Christ is risen!

He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him (Luke 24:30-31)
The Annunciation of our Lord – 9th April 2018

Editor: The Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord, sometimes called Lady Day, recalls the moving encounter of the angel with Mary, as told in the gospel of Luke 1:26-38. It is usually celebrated on 25th March, but this year Palm Sunday falls on that date, so it is transferred to Monday April 9th or another weekday that week at the discretion of the minister. The rules for this are given in the Book of Common Prayer page 21. This article is adapted from one by Norma Murrain of Silverfish Jewellery.

Mary’s reaction to the annunciation can encourage us in our own walk with God.

First of all, her trust and knowledge. Our trust in someone is built up only over time and depends on our knowledge of that other person. Mary trusted the angel immediately, so she must have known the Jewish Scriptures, and the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. This enabled her to recognise God’s will in the voice of the angel. For us today, the better we know the Bible, the more we will be able to recognise God’s calling on our own lives.

Secondly, her obedient willingness. Mary never asked ‘why’, she only asked ‘how.’ ‘How will this be,’ she said, ‘since I am a virgin?’ As soon as the angel told her, her response was ‘let it be to me according to your word.’ How could she react so quickly in this way? Because ‘I am the Lord’s servant.’ Mary was only a young teenager, but she had already determined in her heart that she would follow God. She was his servant before this call came to her. For us today, we need to be already in a relationship with God before we can hear His specific call on our lives.

Finally, her testimony. After the angel left Mary, she ‘got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.’ And Elizabeth rejoiced with her! ‘Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.’ Today, we each of us need Christian friends with whom we can share our faith and be encouraged.

Thirdly, her worship. Mary worshipped. Her magnificent song of love shows her genuine love for God: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.’

As for us, may our relationship with God be so real that we delight to praise and worship him. And may we allow God to carry out His plans for our life to full term as well.
Bishop Kenneth writes – Moves toward amalgamation

As many of you will know, some years ago the General Synod approved the setting up of a Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures (CEMS). They were asked to look at a wide range of issues, including the future of Episcopal ministry in the West and South West of the island. Meetings were held and maps were drawn up for a number of situations, but proposals for changes to diocesan boundaries in the East of Ireland, involving, Dublin, Glendalough and Kildare proved very controversial, and the work ceased.

However, the challenges facing the dioceses in the West and South West, especially Tuam, Killala and Achonry and ourselves in Limerick and Killaloe remain, so our two diocesan councils decided to continue with our own conversations to see if we could find a way forward which would better fit our two dioceses into the future.

Our challenge is obvious, and one faced by very many institutions – there simply are less people living in rural areas of Ireland. Post offices and Banks are closing branches; there are less G.P.’s living in our communities; even sporting organisations are feeling the pressure as young people and families gravitate to the cities and to the east coast.

As our two dioceses have met in the last couple of years we are finding that we have very much in common. We had a joint clergy conference last October which proved so successful that our next one will also be a joint conference. Our Lay Readers have shared in joint meetings and a meeting of members of Diocesan Councils is planned. Meanwhile, a joint working party has been meeting to consider the practical aspects of a possible amalgamation of our two dioceses.

At recent Diocesan Council meetings in both Limerick & Killaloe and dioceses consider the practical aspects of a possible amalgamation of our two dioceses.

Members of our Diocesan Council are fully aware of all of this and have agreed each step of the way. A report on our progress so far will be made at General Synod in May, where we will also ask to defer any possible episcopal electoral college until our conversations are complete.

It is likely that major decisions will be before us at our Diocesan Synod in June.

A lot of work by many people has gone into all of this. Those involved have been deeply committed to a strong future for the Church of Ireland in the South and West. We have been heartened by the encouragement we have received from Diocesan Council at every stage. May God continue to guide us in our deliberations, as we continue to plan for the future of our church in this part of Ireland.

+ Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, Kilbane House, Golf Links Road, Castletroy, Limerick V94 XOEF
Tel: +353 (0)61 333635
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

Resignation of Canon Michael Johnston

Bishop Kenneth writes

Last week I received the resignation of Canon Michael Johnston from ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland and as Rector of Shinrone Group of parishes, with immediate effect. Michael and his family will vacate the Rectory on or before 1 July 2018, which will enable one of his children to complete his education at second level.

This is a big step for Michael and Evelyn and their family and I wish them every blessing and good wish in the future.

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 Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Registration from 10am; Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.

Yvonne Blennerhassett, Diocesan Secretary
Editorial
- Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Perhaps it’s my age – I’m on the cusp of three score years and ten – but more and more I feel as if the world is spinning out of control. The future is not turning out to be quite how I expected.

Global 24/7 media make it all too easy and tempting to follow bad news obsessively. Climate change is clearly accelerating. Economic inequality is increasing as the super-rich appropriate ever more of the world’s wealth. Hatred of those who are different, poverty and war drive refugees to seek safety where they can. We have a self-obsessed, lying autocrat in the White House threatening nuclear wars and trade wars. We have another in the Kremlin, bent on remaking the tsarist empire. And don’t get me going on Brexit – Britain is devouring itself in a monumental act of self-harm, which will have untold consequences for us in Ireland too. Even the weather seems to be going wrong! Emma and the Beast from the East brought the snow emergency, and this Spring is the coldest and latest I can recall.

But all this is to frame the world God has given us in the wrong way.

Anxieties and fear for the future are part of being human, a cross we must bear, just as Jesus and his disciples did so long ago. In Lent we have been walking with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. With his disciples we have been learning about God’s covenant with us, and about his loving and forgiving nature. On the cross Jesus showed us how to confront and defeat evil with self-emptying love.

We are Easter people – people of the resurrection, not people of the cross. By his resurrection Christ assures us that God is faithful. We must put aside our anxieties and embrace the joy of the good news Jesus preached. Look, the clouds are parting, the sun is coming out, new life is all around us. Let us get to work building God’s kingdom.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God bless, Joc Sanders

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**Church of Ireland**

**LIMERICK AND KILLALOE**

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR MISSION**

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**AN INVITATION TO AN ECUMENICAL MISSION EVENING**

**Wednesday 25th April**

**at 8pm**

**in**

**CLOUGHJORDAN PARISH HALL**

**EDUCATION OF GIRLS & MISSION IN UGANDA**

**SPEAKER**

Sr. Eileen Maher (Roscrea & Uganda)

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

Refreshments will be served after the meeting

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**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/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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Newslink is printed by Davis Printers,
Unit 6, Crossagala Enterprise Centre, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick

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**Deadlines**

The next issue will be for May 2018, published for Sunday 6th May.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 20th April 2018 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

**Newslink Annual Subscription Rates for 2018**

(UNCHANGED from 2017, for 10 issues February - December, part year pro-rata)

Delivered to pew in bulk €37

Individual copy by post €45

Collected from printer in bulk €30

(contact: Lawson Kirkpatrick, 39 Westfields, Clare Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. Email: lsmkirkpatrick@outlook.com)

**Newslink Advertising Rates for 2018**

(UNCHANGED from 2017, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - April 2018

Each Sunday in April
Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down & Dromore and Bishop Harold Miller.

