his monastic school in Bangor, as he prophesied that Molua would be a “founder of many houses for God” and “spiritual father of a multitude”. It was Comgall who gave him his pet name “Mo Lua” or “My Lua”.

After education and ordination at Bangor he moved to the north midlands and founded a monastery at Drumsna. However the busy lifestyle there was a distraction for him and he moved to St Finnian’s monastic school at Clonard for reflection and further study. Eventually he returned to his own native lands and founded his Killaloe establishment, but while there he was told in a vision that the Shannon basin would not hold his most celebrated monastery, nor would he die there.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit in a series of prophesies and dreams, Molua eventually came to the borders of Munster and Leinster. On land donated by the first Christian ruler of Laois, his principal monastery was built at the place known today as Kyle, in Roscrea Group. His daily rule of life consisted of prayer, study and manual labour, and at Kyle he worked many miracles. His kindness to animals as God’s creatures was noted, while visitors were received as if they were Christ himself. Among his visitors were St Aidan of Ferns and St David from far away Wales. However, no woman was allowed within his monastic confines for reasons unknown! It was from Kyle, his principal foundation, that all his other monasteries were governed.

It was in the surrounds of Kyle too that Molua died in the early 7th century. Contention arose immediately as to where to bury him, as the men of Leinster and the men of Munster both claimed him. On angelic advice his body was placed on a wagon drawn by two wild oxen, and Molua was to rest where the wagon stopped. It stopped at Kyle – a victory for Leinster! His grave is still indicated by a Celtic cross, while in Ballaghmore Churchyard standing on a pedestal is the ancient St Molua’s Trough, said never to be without water.

It is appropriate that Molua’s name is associated with Stormont, a place now associated with coming together in power sharing, as Molua’s life was spent bringing people together in Christ throughout the island fourteen centuries ago. His feast day is worth remembering – August 4th.
On Sunday the 26th of April, All Saints Church in Castleconnell hosted a really lovely evening of Music and Song as the Lough Derg Singers, Musicians and Friends joined with the local Castleconnell Village Singers to raise their voices in joyful harmony. The church was packed to capacity and a retiring collection raised €850 for our ongoing Building Renovation Fund. Tea and biscuits were served afterwards to conclude a most memorable and enjoyable evening. We would like to thank all who so generously supported this event.

The event of Darkness into Light Walk took place in Killaloe/Ballina this year for the first time. Some of our parishioners joined in this walk which helps raise funds for Pieta House. This event takes place all over the country and it was a new milestone in the community when they too wanted to join in helping raise funds for the ongoing work of Pieta House, when suicide is so prevalent in Ireland. The cathedral was lit as walkers streamed past it just before dawn. It was so appropriate to have this during the season of Easter when we remember that Christ is the light and that we too are torch bearers. Those lovely words said at our baptism, ‘shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father’. We hope that this effort will help bring a little light to those experiencing a dark time in their lives. So well done to all who took part in the walk.
Confirmation took place at St. Flannan's cathedral on 24th May, which also happened to be Pentecost Sunday. We had four candidates this year from the Union of Parishes: Ghenna, Fiona, Holly and Jennifer. The service was conducted by +Kenneth and it is always a pleasure to have the Bishop in his chair at St Flannan’s. There is a great sense of community when people can gather in this way and celebrate with the confirmands this significant event and rite of passage in their lives. Family and friends and members of the congregation joined in worship and celebration and to be witness to the promises made by the confirmands. The Bishop reminded the congregation that they have a continued role in supporting the candidates beyond their Confirmation Day. The congregation are asked if they will support them and reply with an affirmation. The day's celebration was concluded with some tea at the cathedral. Thank you to everyone who attended and who put in so much effort in preparing for the day.

The development of layministry is ongoing and Sandra Lefroy is now coordinating the lectors at the cathedral. It is hoped that this ministry will develop and people begin to see themselves as offering a ministry and not simply reading a lesson. The hospitality ministry on a Sunday morning with the tea and biscuits after the services is now up and running in all the churches. Our organist Trevor Selby retires from church music at the end of July and we wish him well.

Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha
Rector: The 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
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

BIRR SUMMER FETE
The Summer Fete is set for Oxmantown School on Sunday afternoon, 7th June, from 1 to 5 pm. Teas, a barbecue, activities, and all the usual stalls will be there. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION
Bishop Kenneth will be in Birr for Confirmation for the Birr, Shinrone, and Clonfert Groups of Parishes on Sunday, 21st June at 4pm (note the time change). The Confirmation service will be the only service in the Birr Group of Parishes on the day.

THANKS
Many thanks to a number of people who have been leading worship in the Birr Group of Parishes while the Archdeacon has been looking after services in Shinrone Group, St Patrick’s Cathedral, and other places. Paul Fitzpatrick, David Frizelle, Jerome Phair, and our own Suzanne Corcoran have helped greatly in ‘keeping the show on the road’ as we cope with the parish vacancies in this part of the Diocese. We are also grateful to the Revd Ruth Gill, who has managed to help out on a few occasions when she wasn’t needed in Cloughjordan.

BICENTENARY
The year 2016 is the 200th anniversary of the present church in Birr. A number of events are already planned; if you have any ideas for ways to celebrate the Bicentenary, please contact the Archdeacon.

Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Rector: Rev Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan's Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Ballyclare Male Voice Choir gave us a splendid concert benefitting Roscrea Methodist Church Funds and Pieta House. Despite torrential downpours the church was thronged and became enthralled as we listened to the musical excellence through various genre, of this award winning choir. Very many thanks to those who offered transport at extremely short notice and to all others who worked to ensure a warm welcome was given to our visitors.

Safe Guarding Trust Twenty six people met in the beautifully refurbished Moneygall Church Hall for a training and ‘brush up’ session of S.G.T. Niall West came to deliver the training, assisted by Rev. Ruth Gill. We are grateful for their time and making the training so relevant. Many thanks to the Moneygall Hall Committee for their hospitality.

Coláiste Phobail Congratulations to graduating students Gordon Clare and Craig Roe and to all our second level students sitting State Exams this year. Prayers and best wishes are sent to all students... and parents at this time of heightened stress.

From The Registers:
Deepest condolences are offered to Mrs. May Hamilton on the death of her sister in Wexford. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

We welcomed into the fellowship of the Church baby James Clive Michael Davis, son of Clive and Mary of Christ Church, Corbally on May 2nd.; and Megan Elizabeth Lewis daughter of Mervyn and Michelle Lewis of St.Buchin’s, Bourney on May 3rd. Baby James recovering from illness seemed to enjoy himself, while Megan certainly made her presence felt, perhaps getting ready to audition for the choir.

Holy Matrimony - The wedding ceremony between Yvonne Kenny and Stephen Coakley took place on May 15th in grand style. The ceremony was conducted by Yvonne's aunt Revd. Canon Barbara Fryday and Revd. Fr. Seamus McEvoy. We wish Yvonne and Stephen many fulfilling and enriching years together.

Confirmation Full Membership of the Church of Ireland was confirmed upon David Lewis (junior) by Bishop Michael Burrows in a ceremony in the cathedral church of St.Canice, Kilkenny on May 3rd. Welcome aboard David!

G.F.S. Enrolment Ceremony took place during Service of the Word May 10th. It was a great blessing to have present Mrs. Rose Langley, Diocesan President.
Enrolled as Junior Candidates: Phoebe Hodgins, Charlotte Roe, Orlaith Houlihan.
Enrolled as Candidates: Gemma St.Leger, Roisin Houlihan, Lucy Wallace.
Enrolled as Junior Members: Jane Dudley, Isabella Roe, Jessica Wallace, Saoirse Barrett.
Enrolled as Members: Emma Mooney.

Disregarding temperamental microphones and other distractions, the girls read the readings from scripture, including signing the Gospel reading, led ‘interactive’ prayers and assisted the churchwardens. All enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

Healer Prayer services will be held on the second Thursday of every month during the celebration of The Holy Communion which takes place every Thursday at 11.00 a.m. in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea.
Walk in the Slieve Blooms - This popular family friendly, not to be missed event, in aid of parish funds will take place on Sun. June 28th. Meet at Kinnity Community Centre at 2.00p.m. Family €20. Adults €10 Under 18's €5. Join us and enjoy a great afternoon. Contact Keith 086-2349762.

Mothers' Union ‘Mums in May’ Afternoon Tea and Bring and Buy Sale, Methodist Hall, Many thanks to all who attended - your support will assist families at home and overseas.

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Vacant
 Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green
Tel: 062 79941 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Diocesan Readers:
Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc_sanders@iol.ie
Audrey Clarke Gordon
087 742 8901, audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

SERVICES
St. Mary’s Nenagh: 11am 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Family Service) & 4th Sundays
Templederry: 9.30am 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays
5th Sundays: 11am United Service, rotating between churches

We are looking forward to the end of June when our three Confirmation candidates will be confirmed by Bishop Kenneth. Confirmation day is the 28th June at 10.30 am. We look forward to welcoming April, Dylan and Lauren as they make their commitment to the Body of Christ. We keep them in our prayers at this time and Rev. Lucy would like to thank Rose Langley for guiding them on this part of their spiritual journey.

It has been a fairly quiet month in the Union. Mary Ryan underwent surgery in Dublin. We are glad she came through it safely and is now convalescing in Dublin before returning back to all her friends. Get well soon, Mary. Stuart Hamilton is out of hospital after surgery, but will continue to receive treatment over the next few months. Bertha Armitage is also seriously ill. She is the mother of Jean Mooney and aunt of the Shannon Hall Clarkes. Our prayers are with them, and the frail and old in the Nenagh Union.

Tenders have been received for the Rectory refurbishment and it is hoped to sign contracts shortly and for the work to begin within the next few weeks. The Rose Window in St Mary’s has been fully restored and will be installed in June.

Good luck to all the students from our Union of Parishes who will be taking their State exams during June.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Vacant
 Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 913 5341 Mob: 087 948 4402
Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

FOR THE NOTES
On the 10th May, the Revd. Denis and Lesley Sandes ran a very successful Coffee Day in their home in aid of the horrific earthquake in Nepal. The event made well over €2,000 with more donations to come. Many thanks to all who helped in any way and also to George and Pearl Whiteford who donated the proceeds from the monthly dance a couple of nights later.

CONFIRMATION
The Confirmation Service will be held at 3 p.m. in Borrisokane Church on the 28th June. The classes are progressing well and the candidates will be planning a family service in the near future. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for this step on their journey in faith: Laura Hayes, Jacqueline Mooney, Jacqui Wakefield, Laura Williams and Hazel Young.