1st April, Easter Day – 1st Sunday of Easter, White or Gold
Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

8th April, 2nd Sunday of Easter, White
Diocese: For the Shinrone Group of Parishes, Canon Ruth Gill and the congregations in St Mary's Shinrone, Aghancon, St Finnian's Kinnity and Dunkerrin & for Rev Michael Johnston and his family following his resignation as Rector of Shinrone.

15th April, 3rd Sunday of Easter, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland and Most Revd Richard Lionel Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.
Diocese: For the Adare & Kilmallock Group of parishes, Canon Liz Beasley and the congregations of St Nicholas' Adare, Croom Church, Sts Peter & Paul Kilmallock & St Beacon Kilpeacon.

22nd April, 4th Sunday of Easter, White
Diocese: For the Killaloe & Stradbally Union of parishes, Dean Gary Paulsen and the congregations of St Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe, All Saints Castleconnell, St Senan's Clonlara, St Caimin's Mountshannon and St Cronan's Tuamgraney.

29th April, 5th Sunday of Easter, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East and Most Revd Suheil Dawani, Archbishop of Jerusalem & the Middle East & Archbisp in Jerusalem.
Diocese: For the Clonfert Group of parishes, Rev Charles McCartney and the congregations of St Brendan's Cathedral Clonfert, St John the Baptist Eyrecourt, Christ Church Portumna and St Paul's Banagher.

6th May, 6th Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday, White
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connors and Bishop Alan Abernethy
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Kenya and Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya.
Diocese: For the Killarney & Dromod Union of parishes, Archdeacon Simon Lumby and the congregations of St Mary's Killarney and Holy Trinity Muckross.

On the first day of the week, in the evening (John 20: 19-23)

Locked in, afraid,
Uncertain, even after Mary's story, even after that behind closed doors seemed safest,
on the first day of the week, in the evening.

And then, the world changed.
He was with us!
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.
Jesus, our Lord,
avive and with us
in a new and completing way,
to bless us with His Peace,
to send us out to witness
in the power of His own Spirit breathed into us.
What a day!
The day of our risen Lord.
The first day of the week,
In the evening,
Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching

Resurrection
by Ven Wayne Carney,
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

God is always here
God is always in charge
God knows what he is doing
God will lead me – if I let him – into new beginnings, new creation, a new resurrection
God will supply all my needs, carry all my burdens, care for all my concerns
God will bandage up my wounds
God will carry me when I cannot walk alone
God will be my voice when I cannot speak
God will reach out to me when I cannot reach out to him

When I feel far from God's love, he will come in love of others
When I cannot love others, God will come, his Spirit will fill me,
and his love will reach out through me, even though mine cannot
When I cannot pray, God will still listen – to the prayers of others for me, to the unspoken prayers in my heart, to the cry of anguish in my soul

Every day is a new day in God's love
Every day is the Day of Resurrection
Every day is a new chance to grow in faith

I need not fear consequences of the past. God's Son has died for me
I need not fear the present. God is working in it and through it
I need not fear the future. God has already been there and is waiting for me there

God's love, expressed through Jesus our Saviour, will be my comfort and strength, now and evermore. Amen.
A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling
– the difficulty with literalism and fundamentalism

Newslink this year will appear in our pews on EASTER DAY and that being the case it may be as good a time as any to share some thoughts stirred up in me by a telephone conversation in recent days with a Church of Ireland Rector who is deeply disturbed by the effects on the Body of Christ of those who hold to a literalist interpretation of the writings which constitute our Bible. Such persons are most often described as Fundamentalists and their theological position as Fundamentalism. The Rector’s worry was centred on the divisiveness which this theological position can cause within the Church. He was also concerned with the hurt caused by this way of thinking to those who either directly or indirectly experience exclusion from the fellowship of the Church when fundamentalist thinking and attitudes in the name of Christ are encountered. A 500 word article can only begin to scratch the surface of this important concern so please do not expect miracles.

The first thing to note is that the fundamentalist approach to life is by no means confined to theology and Church. In our contemporary world it is equally evident as a feature among some of those who practice science and subscribe to the scientific method as the only valid way to pursue and authenticate knowledge. Indeed that position when it becomes significantly pervasive in our education system can be similarly destructive towards other forms and understandings of knowledge. Within professional areas such as medicine strict adherence to the medical model of diagnosis and treatment can be damaging when the psyche as much as the soma is involved in illness. And do I need to record the reminder of the literalism that manifests itself in some forms of political Islam. So in looking at the significance of literalism and the associated fundamentalism within the Church it is necessary to realise that this phenomenon is a key part of the human condition and therefore shares equally with all others in the need for being saved in and through the saving activity of the God who loves and cares for all creation.

Those of you who glance at ‘A View from the Pew’ as it appears month by month in Newslink will remember that I introduced a peculiar word in the March issue - the word "at-oneness". At-oneness is an effort to give expression to the desire of God as expressed in Jesus to effect reconciliation between The Godhead and all creation including the human component of that creation. Those who make a literal interpretation of what happened on the days of Good Friday and Easter Day have developed teaching which attributes to Jesus a submission unto death as an exercise in satisfying the requirements of his and our Father for a blood sacrifice of appeasement. Such an understanding is indeed possible from biblical material. It is normally referred to as the Doctrine of the Atonement. However the question must be asked is it an adequate representation of what happened in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

I’m going to pursue that question in the May and possibly June issues of Newslink.

For now I would invite each of you who may be interested to read the Good Friday and Easter Day and following accounts as they are given by Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. Behind each of those accounts lies a direct experience of what happened on those days and yet none on their own offers a complete picture. That in itself has significant meaning. Think about that. Think too about the adequacy of language to do justice to experiences that included mistaken identity, a tidy departure, a moved boulder, closed doors that don’t open to admit a person and so much more when the later events in Jerusalem and Galilee are included. Such contemplation must surely conclude that words are weak and fragile vehicles for the Truth that is himself The Word. Therein lies the difficulty with literalism and fundamentalism. More next time.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Took place on Thursday 1st March at the Rectory in Birr.
Newly elected Diocesan Council Office Holders 2018 – 2021:
President: Rose Langley; Secretary: Gillian Grant; Treasurer: Diane Dagg

All good wishes for all officers in the Diocese who give freely of their time for GFS. The dioceses thanks the outgoing officers for all their work in the Diocese in the last 3 years – Norma Jean Carney, Michelle Armitage & Linda Gill.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Diocesan Prize Day & Service 2018 was on Saturday, 24th March in Birr. This service also included the commissioning of the newly elected officers for the Diocese. Following the prizegiving there were refreshments available in Oxmantown School.

Camp Meeting to finalise details for camp in June will take place in Nenagh – date to be confirmed.

DIOCESAN CAMP

Camp is organised for weekend of June 16 - 18 in Durrow Faith Centre. Save the date, don’t book anything else and look forward to an action packed fun weekend. Full details of camp next month.
Boys' Brigade

Tralee's Boys' Brigade in the St Patrick's Day Parade

Mothers' Union

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- April 11th - Diocesan Trustee meeting St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh 8pm
- April 14th - All Ireland Council meeting, Christ Church, Dublin 10am
- April 26th - Diocesan Council meeting, St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh 8pm
- May 13th - Diocesan Festival Service, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick 3pm followed by Mums in May Tea Party. The collection will be in aid of our Mums in May fundraiser.

ALL VERY WELCOME AND PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Please keep an eye out for your local Mums in May Tea Party as they will be going on all around the Diocese, mainly during May. As mentioned last month these fundraisers really go a long way to helping Mothers’ Union to fund the many projects that we undertake both at home and abroad, from the large projects to the smaller ones, which are equally as important, such as our knitting project for maternity hospitals. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Beautiful handknits for special babies

ADARE AND ASKEATON MOTHERS’ UNION

On 20th February a large group of ladies from Adare and Askeaton Mothers’ Union and Young Families got together for a fun night out. The evening started with a lovely meal in the Peony Court Chinese Restaurant. Following the meal there was a trip to the Bellite Theatre in Limerick to see the play ‘The Constant Wife’ which was enjoyed by one and all.

Adare and Askeaton Members enjoying a night out

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

Also in February Limerick City Branch had a most informative talk about re-cycling by Sinead McDonnell from the Dept of the Environment. We were delighted to be joined by some parishioners and also some residents of Richmond Terrace Sheltered Housing, where the meeting was held.

We look forward to joining with members from Adare and Askeaton for our Ladyday Service which will this year be held in St. Nicholas Church, Adare, Tuesday 9th April, 8pm.

United Diocesan Youth Council

MIDLANDS ALIVE JUNIOR WEEKEND 2018

Let the adventure begin! Our Midlands Alive Junior Weekend 2018 will take place at the splendid facilities of the Durrow Centre, Knocknagraully, Durrow, Co. Laois from Friday 13th – Sunday 15th April 2018 for what promises to be an amazing weekend of fun, faith & fellowship. So if you are 10 plus years of age and want a weekend of adventure book today to avoid disappointment!!

During the weekend the following fabulous activities will also be on offer: Zany Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Adventure Activities at Kilkenny Activity Centre (kilkennyactivitycentre.ie) including Splatball, Bubble Soccer & Hell's Kitchen Assault Course, Bowling, Laser Quest and Roller Skating Disco at Roll & Bowl Portlaoise, Swimming with Inflatable’s at Portlaoise Leisure Centre (portlaoiseleisurecentre.ie), Some old favourites including soccer; uni-hockey; basketball in new on site sports hall, Disco, Good Food, A bit of sleep and much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine.......

The weekend will cost €100 per person or €90 each if more than one from same family. The fee will include all transport, activities, food and accommodation. Return Transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea.

Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 6th April 2018.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of UDYC will take place on Saturday 21st April 2018 also in Richmond Terrance, Henry Street, Limerick City with refreshments from 2.30 pm and meeting commencing at 3.00 pm. We encourage everyone from throughout United Diocese to attend.

TAKING A LEADING ROLE – PART 1
Have you ever thought about becoming a helper at either parish youth club or diocesan youth council events? If the answer is yes well now's your chance to do something about it. Well, why not come along and join U.D.Y.C. for the first part of our Basic Youth Leadership Course. This will be the first of three weekend courses designed to train and develop our Youth Leaders of the future.

The first weekend will take place from Friday 27th – Sunday 29th April 2018 Django’s Hostel in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. There will be transport from/to Limerick. The cost for the full weekend will be €80. In order to come on the weekend one must be 16 years on the first weekend.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND
Just to let everyone know that our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will take place from Friday 1st to Monday 4th June 2018 (June Bank Holiday Weekend) at Muckross Youth Centre in Killarney. This weekend is specifically for all those for Confirmation during 2017 and 2018. Full details on this event next month.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or myself.
Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.
Until next month,
Oscar
Mobile: 086 2476327

Continuing Ministerial Education
A DAY TO THINK & TALK ABOUT PRAYER
Prayer was at the heart of the March training day for clergy and readers in the diocese, when two groups met at the Rectory in Askeaton to discuss personal prayer, prayers in the life of the church, praying for others, and teaching others to pray. The two groups met on 12 March. We looked at different styles of prayer and discussed how we need to develop a life of prayer that suits our own needs and personality, while also helping others to develop an approach to prayer that meets their own personality types.

These monthly training days are designed for clergy and diocesan and parish readers, but are open to others who are interested.

Each week, sermon ideas for the following Sunday are posted on the CME site at: cmelimerick.blogspot.ie. Each week's posting includes reflections on the Sunday readings, collects, prefaces, post-communion prayers and other liturgical resources, as well as suggested hymns and appropriate photographs that can be used in parish newsletters and service sheets.

The next two training days are in April and May, looking at the place of cathedrals in the life of the Church, and discussing different styles of public worship.

On Monday 30 April, Canon Patrick Comerford will lead a ‘field trip’ to the three working cathedrals in the diocese, beginning at Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, moving on to Saint Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe, Co Clare, and finishing in the afternoon at Saint Brendan’s Cathedral, Clonfert, Co Galway.

On Monday 28 May, participants are invited to consider different approaches to liturgy and worship. This programme will take place in Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton, Co Limerick, and will be led by the Revd Michael Cavanagh and Canon Patrick Comerford.

Further details are available from Patrick Comerford at: cme@limerick.anglican.org

SCHOOL NEWS
St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare
We don’t often have snow in Adare but this year it came as a great surprise to have some snow while in school. So we wrapped up and headed out to enjoy the snow with classmates. Later that week schools were closed due to the severe weather alert and children were delighted with an even heavier blanket of snow. Adults might not have enjoyed it but children around the country certainly did!

The senior classes took part in Limerick’s 5-a-side soccer competition recently. We entered two girls’ and two boys’ teams in this year’s competition and well done to everyone who participated. One of the girls’ teams has made it through to the next round so congratulations to all concerned.
Thank you to our Parents’ Association Committee who organised a very successful Table Quiz in the Woodlands Hotel on 9th March. Thanks to everyone who attended on the night and to those who donated the many prizes.

Gareth and Margaret McMeekin and their team visited school on March 13th to present prizes to all the pupils for their hard work in Bible Times during 2017.

The school’s gardening club has been very busy for the past six weeks and the new garden is beginning to take shape. The tyres have been painted, the ground cleared and the wood chips have been spread out. Next job is to do all the planting. Thank you to Ms Valerie Walker for all her hard work on this project. Valerie has been on teaching practice in the school and we wish her every success in the future.

The school closed for the Easter Holidays on March 23rd and we wish everyone a happy and safe Easter break.

St. Mary’s No.2 National School, Nenagh

“And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils”
-William Wordsworth

Despite a stormy and snowy start to March, the signs of spring are all about. Many thanks are due to our pupils and parents for their patience and co-operation with school closures during Storm Emma. Many thanks are due to our Parents’ Association for the kind provision of a bicycle rack for the school grounds. Mr Donach O’Donnell was kind enough to install it for us. We are so grateful for his time and skills.

French and music lessons continue weekly for our senior classes. Mrs Smyth did a wonderful job of preparing the school choir for their first participation in the Limerick Choral Festival 2018. We were delighted to win Highly Commended on our first try.

Thanks are offered to Ms Claire Nealon who completed a programme of modern dance with the children in February. Swimming continues through March for all of our classes.

In compliance with the Children First Act, 2015, St. Mary’s No. 2 has developed a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment document. This is available for all parents to view at school.