BAPTISM
The Revd. Stephen returned to Cloughjordan on the 24th May for the baptism of Lauren Ruby Woods, daughter of Eoin and Dorothy. We wish Lauren and her parents every blessing and thank the Revd. Stephen for his kindness in coming down.

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The Annual Summer Fete for parish funds will be held on the Green, Cloughjordan on Sunday 21st June from 3pm to 6pm. There will be lots of entertainment for kids and adults as well. We have Bouncy Castles, Face Painting, Nail Art and Hair Styling, soccer and games. We also have Wheel of Fortune, Cake Stalls, The Bargain- Buy, loads of other stalls and delicious teas and a Barbeque. Admission is free so please do come along and enjoy.

MOTHERS’ UNION
We finished off the season with a ‘Mums in May’ afternoon visit to Loughton House and gardens followed by afternoon tea. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all members.

WELCOME
Bob Stanley, husband of the late Betty Stanley, has moved from Thures to Bushy Park Nursing Home in Borrisokane. It was a pleasure to have him join the other residents for Holy Communion and to have Valerie Stephens along with other family members join us too!

PASTORAL
Bud Powell and Bob Kelly have both returned home after short stays in hospital. We wish all those who are ill, at home or in hospital, every blessing and pray that they may be surrounded by the healing presence of God.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST
A training evening for those working with children was held on the 20th May in Moneygall Hall. We joined with parishioners from Roscrea Parish and Mr. Niall West, Diocesan Co-Ordinator of Safeguarding Trust, made the presentation. Many thanks to Bud Powell and to Helen and Edward Shortt for looking after the logistics, it was very much appreciated. It’s a lovely hall!

SCHOHABOY BOG
The Revd. Ruth received an invitation to attend the launch of this facility on the 21st May and would highly recommend it as a quiet place to visit.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)
Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Wayne Carney
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234
Email: mapleire@eircom.net

DIARY DATES
Shinrone Saturday 13th June Fun Dog Show and Fete .
Starting 1.30pm
Dunkerrin Sunday 28th June Fun Dog Show and Sale.
Starting 2pm
Aghancon Sunday 19th July Parish Fete.
Starting at 2.30pm

It will be a Big Day on Saturday 20th June when Aghancon will host the Diocesan Synod in the Hall. The second time they will have hosted this major event in Diocesan life. There will be a big Welcome on the mat!

Thursday morning Eucharists continue in Clover Lodge Nursing Home @ 10.30 with Rev Tom Kingston usually celebrant. On Ascension Day this was the service for the group, Rev Janet was the celebrant, and it was a real joy to have so many people present, probably due to the fact that the Mothers’ Union were holding the ‘Mums in May’ Coffee Morning and Sale immediately after, taking over the regular Thursday morning coffee morning, normally organised by Richard Abraham

Shinrone, Dunkerrin and Aghancon, in that order, are all holding their annual fetes.
Shinrone and Dunkerrin both incorporate Fun Dog Shows, so please start teaching your ‘old dog new tricks’! for the ‘best trick’ class, and bring fancy dress outfits, so your dog is the ‘best dressed’!

Shinrone is on Saturday 13th June, registration of dogs begins at 12.30pm and the sale at 1.30pm . Dogs are welcome inside Cloughmoyle School, so everyone can view all the ‘goodies’ on sale and enjoy a cup of tea.

Dunkerrin is on Sunday 28th June. Registration for dogs begins at 1pm and the sale at 2pm. The sale and dog show will be held in Dunkerrin Community Centre.

Aghancon are holding their fete on Sunday 19th July beginning at 2.30pm.

Congratulations to Hollie Talbot who has been awarded a scholarship to Kilkenny College. Well done Hollie. Our prayers and best wishes are with all those students taking exams and planning moves to secondary or third level education.

Please keep our confirmation candidates in your prayers Emma Mooney from Shinrone and Ronan Serviss from Kinnitty Confirmation will take place in Birr on 21st June. Please put the date in your diary and plan on being present to give these young people your support.

Please continue to remember our Rector, Canon Michael, in your prayers, that he may be restored to fullness of health.

Our continued thanks to Archdeacon Wayne for his continued pastoral care of the parish.

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

“IN PRAISE and THANKSGIVING” is the theme of the soon-to-be Flower Festival in Ennis organised by the National Association of Irish Flower Artists over the weekend of June 19-21, with St Columba’s Church combining with Ennis Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul as hosts.

This especial moment and honour for the parish and the town has been made possible through the offices of local woman Brid Coonan, who holds the AOIFA Chair at present.

On the ground St Columba’s parishioners Mrs Jennie Shaw and Mrs Marjorie Normile are co-ordinating with the AOIFA local executive.

May it be a splendid celebration of the Creation through the artistry of flower arrangements and all told a festival of Praise to the Creator. St Columba’s will host the closing ceremony of the Festival with Evensong at 4.30pm on Sunday 21st June. (11.30am Kilnasoolagh HC) is the only other service within the Group.
CHARITY AWARD

Kilnasoolagh churchwarden Mr Pascal Sage, a retired businessman from Shannon Town, is a non-stop worker for local charities, among them the families of ex-forces personnel. His outstanding efforts have been acknowledged with the SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen Family Association) 10 Year Award pinned by SSAFA Branch Secretary Republic of Ireland, Mrs Yvonne Harrison. Well done Pascal.

When not active in his charity work, Pascal is usually preparing Kilnasoolagh Church for worship or cheering on Munster rugby team.

PROUD FIND

Tiamdae O’Conghail, parishioner and parish reader at Kilnasoolagh enjoyed his week off from demanding work as a community nurse in the company of his son Tim Jnr, largely bathing in the coverage of the visit to Western Ireland and the Burren of Prince Charles.

Tim is one of the leading cavers in the country and a find in the Burren’s Moneen limestone cave by Tim (and two colleagues) of a unique Antler Mace head came to the attention of the Prince when in Sligo he visited the national archaeological museum.

“Proud as punch” Tim Snr, married to Clare (!) takes a keen interest in his son’s ventures in caving but the father of three young adults prefers the quieter life himself, reading and brushing up on his Greek. He is a keen bible student and valued new member of the Drumcliffe Group readers.

EASTER VESTRY

Working within our distinct confines (!) we managed to put together two AGMs with the usual faces to the fore. One change is the election within the Drumcliffe Vestry of new Hon. Secretary John Donovan who has more than proved himself indispensable in recent years as a co-ordinating and innovating figure, well suited to the post of Hon. Secretary which has not been effectively filled since the departure years back of the great Leslie McCrum. May he know blessing in his service.

CLASSICAL

A series of Summer lunchtime concerts led by top Irish soprano Helen Houlihan, entitled Classical Thursday, along with invited colleagues, shapes up a special cultural contribution to Clare life and tourism over the Summer months.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes
Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahaskragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Vacant
Priest-in-charge: Very Rev. Maurice Sirr,
Tel: (061) 277372, Mob: (087) 2541121
Email: msirr@iol.ie
Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

ST. JOHN’S BALLINASLOE (CREAGH UNION)

On Easter Sunday the parish was delighted to welcome Dean Maurice Sirr who travelled from Limerick to celebrate Holy Communion with us. There was a very good congregation in the church, coming from Ballinasloe, Aughrim, Ahaskragh and Loughrea. The children from Sunday School had prepared paper flowers with their Easter prayers on them and coloured cards announcing that “Christ has risen” and these along with fluffy chickens were placed on the Easter Tree. There was also a surprise basket of Easter Bunnies for each child in church. At the end of the service, Dean Sirr presented Certificates to each child for their attendance at Sunday school up to Easter.
We also welcomed to the parish the Ministry & Resources Committee who came to us in April to visit all the churches in the group and to meet the parishioners.

On a sad note we extend our sympathy to the English family on the passing of a great lady, Mrs. Elizabeth English. She will be sadly missed by her family and the community.

On Sunday May 10th May, the parishioners of St. John’s said farewell to Rev. Maurice Sirr as he celebrated his last Holy Communion service with us for the time being as he leaves for a well-deserved holiday abroad. We will miss him.

On May 24th the children of our Sunday School prepared a cake for Pentecost and helped to decorate the church to celebrate the Church’s birthday. Mark Newton, age 10 read the New Testament reading taken from Acts 2 (Children’s Bible).

The Ministry of Healing Services are continuing under the leadership of Valeria Swanwick on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3pm in St. John’s. All are welcome.

AUGHRIM

Some parishioners were at a book launch at Loughrea Library (formally Loughrea Church) on Saturday the 18th April. The title of the book is “The Church of Ireland Unions of Killinane and Kilconickney, Loughrea, Co. Galway a history,” Written by Gerry Kearney who in researching a book on the Taylor family of Ardrahan stumbled on the graveyards of these two parishes and decided that he had the makings of another book. It is a very well written book giving a brief history of the Church of Ireland as well as the past parishioners of these parishes and in particular the Persse family of Roxborough and elsewhere, of whom Isabella Augusta Persse who later became Lady Gregory of Coole Park [Who made her mark in Irish Literature] became the most famous.

Sunday 10th of May Holy Trinity had a coach full of visitors from all over Northern Ireland. It was a lovely occasion and a welcome boost to the attendance figures. Thanks to Julie Cruise for organizing the event.

On Friday 8th May the funeral service of Albert Ibottson was held in Holy Trinity Church followed by burial in Creagh cemetery. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Susan and her family.

ARDRAHAN

It is hoped to start a branch of the Mother’s Union shortly. A concert will be held 27th June at 7.30pm in the church. We hope it will be the first of many.

Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649

Email: towers.patrick@gmail.com

The Marriage took place on May 1st in Eyrecourt Church of Christopher Bourns and Sarah Harte. Sarah and Christopher will live within the parish of Eyrecourt. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

The Baptisms took place within the month in Banagher Church of Samantha and Olivia O’Neill, and of David Fallon, son of Jill Cunningham Fallon and Gerard Fallon. In Clonfert Cathedral the baptism took place of Cathal, son of Helen Kenny and Jonathan Burke. We extend a very warm welcome to these four young ones as they become full members of the Christian faith.

The Funeral took place in Portumna Church on Monday May 11th of Mrs Ann Menheneott. Ann has served the Diocese as a Diocesan Layreader for many years and held offices within the parish vestry over many years too. The Parish is deeply indebted to Ann’s cheerful non-stop energy that has over the years galvanised the parish in Portumna. She has played a high profile role in the community life of Portumna and the attendance at her funeral of large numbers of mourners from the Portumna community testified to the affection she was held in Portumna.

Ann is going to be greatly missed by her many many friends. But above all it is to her daughter, Sarah, and her son Michael that we send all our sympathies on the loss of their dear mother.