Storm Emma meant that school was closed on World Book Day but children’s author, Ms Olive Mooney came to speak with classes 2nd to 6th on 9th March.

We continue to work towards our Green Flag for Bio-diversity and the hard work of the staff and pupils has culminated in our application for same. We are sure that our research, curriculum linkage and work within our environment will result in success.

On 22nd March, the pupils will run a mini-fair. They plan, organise and run the event themselves, donating the monies received to school for the purchase of classroom resources.

We wish all of our pupils, parents, staff and our community a peaceful and spiritual Easter.
St. Michael’s National School, Limerick

There was great celebration on February 14th last when we got to raise our new Active Flag. Joy Neville, a former international rugby player and now has become the first woman to referee a Pro-14 League match, very kindly accepted our invitation to hoist the flag. We were delighted that so many parents and Ciara Fleming (former teacher who together with Sally Fossitt started the process) were able to join us on this happy occasion.

After many months of hard work, the new school website was ready to launch also on this day. The website address is www.smnslimerick.ie. The school community is indebted to Miriam Smyth, Principal, Brian Gaffney (Board of Management) and Mary Kilmartin (Chairperson of the PTA) for their technical expertise and knowledge to get it up and running.

Our International Food Fair evening in school in March was a wonderful occasion with all 36 nationalities in the school represented. This was a whole-school event with teachers and pupils collaborating to produce amazing project work about each country; PTA and parents helped organise food from all the different countries and it raised €1,500 towards our fundraising for a new classroom. The evening finished with a display of Irish dancing and uplifting singing from the school choir, singing a medley of traditional songs from many countries.

BUY A BRICK
Now that fundraising is well underway, a new initiative has been launched on our website. It is ‘Buy a Brick’ which we hope past pupils and families, friends and neighbours will all support by donating to buy a brick. Those interested in supporting our worthy cause can get details from our website and the advertisement on page 15. Online payment is an option but so is the ‘cheque in the post’. Building is due to start very soon and we need to make up the shortfall from the Department of Education and Skills’ contribution.

Fifth and Sixth Classes have been busy preparing for the Spikeball season. Our annual visit to Villiers school, host of the tournament, has taken place. Spikeball is a junior version of volleyball, which is very inclusive to play.

Second Class had the privilege of visiting Atlantic Airventure in Shannon, Co Clare, in January to learn all about planes and flight. Having an opportunity to experience a flight simulator was very exciting, as was seeing several planes up close.

Cloughjordan No.1 National School

Thank you to so many who have been helping out with various sports at school: to Mr. Casey and Mr. Hassett from St Michael’s N.S. who, once again, invited our hurling enthusiasts to join with them for hurling training, to Declan Gaffney who has been coaching basketball to all classes and to Pat Fitzpatrick from the IRFU for coaching tag-rugby to our older pupils. We are very grateful to all concerned for making these wonderful opportunities available to our pupils.

A very big “Thank you” to Declan Gaffney who has been busy gardening with us, helping to plant and care for plants in our tunnel since last January, which were wonderful gifts for Mother’s Day.

Our Parent Teacher Association is busily working to raise much needed funds for our school. It has organized a Monster Raffle, with many, many wonderful prizes to be won including vouchers and prizes/vouchers valued at €200, €150, €100 & €50. Tickets cost €2 each or 3 for €5 and are now available from the school community. The draw will take place at the beginning of May when prizes with a total value of approx. €2000 will be won. Many, many thanks to so many businesses and individuals, from far and near who have donated very generous prizes.

Congratulations to Lucy, Ava, Alison, Aimee, David, Andrew, Simon and Alex who represented the school at the qualifying competition for this year’s All Ireland Schools Table Tennis Championships, in Cork last month. Well done to the boys who got to the semi-final on the day. Well done to Lucy, Ava, Aimee and Alison who emerged victorious and will represent the school, and Munster in the All Ireland Championship in Dublin at the end of April. Best of luck girls! This is a great achievement, we are very proud of all our players and very grateful to our coach, Jimmy Hayes for his dedication, support and encouragement.
Oxmantown National School, Birr

LENTEN PROJECT
Our Lenten Project in aid of water projects in Swaziland is continuing to make great progress, thanks to our entrepreneurial 5th and 6th class and the support that they get from the pupils and teachers. The project will end with the Easter Egg raffle and sale on Friday 23rd.

GREEN FLAG
The Green School Committee have been leading the work and preparation towards our Green Flag on the theme of Water Conservation. The committee accompanied Rebekah Keaveny to Roscrea, to attend a water conservation information day. Sabina, Daniel, Adam and Laura enjoyed the day and made a great contribution to the meeting. Congratulations to everyone, we have completed the third green flag. A representative from the council visited us on Monday 12th March and she was very impressed with the work of the children and especially our Green School Committee.

Oxmantown National School entered a team into the Spar FAI Schools Football League. Our team came third in their group. We would like to thank Sylvia Kennedy, Alan Horan and Rebekah Keavney for bringing the players over to the soccer day, they really enjoyed it.

LIBRARY
Six book cases, some cushions and mats were bought with the €500 IKEA voucher the school won last autumn in the Emo Oil draw. We are creating a library area for the children.

GYMNASTICS
The gymnastics teacher Mrs. Feehan began gymnastics on 20th February for 6 weeks. The cost to each pupil is only €5 for the 6 seasons, the Parents Association will subsidise the rest of the cost of gymnastics.

Through the generous contribution from the families and friends of Oxmantown National School to our school clothes collection. We received a cheque for €127.75, thank you for all your help. Congratulations to our quiz teams, Our Team A: Beatrice Copland, Jacek Rudnicki, Adam Cwiklik and Przemyslaw Bajerczak, our Team B with Joshua Pyle, Sinéad Johnson, Neasa Doorley and Sam Powell entered the Credit Union Competition, they did very well and represented the school well.

For more news visit our Facebook page!!

Rathkeale No.2 National School

Swimming lessons have come to an end and we’re once again delighted to see the wonderful progress made by the pupils over the course of the eight weeks. This year we had four different teachers which meant that the groups were small allowing each child to improve greatly.

We welcome Aaron Whitehead to the junior classroom. Aaron is in his first year of primary teacher training and had begun his first placement with us. This involves nine Mondays, mostly observing the class teacher but he will teach a lesson each Monday for the remaining weeks. This will be followed with a block week in May. We held an Open Hour for new pupils wishing to be enrolled in September 2018 on Wednesday 14th March from 3-4pm. The closing date for applications is 30th April.

We were delighted to welcome Gareth, Margaret and Annie from the Postal Bible School for their annual prizegiving.

The pupils attended a “StreetSmart” workshop run by the Road Safety Authority in the Community Centre, Rathkeale. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn and brush up on our road safety skills. Following the workshop the pupils put into practice what they learned on a mock-up street. They were presented with Road Safety Licenses having completed the workshop.

School was closed for two days during the heavy snowfall at the start of March and we enjoyed seeing the photographs of each others’ snowmen. It’s not often we get to experience snow in Limerick and for most children this was their first memory of snow.

School will reopen following the Easter break on Monday 9th April.

Villiers School

The notes have to start with huge congratulations to our senior boys’ hockey team who delivered another victory in the senior hockey cup final. A thrilling game against Newtown with the final score being 2-1 to Villiers, this means that Villiers retain the Munster Cup for the second year in a row.