The funeral service brought together many people from the various organisations which Ann was associated with as well as so many personal friends. Bishop Kenneth with many present and past clergy from the Diocese and local Roman Catholic clergy took part in the Funeral Service. The Interment was in the graveyard of the Church. May dear Ann rest in peace.

The Mothers’ Union held a Diocesan Service in Eyrecourt Church on Sunday May 24th. The Service was led by the Rev. Ruth Gill. The Gospeller was the Rev. Jane Galbraith and the Rev. Patrick Towers preached. The Mothers’ Union President, Mrs Blackwell, read a lesson, and Mrs Jean Talbot led prayers. A delightful event was rounded off with a tea well suited to lengthy conversations and good cheer.

BBQ SEASON

BBQ Sunday for the Group is Sunday June 28th. The BBQ in and outside of the Parish Hall will follow the 11am Group Service in Banagher Church. Awesome burgers and prodigious bangers will be served with a variety of side dishes. A full range of desserts will be included in the €10 charge per head and a €5 for children. There is no cover charge and there is free access to all four themed dancing areas. Everyone welcome.

The Bible in 50 words


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

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely
50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick
Tel: 061-302038 Mob: 086-3574917
Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENT
Our deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Veich Maiden who died peacefully at Limerick University Hospital on the 19th of May.

CONFIRMATION 2015
Congratulations to those who were confirmed on the 17th of May: Lucy ALLEN, Ellen BEAMISH, Grainne EMBLETON, Amy O’LEARY, Anna O’NEILL, Teresa MBEKWA, and Tracey OBIAKOR. Thanks to Jackie McNair, Rev’d Edna and Dean Sandra who prepared them for this important step in their faith journey. It was a full cathedral with many families and friends of the candidates, some who had travelled a long way to be present, and of course for all of us a time to remember our own confirmation promises and to reflect on how they make a difference in our own life. Many thanks to those who made sure the cathedral was at its best, and to the flower arrangers, those who prepared the refreshments afterwards, and the excellent music from the choir and organists.

ORPHANAGE IN BELARUS
Some of you will remember that in Holy Week we responded to a Murroe/Abington request for help with local people who were travelling to Belarus to work in an orphanage. James Hannan of Murroe is back from that trip, and is very grateful for our response (at Abington and on two evenings in Holy Week at St Michael’s). James says: “Thank you so much for your support. I honestly couldn’t go without the support of people like you. Your sending me makes the whole thing possible. The children were truly blessed by the whole thing. Now we look forward to hosting one of the children, Sergey, in our home in August.” James also has a video report of his Belarus mission. If anyone is interested, we should be able to obtain this from him, via the Church Wardens of Abington.

MUMS IN MAY
The Limerick Diocesan MU Service took place on 17 May 2015 in the St Mary’s Cathedral and focused on the work of MUMS IN MAY.

Bishop Kenneth celebrated communion and Dean Sandra preached, drawing on the experiences of MU members from around the world. (NB: Sermon extracts are on page 8). A generous collection went towards ‘Mums in May’. Many thanks to Mrs Ina Blackwell for organising this lovely afternoon.

LIMERICK INTERNATIONAL VETERANS DAY PARADE
The Reverend Edna Wakely was invited to take part in the Ecumenical Service that formed part of the International Veterans’ Parade on Sunday 17th of May. The service took place in Pery Square and was attended by Veterans from around the world. A representative of the Roman Catholic Church also took part, together with a member of the Jewish faith. Fortunately the weather was kind and the rain held off for both the parade and the service.

CATHEDRAL TOWER NEWS
Sat 16th May was Murphy Cup (All Ireland) Competition, held in Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. Despite a good ring (very good in places!!), we did not make the podium. Winners were St. Thomas’, Belfast. St. Mary’s team was:- Adrienne Baron, Stephen Jordan, Gerry O’Shea, Mike Pomeroy, Philip Talbot, Pat Mulcahy, Alan Hegarty, Kieron Brislane.

On Sun 17th May ringers and friends from St. Mary’s Cathedral and Mt. St. Alphonsus gathered for lunch in “The Locke” to wish “Bon Voyage” to Fr. Adrian Egan who has come to the end of his time as rector in Mt. St. Alphonsus, and is moving to a new role in Cherry Orchard in Dublin. He was presented with a specially commissioned silver lapel pin depicting an image from the Cathedral misericords within an outline of a bell. We all wish Fr. Adrian Very Good Wishes in his new surroundings.

STATE EXAMINATIONS
Wednesday 3rd of June was the start of the Leaving and Junior Certificate. Let’s hope the papers have been and continue to be kind to them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. We wish them all a happy and safe summer break.
The past month or so in the Adare and Kilmallock Group has seen a number of celebrations of various sorts.

CONFIRMATION

On 26 April, nine youth were confirmed by Bishop Kenneth Kearon in a ceremony at St. Nicholas’ Church, Adare. They were Heather Alfred, Jonathan Cooke, Jessica Evans, Adam Gardiner, Lucy Gardiner, Robyn Gardiner, Sam Lilburn, Robyn O’Neill, and Leah Power. Jessica Evans was also baptised that day. It was a joyous celebration. Congratulations to them all!

SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES DAY

Another youth-oriented event occurred on 15 May: a children’s activities day as part of St. Nicholas’ celebration of its 700th anniversary the following weekend. The planning committee wanted to hold an event that would be more “youth-friendly” than the Flower Festival itself. So member Janet Ryan co-ordinated a day in which the fifth and sixth classes of three schools in Adare came to St. Nicholas’ for a morning of activities. The schools were St. Nicholas’ National School, Our Lady’s Abbey (girls’ school), and Scoil Naomh lósaf (boys’ school). They were divided into three groups, with students from each school in each of the groups, named Franciscans, Trinitiarians, and Augustinians after the three religious orders that had monasteries in Adare during medieval times.

ROGATION DAYS

A celebration of Rogation Days was held in each of the churches, with prayers offered for the fields and gardens, the soil and seeds, water, and the animals. In Kilmallock and Kilpeacon, children brought forward representatives of each of these items and assisted in the offering of the prayers. Although the parishes in this group are primarily agricultural, prayers were also offered for our occupations of all kinds.

BOOK LAUNCH

On Thursday, 7 May, St. Nicholas’, Adare, was the venue for the launch of a book entitled Billy’s Adare: ‘In His Own Words’. It is the memoirs of Billy Overton, a long-time resident of Adare, from 1920 to his death in 2006, as compiled and edited by his niece, Rosemary Gardiner. All proceeds of the sales of the book go to St. Nicholas, as part of the 700th anniversary celebrations.

It has been a very mixed bag this month for our group of parishes. We held our Easter General Vestries and were glad to elect and appoint wardens, treasurers, secretaries and vestry members for the coming year. Our parishes may be small, but we have a pool of willing and committed people well able to rise to the challenges.

On 19th of May Kilcornan Mothers’ Union held it’s “Mums in May” and we were delighted with the response.

Our parish, indeed our whole local community, has been deeply shocked and upset by the death of Thomas Ruttle and his partner Julie. We extend our deepest and most prayerful sympathies to all those who are mourning their deaths.
Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Rector Archdeacon Susan Watterson,
Teach an tSolais, Ashe St, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 719 5416 Mob: 087 689 2025
Email: tralee@ireland.anglican.org

ABOUT PEOPLE

For many years now Betty Groves has been a winner with her cakes at the County Fair, her reputation in this area is well known. This year however she has surpassed even her own high standards by winning the overall cup for baking. Well done Betty! Brilliant news too for Susan Keating who won a second prize for jam making. And last but not least, congratulations to Margaret Groves for her plants and flowers.

TRALEE UNION NOTES

During the first week of June Select Vestry meetings were held in both Unions and St John’s Parochial School Board of Management also met during the week.

There was an opportunity for parents of the children in St John’s Parochial School to meet Mrs. Aoife Benton, the newly appointed Principal at the end of May. Newly enrolled children and their parents also attended and the children called into school to see their new classroom and meet Mrs. Fitzell who will be their teacher in September. Please note that the new school year will start on Tuesday September 1st. Best wishes to Mr Michael Lynch the present school Principal who will retire at the end of this month. Members of the Board of Management, the Parents’ Association, school staff and children wish you a long and happy retirement.

Diocesan Synod will be held on Saturday 20 June when it is hoped that a bus will be arranged to Ahancon in Offaly. It will be a very early start for representatives from our area, but if the last Synod is anything to go by, the hospitality will be amazing.

Members of The Book Club held their first meeting in Stoker’s Lodge at the end of May. Please look out for information regarding the next book and the date of the June meeting in the parish newsletter.

BOYS’ BRIGADE

The Boys’ Brigade held a parents’ evening on Friday 5 June, to which all were welcome.

FROM THE WEST

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to the Hadnett family on the recent death of Bill’s father in Cork.

We thank Canon George Salter for officiating at our Féile na Bealtaine Ecumenical Service as Gaeilge on Sunday 3 May. Our thanks to Reader David Frizelle for assisting him and Brenda Ni Shuilleabháin for her address on the need for Christian Unity (see extracts on page 33).

A cutting from the Kerryman newspaper dated 1976 has come to light. It bears a picture of Rev. Trevor O’Sullivan standing in front of St James’ Church and shows the church before the old tower was demolished. It is intended to have this framed and hung in the Vestry.

Best wishes to Anna Jauch and Max von Senger whose marriage was Blessed in St. James’s Church Dingle on Ascension Day. The couple were married in Berlin and came to Dingle with family and friends from Germany and Ireland to celebrate their marriage. Thank you to Barbara Buckley for translating parts of the liturgy and for assisting at the service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat/Sun 6/7 Jun. Irish Patchwork Society Exhibition
St. James’ 11am-5pm
Sat. 20 Jun. Diocesan Synod Ahancon
School Sports Day Rugby Club TBA

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycastle, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997
Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

BOOK CLUB

The Book club met on May 16th to discuss Alfred Hitchcock’s biography by Peter Ackroyd. This book gives a detailed account of Hitchcock’s life and work. Some of the interesting points to emerge were his reliance on his wife in his way, his incredibly detailed preparation before shooting each film and tellingly how he managed to harness his phobias, insecurities and fears projecting them into his films. After the discussion we watched “Psycho” which though scary would be considered low level gruesome compared to current horror movies. Next book is “Travelling to Infinity” by Jane Hawking.

CONCERTS

May has been a very successful month for concerts with great variety in musical types and performers. June is equally promising with concerts scheduled as follows:

June 1st Greenville College Choir USA
June 3rd Missouri University Choir
June 6th Spraoi Chiarrai
June 13th Delaware Womens Chorus
June 19th Gilroy High School Choir

CONGRATULATIONS

These are due to Rev. Simon and Nolleen on birth of their granddaughter Erin Ceri.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Killilagh and Glenbeigh

Vacant

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens
Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry
Mob: 087 052 9107
Email: stephens.j@temmler.eu or stiofain.s@gmail.com

SERVICES

Killinagh 9.45 am (except the 1st Sunday HC at 7pm)
HC 1st & 3rd
MP 2nd & 4th
Killorglin 11.00 pm
HC 2nd & 4th
MP 1st & 3rd

CONFIRMATION

We are busy preparing our young people for confirmation, classes are continuing every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. The candidates
were involved in the evening service in Kiltallagh on the 3rd of May. On the 7th June they will contribute to the service in Killorglin @11am.

The confirmation service will be held in St Michael's at the earlier time of 10.30am on the 21st June. This will be a united service for the parish.

BAPTISM
Josephine Joehnk was welcomed into the Christian family according to the rite of Holy Baptism in Killorglin Church on the 19th May. Josephine and her parents Carsten and Valerie live in Duisburg, Germany. Her Grandparents Monika and Horst live in Caragh Lake.

KILTALLAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL
The end of term service will be held in the church on the 15th June at 11am, This will be followed by a Bar Be Que in the school grounds after the service. The school community extends a welcome to the wider parish community to attend the service and the refreshments.

MINISTRY AND RESOURCES
This group under the leadership of the Very Rev Gary Paulsen visited the parish on the 16th of May. They visited most of our property and following lunch they met with members of the vestry afterwards in Killorglin Church.

RRS (RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME)
This scheme is up and running in the parish once again and provides a valuable service as it keep the church grounds in Miltown and Killorglin in good shape.

Many thanks are also due to the faithful band of parishioners who keep Kiltallagh Church grounds in such a high standard.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Congratulations to the St Vincent De Paul group in Killorglin on the opening of their new shop and centre in Killorglin on the 25th of May. It was blessed by Fr Michael Flemming and the Rev Jim Stephens.

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

It’s now just over a year since we started the GAP (Growth Action Planning) Project, and it is time to look once more at the next step, building on what has been a relatively successful beginning, particularly with young people. Patsy Devoy of the Mothers’ Union once said ‘if you want your church to grow, start a toddler group’ – and we have certainly experienced the truth of that. Praise n’ Play, for under-fives, goes from strength to strength, with around 30 or so customers (fortuitously they tend not to all come at once!); the Kids’ Shed, the next step up, caters for five to eight-year-olds; and our joint young teens group, Club Gateway meets in Kenmare Methodist every 2nd and 4th Saturday evening, with some fascinating philosophical discussions driven by off-the-wall questions we call ‘Thunks’ – e.g. Do trees have memories? If there was a pill that would make you always happy, would you take it?

Out of this work, we have seen new families at our all-age service, plus baptisms and even a wedding – real blessings. But we now realise that we have to revisit our GAP strategy, having discovered that there are emergent issues to deal with. As examples, we feel that the four years covered by the Kids’ Shed perhaps is too great a difference between the youngest at five and the eldest at nearly nine; and we also have to think of how to cater for Kids’ Shed graduates who are still too young for Club Gateway. There is clearly a demand – a Girl Guides group that started this year is already full, and has a waiting list – but there is nothing for the lads.

It was appropriate, then, in our Pentecost service, to consider a translation of ‘Paraclete’ not as ‘the comforter’ – but quite the opposite – the DIScomforter’, who pokes us in the ribs whenever we start to feel complacent. Where do we go to next? What do we have to do to make it happen? Are we building the church God wants, or the church we want? How much change would we be happy to accept? And who said that us being happy was the slightest bit important? However big the change, it ain’t anywhere near as big as the change the apostles had to cope with...

Methodist News

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

This month in Christ Church and Central Buildings, we’ve been enjoying the fruits of the foundations we spent time laying at the start of the year.

In Limerick on the May Bank Holiday weekend, every year there is a charity marathon, and it takes up the whole city, attracting thousands of participants. It is a wonderful blessing to the city, and is an event that everyone can participate in, bringing people from a diverse range of backgrounds together in solidarity for charity causes, but it’s not without its drawbacks. Due to the size of the event, most roads in the city are inaccessible until 5pm, which proves inconvenient when you have morning worship in a church that is on the city’s main street! As such, we made the decision to have our Communion service in the evening instead.

On the same Sunday, our youth group were taken out for a refreshing surf day on the beach by the Surf Project. Jono and Beth Griffin, based in Shannon, run this very interesting pioneer ministry aimed at young people with the help of Timroy Leunis, and their aim is to ‘live life to the full’ through surfing, fellowship, and teaching. Fourteen young people bussed to Spanish Point, where they spent two hours in the ocean, learning to surf; some even managed to get up on their surfboards for the first time! We then returned to Christ Church for some hearty, warm food, and went into a session of teaching that Jono and Timroy had prepared. The young people helped out leading the prayers in the evening service. It was a wonderful day, with people of all ages getting involved with the service, and the surfing.
During the City of Culture Year, we made great use of our on-street unit, CB1, as an accessible gallery space; many groups used it, from art and architectural students to artistic support groups for people with disabilities, and as such its visibility was greatly increased throughout the creative circles of the city. Last year, the St Munchin's Photographic Society used it for an exhibition of their work, and decided to do the same this year, covering the walls in beautifully composed photographs. After this exhibition, up went ‘Artworks,’ an exhibition of painting by an adult group – tutored by Giordana Giache – as part of the Clare and Limerick ETB programme. It was a collection of wonderfully colourful paintings, ranging in subject matter from flowers to street scenes. You can have a look at some of the other pieces on our Facebook page.