Congratulations also to Amy Clein and Rebecca O Flynn who represented Villiers in the Junk Kouture regional finals at the University of Limerick. A lot of hard work goes into creating the outfits and it takes courage to walk on stage and display their creation in front of a large audience.
we meet a woman who is in a very dark place. She is grieving the death of her friend, Jesus. It is also very early in the morning, so it is still dark. When the woman finds the empty tomb, she sees only sadness and darkness. She imagines the worst: that someone has taken Jesus' body. In her grief, amid her tears, she meets the risen Jesus. However, she doesn't recognize him at first. Instead, she imagines that he must be a gardener. However, in this dark place, she spots a glimmer of light. Jesus calls her by name. Jesus cares about her, and her pain. He calls out to her with love and compassion and she is transformed. In that instant, she can see the situation for what it is. She is not alone. Jesus' death was not the end. There is light in her darkness. It doesn't matter that it took her a short while to see and recognize Jesus. In time, she was able to see that there was light despite the darkness. I like to reflect on the situations in which we find ourselves that initially seem to be full of darkness. There are times when all of us struggle to see any light. There are times when we all feel hopeless. It may be a relationship that is proving difficult for us. It may be, like Mary, that we are experiencing grief after the death of someone we love. When we think about our community, our country and our world, we know that there are many people who feel that they are in a dark place. But do we believe that darkness can be changed into light and hope? Sometimes, it can be a challenge to believe that it is possible to find light in the darkness. As Christians we believe that God provides that light. No matter how hard things seem, God will always be there and there will always be hope. But do we realize that we can bring light and hope to the lives of others? We all have our roles to play. We all have the opportunity to bring light and hope to those we meet each day. As Desmond Tutu once said, ‘Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.’ So let’s all play our part and reach out to bring a little light into our neighbours lives.

Prayer: Bless us with people who offer us hope and light and strengthen us to be light and hope for others. Amen.

Until next time

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Church Education Society – Bursary Scheme

Information regarding a bursary scheme for teachers in primary schools under joint or sole Church of Ireland Management issued last month to all such schools.

The bursaries are intended to promote the acquisition of third-level educational qualifications among teachers working in national schools under sole or joint Church of Ireland patronage in the Republic of Ireland. The Society hopes that by supporting teachers pursuing such courses, the educational expertise of these teachers, as well as their leadership and managerial skills, will be fostered and the standards of education in these schools enhanced.

The bursaries are not intended to support the acquisition of initial teacher education courses such as the B Ed, B Ed (Hons) and H Dip Ed (Primary). A wide range of college and university courses may be eligible provided they demonstrate a clear and significant leadership, management and/or mentoring component. For courses continuing for more than one year, subsequent years of study will only be considered for funding provided the same leadership, management and/or mentoring component is in evidence.

The closing date for applications for a bursary for those wishing to register for such a course in September/October this year is 31st May 2018. Information and an application form for a bursary is available by email request to ces@ireland.anglican.org.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

The Sanctuary is, as always, very busy at this time. Exams are always just around the corner and the stress is always high. So the Sanctuary really lives up to its name as a place of safety and a place of quiet reflection during troubled times for all members of our community. The Community group has been working at trying to alleviate some of the stress by organising random acts of kindness and trying to bring a smile to everyone. The group attended the Young Saint Vincent De Paul awards in Thomond Park where they received a certificate of recognition for their work in raising awareness about social justice issues and working in their local community. On Wednesday 21st the group will take part in a Walk for Water to mark World Water Day. They are using this opportunity to raise awareness around how valuable a resource water is and just how blessed we are to have this resource so readily available, unlike other countries. The gang also took part in a film recently about suicide awareness. Aeffect films together with Christ in Youth Europe created a wonderful short movie called, ‘Unseen’ which is freely available online to be used as a resource for schools and youth groups. It is designed to engage young people in a discussion around mental health so please check it out. It is of course the Lenten season and it is around now that I start to prepare for Good Friday. I was reading the Gospel of John where Incredible carnival stalls with games and displays and managed to raise an incredible €300. The group welcomed Marilyn Sheehan, chairperson of Limerick Alzheimer’s Association, to Villiers to receive the cheque.

Congratulations also to the second year CSPE group who organised a Carnival Day in the sports hall. This was to raise awareness, and much needed funds for the Alzheimer’s Association. They set up carnival stalls with games and displays and managed to raise an incredible €300. The group welcomed Marilyn Sheehan, chairperson of Limerick Alzheimer’s Association, to Villiers to receive the cheque.

Praying:

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. I like to reflect on the situations in which we find ourselves that initially seem to be full of darkness. There are times when all of us struggle to see any light. There are times when we all feel hopeless. It may be a relationship that is proving difficult for us. It may be, like Mary, that we are experiencing grief after the death of someone we love. When we think about our community, our country and our world, we know that there are many people who feel that they are in a dark place. But do we believe that darkness can be changed into light and hope? Sometimes, it can be a challenge to believe that it is possible to find light in the darkness. As Christians we believe that God provides that light. No matter how hard things seem, God will always be there and there will always be hope. But do we realize that we can bring light and hope to the lives of others? We all have our roles to play. We all have the opportunity to bring light and hope to those we meet each day. As Desmond Tutu once said, ‘Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.’ So let’s all play our part and reach out to bring a little light into our neighbours lives.

Prayer: Bless us with people who offer us hope and light and strengthen us to be light and hope for others. Amen.

Until next time

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Junk Kouture

We also waved goodbye to another group who headed off to the beautiful city of Prague to represent Villiers at the Model United Nations where they will participate in a series of debates and discussions.

Travelling to Prague

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

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Bryan Brislane had a 90th birthday in February and his family had gathered from the various corners of the globe and locally to spend the weekend with him. They had managed to keep the gathering a secret from him and so it was a great surprise to have his children and grandchildren arrive. The celebrations continued in the Cathedral on Sunday 25th February with Helen having a birthday cake for Bryan. Everyone wishes they could be as healthy, able and fit as Bryan when they reach ninety years! Bryan still faithfully conducts the cathedral tours, rings the bells, and climbs the steps to the top of the tower a few times a week taking visitors around. His active life may be the secret. We wish him long life and good health for many year ahead.

Jean Newham died in February and her funeral was held at All Saints church in Stradbally/Castleconnell. The funeral service was conducted by the Reverend Lucy Green and Dean Gary Paulsen was in attendance. The Reverend Lucy has been visiting Jean over a number of years during her illness and would pick her up when she was able to attend the monthly Holy Communion service at Dora Benson’s house in Killaloe. Family and friends gathered to say their fond farewells and she was buried in the church grounds. Jean was just laid to rest when it started snowing and we all know what the weather turned out like after that with storm Emma hitting our shores. A life celebrated and we continue to pray for the grieving family.

The World Day of Prayer was held at St Flannan’s Cathedral on Wednesday 7th March. As has become the custom the chaplain of St Anne’s School, Veronica Sheehan, arranged for some of the transition year students from St Anne’s to participate in the service. They all dressed up in the different costumes depicting the different cultures within Suriname, the country central to the prayers this year. The theme was creation and our part in sustaining our creation. We also reflected on how we could change our habits to make the world a better place for future generations. So relevant to the entire world at this juncture. It does make one aware that we should be greening our churches and rectories and using sustainable energy sources and upgrading buildings energy ratings. This is usually costly but a small price to pay for having a world at all in just a few decades. We have probably caused more destruction and abuse of the earth in last 200 years than in all of humanities existence. It is a call for us to put right what we have destroyed and many cases continue to do.

The 71st Clare Drama Festival started on 15th March for 10 days. Alan and Gina Sparling have been involved for many a year. This year Alan took to the stage again in the play Moonglow by Kim Carney. Long may this festival continue amid the modern media which allows for amateur actors to take the
We are delighted that Lydia Monds and Lynn Storey from Children’s Ministry Network have agreed to facilitate a Training and Resources day at Great National South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick City, on Saturday 26th May 2018 from 9:45 am to 4:30 pm. This day is particularly aimed at all those involved in Children’s Ministry. The cost of the day will be €20, which will include all refreshments, lunch, and training. Booking is essential on or before Friday 18th May, 2018 to Edward Hardy texting/calling on 087-290-7553 or e-mailing at edhardy70@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Some future dates to keep in your calendars:
• Thursday, 10th May: Ascension Day – Holy Eucharist in Dorrha Church at 8:00 pm.
• Sunday, 20th May: The Day of Pentecost – Group Holy Eucharist in Birr Church at 11:30 am.
• Sunday, 24th June: Service of Confirmation in Birr (time to be announced).

Roscrea Group of Parishes
St Burchin’s Church Bourney, Christ Church Corbally, St Molua’s Church Kyle, with St. Cronan’s Church Roscrea
Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Christ Church Corbally 9.15 a.m.
St.Cronan’s Roscrea 10.45 a.m.
St.Burchin’sBourney 11.00 a.m.
St.Molua’s Kyle 12 noon ...1st. 3RD.
Sunday School ... St.Cronan’s 2nd&4th
Mid week H.C. St.Cronan’s 11.00 a.m. (check to be sure)
5th. Sundays to be arranged with Methodist Church Roscrea.

ST. CRONAN’S CHURCH TOWER TALK
Mr. Henry Thompson of The Old Builder’s Company gave an illustrated talk on how he and his workers went about their task of restoring the pinnacles of the tower to their original elegance. Mr. Thompson explained that Portland cement was the cause of the eroding stonework. We were able to view from his slides, the dangerous extent of the problem, where the cement remained and the stone had eroded. Sand from Portlaoise, red sandstone from Aghancon and Donegal now makes the pinnacles safe and secure.

Mr. Thompson also explained the skill involved in pointing the stone work of the tower, part of which is already underway. The scaffolding remains in place as it is hoped to continue the pointing the tower very soon.

G.F.S.
Congratulations to Karen St. Ledger, branch leader on her elevation to vice president of G.F.S Diocesan Council.

GENERAL VESTRIES 2018 are all scheduled to take place in the respective church buildings. Everyone is welcome, only those over 18 can vote.
• St. Burchin’s Church, Bourney - Tuesday April 10th. at 8.00 p.m.
• St.Cronan’s with Kyle in St Cronan’s Church - April 11th. at 8.00 p.m.
• Christ Church, Corbally - April 12th. at 8.00 p.m.

EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT
This family event will take place in and around Christ Church, Corbally on Wednesday after Easter Day - April 4th. at 3.00p.m. All are welcome. Directions to the church can be had from the rector 087-3825336.

CUMANN GAELACH NA hEAGLAISE
The Irish Guild of the Church was founded in 1914 to
1. promote all that tends to preserve within the Church of Ireland the spirit of the ancient Celtic Church and to provide a bond of union for all members of the Church of Ireland inspired with Irish ideals,
2. promote the use of the Irish language in the Church,
3. collect from Irish sources suitable hymns and other devotional literature,
4. encourage the use of Irish art and music in the Church.

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Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Rector: Rev Rod Smyth
The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479
Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

SERVICES IN APRIL
- Sunday 8th April Easter 2
  9.30am Templederry Parish Eucharist
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Morning Prayer
  12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church Morning Prayer
- Monday 9th April The Annunciation (transferred)
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Eucharist
- Thursday 12th April
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Eucharist order 1 with intercession for the sick
- Sunday 15th April Easter 3
  11am St Mary's Nenagh United Family Service
- Thursday 19th April
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Eucharist order 1 with intercessions for the sick
- Sunday 22nd April Easter 4
  9.30am Templederry Parish Morning Prayer
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Eucharist
  12.15pm Killodiernan Parish Church Eucharist
- Thursday 26th April
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Eucharist order 1 with intercessions for the sick
- Sunday 29th April Easter 5
  11am St Mary's Nenagh Service of Wholeness and Healing

On Sunday 11th April we celebrated Mothering Sunday in the Union. At the 9.30am Eucharist in Templederry Parish Church, the President and Preacher at the Mothering Sunday Eucharist was the Bishop. The boys from St Mary's National School Choir, which had recently taken part in the Limerick Choral Festival, sang 'Let there be Peace on Earth,' after which the congregation offered each other a sign of peace. In his sermon, the Bishop talked to the children about the love of all our Mothers' for which we should all be truly thankful. At the end of the service, flowers were blessed and distributed to all members of the congregation. Somehow, the Bishop managed to get two! Then at the services in St Mary's and Killodiernan Parish Church, flowers were again blessed and given to members of the congregation. In Kilodiernan, Sarah-Jane and Amy Clarke had made ‘Ferrero Roche’ daffodils which they distributed to all present. Well done girls!

On Saturday 10th March, the Nenagh Union Parish Choir took part in the Limerick Choral Festival, under the direction of Rosemary Smyth. The choir had been entered for two competitions, part singing and

Continued on page 19
The chime of eight bells in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe was installed in its spacious tower in memory of the Right Reverend William Bennet Chester DD, who was Bishop of Killaloe from 1884 to 1898. The bells were cast by Matthew Byrne Bell Founders, James Street Dublin in 1896. There is plenty of room in the belfry to have all the bells in place on the one level. In towers where space is limited bells can be set one above the other which makes servicing a little more difficult. The bells here at St Flannan’s are a fairly light chime; the Treble or first bell being about 3 cwt going on down to the Tenor bell weighing about 11 cwt. The bigger the bell the deeper the tone.

The bells are stationary and are fixed to strong oak beams forming two rows- 5 bells in row one commencing with the Treble or No.1, and 3 bells in row two ending in the Tenor or No. 8. The bells are connected to a chiming board in the room beneath the belfry by eight ropes all attached to the bell clappers and are now ready to ring out their pleasant sounds. One person can ring the eight bells from the chiming board.

In pealing bells the entire system in different. The bells are attached to a wheel and they swing 360 degrees backwards and forwards during a ring. One person controls one bell, so if there are eight bells there must be 8 persons to take part; ten bells mean ten persons and so on.