Also this month we had Christian Aid Week, as we do every year, and the focus was on the hard working women of Ethiopia. Some of the women who live in Ethiopia support their children through very small businesses, such as selling firewood, that are labour intensive and pay very poorly; one such woman, Loko, has to carry 30 kilograms of sticks everyday to the village where she sells them for an equivalent of only two euro. Christian Aid has been working to provide support for these women who live from day to day in desperate situations, and this year was all about raising awareness of their programme. I appeared in their photographic campaign, showing people carrying heavy bundles of wood in solidarity with Loko.

Anna-Victoria Lynch carries wood for Loko

Don’t forget to keep an eye out for new exhibitions in CB1.....

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet
Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613 Mob: 087 – 2745044
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 and 11 a.m. (inc. Children’s’ programme at 11)
Prayer meetings Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
Bible Study Meetings Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Parent and Toddler Group Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Youth Club Second Friday nights 8.00 p.m.

KENMARE “Gateway” Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service 11a.m. (preceded by coffee)
(inc. Children’s’ programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m.
Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.
Youth Club second and fourth Friday 7.00-8.30 p.m.

MILLSTREET
Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Meeting in “The Lighthouse, Town Square, Millstreet.
Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in “The Lighthouse” 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
Our meetings in Dingle for May are Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 28th June at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark, Lispole on the 25th June at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 11th June at 7.30pm.

In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Crageens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 29th June.

“No Biscuits” ladies lifestyle group meet on the last Monday of the month. The June meeting is scheduled for Monday 29th at 11am.

OTHER NEWS
The Millstreet congregation had a wonderful time during May sharing in weekly Bible studies for seven weeks with members of Kiskeam/Boherbue Roman Catholic parish. The meetings were based on some of the content of the Alpha course and took place in Kiskeam Community Centre.

The June Bank Holiday weekend is again the BikeFest in Killarney when thousands of bikers will descend on the town. This year we’re partnering again with the members of the Christian Motorcycle Association of Ireland and we’ll be doing a family fun day at the church on Saturday 30th May. There will be bouncy castles, free refreshment and lots of music. If you’re in Killarney that day make sure to come and visit. Please also pray that as we ‘give’ free refreshments, music and entertainment that it will also be a symbol of the free grace which God offers each of us.

Please pray for the annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland meeting in Belfast 10th –14th June.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808
Email: Shannon.del aureal@irishmethodist.org

BALLYCLARE MALE CHOIR
In May, the Ballyclare Male Choir came to Roscrea and put on a fabulous concert in St. Cronan’s Church of Ireland. Thirty-one male voices led by Conductor Paul Briggs and Accompanist Sheelagh Greer thrilled the audience with a variety of genres of music, including both sacred and secular, for their two hour concert. Afterwards, folks gathered in the Methodist Church Hall for a late evening cuppa, traybake, and chat. We thank everyone who supported this
Let us stand together as Christians

Extracts from an address given by Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin at St James's Church, Dingle on Sunday 3 May 2015 during Féile na Bealtaine.

Just a week ago, at this time, I was attending Communion Service at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Saffron Walden in Essex. A beautiful soaring church, one of the longest naves in Britain. After the service, I was mystified by one of the stained glass panels in the east window. One of the church assistants came to help me, and we figured it out – we should have known immediately – it was the Last Supper.

In that beautiful place, I was struck again by the fundamental unity of Christianity. We share the same stories. We are united by the source of our beliefs, the source of our faith, the stories of a young Jew from the Galilee from whom our heritage universally derives. Despite dogmatic differences, despite passionate argument, and worse, about minor matters, we are fundamentally the same – followers of Jesus. We can go into any Christian church, from Vladivostok to Vancouver, across three continents, and read the same stories in the images in them all, in the Cross that stands in every one.

And I thought that it is perhaps time for us to remember this unity and to stand together as Christians, for we are under threat. We really are – both internal and external threat. Internally, there are those who have abandoned Christianity, and have not yet discovered that, for society to function efficiently, as well as ethically, it is necessary to behave well. These are the people who, overcome with greed, have broken the financial systems of the entire western world. The people who show no signs of understanding that their behaviour must change if even a semblance of justice is to return to the world of commerce.

And externally we are also facing threat. Christians are being murdered in genocidal pogroms. Christians, poor men who have emigrated in a desperate search for work, are lined up to have their throats cut because and only because they are Christians. Imagine being at the end of that line.

We should stand shoulder to shoulder to protect our heritage. Otherwise we risk the Yeats poem becoming a prophecy:

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned.
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
There was a time when the whole world spoke one language. Everyone used the same words. Then they said to each other, “Let’s make some bricks of clay and bake them in the fire.” They used these bricks as stones and they used tar as mortar. Then the people said, “Let’s build ourselves a city and a tower that will reach the sky, then we will be famous.” The Lord came down to see the city and the tower and said, “These people all speak the same language and I see that they are joined together to do this work. This is only the beginning of what they can do, soon they will be able to do anything they want. Let’s go down and confuse their language then they will not be able to understand each other.” So people stopped building the city and the Lord scattered them all over the earth. That is the place where the Lord confused the language of the whole world. That is why it is called Babel.

The words in bold in the story have become jumbled up on the tower, can you unjumble them?

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