In mentioning pealing bells, the heaviest peal in the world is of Liverpool Cathedral with 12 bells and a Tenor bell weighing just over 4 tons. In Ireland St Patricks Cathedral in Dublin has peal of bells with the tenor bell weighing just over 2 ½ tons and Christchurch Cathedral following with 16 bells with a tenor bell weighing slightly less than that of St Patricks. St Fin Barre’s Cathedral Cork, increased their number of bells from 8 to 12 some years ago with their tenor bell weighing 27cwt. St Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick has 8 bells with the tenor bell weighing 24cwt, followed by the Redemptorist Church in Limerick, with 10 bells and a tenor bell weighing 21 cwt.

Returning to chiming bells, St Colman’s Cathedral in Cobh Co. Cork has a carillon of 49 bells with the tenor 71 cwt. It is played from a console something like that of an organ and with pedals. Next we have the famous chime of bells from St. Anne's Shandon in Cork where there are 8 bells and the tenor bell 25cwt. These bells inspired the poem by Fr Prout: ‘The bells of Shandon sound grand on the pleasant waters of the River Lee.’

Apart from the chime of eight bells in St Flannan’s Cathedral there is also a call bell on a separate frame against the west wall of the belfry. This can be rung from the cathedral vestry when necessary. This was probably the bell in the tower before the chime was installed. It is older than the chime, being cast in 1837 by J. Fogerty, Limerick. The bell is inscribed ‘No surrender. Liberty’.

The bells of St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe

The Bells of St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe by Bryan Brislane

In conclusion, a chime is best suited to churches where it is difficult to find enough persons interested in bell ringing to form a team. Our present ringers are Martin Cooper, Dan Minchin, Richard Cullen, Karen Hickey, Brad and Tari Heath, Jessica Brown and Bryan Brislane.

Saint Mary’s Cathedral Limerick

Lunchtime Concerts April 2018, 1.15pm

Wednesday 4th April
Sarah-Ellen Murphy (alto), Peter Barley (piano)
Music by de Falla and Brahms

Wednesday 11th April
Malcolm Green (piano)
Music by Haydn, Sibelius, Debussy and Chopin

Wednesday 18th April
Mary Immaculate College Student Recital
Music by Mozart, J.S. Bach, Handel, Buckley and Irish trad.

Wednesday 25th April
Eileen Cleary (flute), Peter Barley (piano)
Music by J.S. Bach, Boccherini and Doppler

For details on all of the Musical Events held in Saint Mary’s Cathedral log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie
I don’t think the Easter Bunny existed when I was growing up! On Easter morning we had boiled eggs for breakfast, and my mother boiled them in water with food colouring in — lift the egg cosy and — surprise — a red or green egg!

The egg is such a symbol of new life. New life that is the result of patience and devotion. What today’s children miss by not having the chance to have hands on experience of nature at first hand. The miracle of a ‘clucking’ hen sitting patiently for 4 weeks on eggs that she thinks are hers, to bring out a clutch of ducklings that would like to go swimming! To put your hand in under her wing while she’s sitting and have her gather your hand close to her body as if you were a stray egg. When children came to visit us, if I had eggs near hatching, I would take a bowl of warm water, put the eggs in and we would all wait and listen and watch, for an egg to rock or chirrup, or best of all, for a little beak to knock on the shell and make the first crack. Proof of life waiting to enter the world. Then when the chicks have hatched, the hen would abandon the nest leaving those empty shells.

No wonder we have Easter Eggs. What better example of how Jesus broke free from the grave clothes that bound him, broke from the grave that held his body for 3 days, left an open tomb, that had held Life, not Death.

I’m thinking back to how certain experiences have heightened my personal Easter Joy.

It is very difficult to experience any emotion unless you experience both sides of it. Love and hate, joy and sorrow.

PAIN & REJECTION

Many years ago, I was in Ballinasloe hospital on Palm Sunday. I had had surgery, and needed a blood transfusion, so I was feeling quite low. The Eucharist was brought to the other 5 patients in the ward, but a curtain was drawn round my bed, so I wouldn’t be given the host by mistake. The others had the TV on and a background of the Mass. The Anglican service came on. They said, ‘Does anyone want this? I’ll turn it off’. I was too weak to say that I would like it. I still feel the rejection and dejection that I felt that Palm Sunday, a heightened sense of awareness of the pain and rejection that out Lord must have endured during Holy Week and Good Friday. Mine was minuscule compared to our Lord’s, but I think it helps me every year to come to a greater Joy on Easter Morning,

JOY & WELCOME

Last year was a very special Easter for me as I celebrated my 80th birthday on Good Friday in Nice with a friend in an apartment in the old city. I had won a week in this historic building with a school raffle ticket, that I had been persuaded to buy! We had done the tourist bit, visiting the old cathedral which we passed by several times as it was on our route. I bought amazing palm crosses that were almost sculptures, on sale outside during Holy Week. On Easter Sunday we joined the congregation for Mass, a truly joyous affair in a packed church with an all age congregation of worshippers.

Strangely chocolate Easter eggs were almost non-existent - Mr Cadbury cannot have developed this market - but in high class chocolatiers there were some wonderful works of art at exorbitant prices!

I celebrated my birthday on Easter Saturday, Good Friday would not have felt right!

ALL FOOLS AT EASTER 2018

Easter 2018 sees us celebrating that Christ is alive on All Fools’ Day, 1st April.

What fools the people of Jerusalem must have thought Jesus’s closest friends the disciples to be, for telling each other that Jesus Christ was alive, even though he had been cruelly crucified, and was definitely very dead when he was taken from the cross and placed in a tomb. Who did they think they were fooling? The disciples who had wept in despair at his death also realised they had been fools – fools not to listen more closely and try to understand all that Jesus had tried to tell them. Would Jesus have suffered less if he had been certain that these friends understood everything, that they would found the Church of which we are a part, the inheritors of what so many thought foolish?

After worship on Easter Sunday I shall drive up to Lisburn with my poodles to a dog friendly self-catering apartment to compete in dog agility on Easter Monday. What sort of a Fool am I!

Halleluja! Christ is risen! This year has to be even more joyful than previous years, since we are a year nearer to that day when Christ will come again!
The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland (RCB) has been stepping up its commitment to address the problem of Climate Change in the broadest way possible. A dedicated section on Environmental Sustainability has been established under the Parish Resources section of the website containing information on various Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues including the RCB’s policy on Climate Change and a sample Energy Audit for parishes to undertake.

Following on from this commitment the RCB joined the Climate Action 100+ initiative at the end of November as a founding signatory and supporter. Climate Action 100+ is an investor initiative to engage with world’s largest corporate Greenhouse Gas emitters (across various industries and sectors) to curb emissions, strengthen climate disclosures and improve climate governance. The initiative was officially launched on 12 December at the One Planet Paris Climate Summit with the support of 225 investors overseeing a combined $26.3 Trillion in assets.

A number of other initiatives are also being undertaken. A pilot scheme has been established by the RCB’s Property Committee involving 10 parishes in the Diocese of Down and Dromore with a view to reviewing the efficiency of existing energy management controls and to make recommendations for improvements to systems in parish halls/centres.

A further pilot scheme has been established to locate beehives on RCB property from Spring 2018. From a conservation point of view, bees pollinate plants and also help to maintain biodiversity. The Property Committee also has a strategy on trees; for every tree that has to be cut down on church property, two trees must be re–planted in its place, where practicable. For Lent, the RCB has been participating in a collaborative initiative alongside Eco–Congregation and Bishops Appeal – “JarsForJourneys” whereby people will be asked to save an old jam jar or other recyclable container and each time they embark on a journey that is not on foot or by bike, they give a small donation. The money raised will go to three conservation projects that protect, support and build resilience among some of the poorest communities who are the most affected by climate change.

In recognition of the global climate crisis one response in Church House is to put an end to the use of the non–recyclable, disposable coffee cups. Instead the plan is to switch to reusable and thus, much more sustainable, coffee cups. Staff have been trialling the KeepCup and these have now been made available to all RCB staff. KeepCups emit 35 times less CO2–eq emissions and require 12 times less non–renewable energy than disposable cups.

We look forward to continuing to improve and develop these and other ‘Green’ initiatives in 2018.

Oceania regional primates pledge united action
- a report from ACNS, the Anglican Communion News Service

Anglican primates in the Oceania region have committed themselves “to take concrete action, to be champions and advocates, and to support each other” in the fight against climate change and gender-based violence. The Primates and General Secretaries of the Anglican Church in Australia, the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, and the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia made the commitments in a communiqué following their recent regional meeting in Fiji.

As part of its commitment to tackle climate change, the church leaders are encouraging investment into sustainable energy as a valid option for investment funds. They are also encouraging their various trust boards “to consider restructuring their investments to maximise returns from such innovative ideas.” And they want Anglican schools in the region’s four provinces to integrate “climate change topics into the current curricula.”

On gender-based violence, the primates and general secretaries welcomed the work of The House of Sarah – an initiative of the Diocese of Polynesia, which works to end violence against women and children. They say that they encourage and support “the zero tolerance for violence policy as promoted by the House of Sarah” and will look at ways that they can share their work in other Provinces. They also encouraged all provinces to adopt and implement the Anglican Consultative Council’s (ACC) “Safe Church charter”, and committed themselves to review and respond to the guidelines coming from the International Safe Church Commission – an inter-provincial body established at the last ACC meeting to develop Communion-wide approaches to protecting children and vulnerable adults.

This is the second time in two years that the primates and general secretaries of the Oceania region had met in this way. They will meet again in Melanesia next year, and in Papua New Guinea in 2020.

They were joined at this year’s meeting by an Anglican Communion delegation led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and including Dr Josiah Idowu–Fearon, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

To read the full communiqué see www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/features/extra/voyaging
hymn singing. In the part singing they were awarded second place and, in the hymn singing category, they were awarded the shield for the best Church Choir (hymn singing). What a great night was had by all. The choir are now looking for similar outings and to next year’s Limerick Choral Festival.

Holy Week was very busy in the Union. There was a morning Eucharist Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then in the evenings we moved around the parishes, starting in Tempiederry on Monday, then Killodiernan on Tuesday and finally St Mary’s on Wednesday. On each of these evenings there was a short meditation on three phrases from the Nicene Creed. On Thursday evening in St Mary’s there was a celebration of the Eucharist for Maundy Thursday with the stripping of the altar. At this service the congregation had the opportunity to place their hands in a bowl of water as a symbol of the ministry of service. On Good Friday there was the usual liturgy of the Three Hours, followed by the Stations of the Cross at Tempiederry in the evening. It was a great joy to join with our Roman Catholic neighbours for this traditional ecumenical walk of witness. On Saturday evening in Tempiederry there was the Easter Vigil with Easter Ceremonies and Eucharist, and on Easter Day the Easter Ceremonies and Eucharist were celebrated in St Mary’s and Killodiernan Parish Church.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 42183
Mob: 087 203 9333
Email: terrym438@gmail.com

TABLE TENNIS
The finals of the Midlands Parishes Table tennis League took place in Cloughjordan on Monday 12th March. The B final saw some very close games going the full 5 sets. Despite carrying a handicap Borrisokane secured a comfortable win over Banagher. The C final was much closer with Cloughjordan needing the two doubles games to beat Shinrone. A great night was had by all.

ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE IN BORRISOKANE

‘Although I am imperfect in many respects, I wish my brethren and relatives to know my disposition, so that they may be able to understand the aspirations of my soul… I was like a stone lying in deep mud; and He who is mighty came, and in His own mercy raised me and lifted me up, and place me at the very top of the wall.’

[Confessio 6 and 12]
From his humble beginnings St Patrick has been placed at the ‘top of the wall’, as the Patron Saint of Ireland. This day is celebrated around the world and the parish of Borrisokane comes together each year to mark the event. The parade included processions from fire engines, a brass band and Gospel choir, tractors and vintage cars. The cold weather did not deter the crowds as Borrisokane came out to show their support and to celebrate St Patrick’s Day.

MISSION EVENING
‘Mission in Uganda’ Mission Evening will be held on Wednesday the 25th April in the Cloughjordan Hall at 7:45pm. The Maher sisters from Roscrea, have been involved in schooling in Uganda for many years and will share their inspiring story.

MONSTER SPRING DRAW
Cloughjordan No1 National School, in conjunction with the Parents Teacher Association School Fundraiser, will be holding a Monster Spring Draw. There are loads of amazing prizes to be won to the value of €2000. Tickets available from all the school families and ticket desks on selected dates in Cloughjordan, Nenagh & Obama Plaza. Your support is appreciated. The draw will take place on 4th May 2018.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Vacant
Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill
KIlgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 HT20
Phone: 05791 35341: email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

"The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"
The Son of God was raised from the dead on the first Easter morning. May the joy and hope of his resurrection fill all our lives with hope as we celebrate this day with Christians throughout the world.

APRIL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Arrangements for services will have been circulated by the time Newslink is in the pews.

FASHION SHOW IN GLOSTER HOUSE
The day is almost here! Thursday 12th April. Tickets have been in great demand and a wonderful evening is guaranteed. Many thanks to all those who have been working so hard in the planning – it has been good!

THANK YOU!
Ernie and Joyce Reid have been involved in Dunkerrin Church for many years. They are there every Sunday morning, ready to greet people as they come in the door and to see that everything is in order. Joyce has served as Treasurer for many years. At the Easter Vestry this year she indicated that it was time that she retired as Parish Treasurer. Aaron Elliston-Jones was elected to take on the role with the promise of assistance with the job. On behalf of the parishioners of Dunkerrin, many thanks to Joyce for the years of service she has given and which are appreciated both at parish level and within the Group of Parishes.

Services were cancelled on the 4th March due to snow! Everyone listened to the news to hear what colour weather warning was coming next. Hopefully, signs of spring will emerge – it’s good to see the days begin to lengthen.

PASTORAL
Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jean Talbot after having had a hip operation. Also, continuing good wishes to Mabel Wallace and Margaret Wallace in their various stages of recovery.

When the resignation of Canon Michael was announced, it was received with mixed emotions. It is the sincere hope of all concerned that as he, Evelyn and family, prepare for the next stage in their life that they do so knowing that kind thoughts and genuine best wishes are offered to them all.

Physiotherapy and Podiatric assessment and treatment
Frank Sheahan
B.Sc. (Hons) M.I.S.C.P M.C.S.P.
MICPO (Podiatry)

Tel: 061 349222 Fax: 061 345181
Corbally Medical Centre, Corbally Road, Limerick.
www.limerickphysiotherapyclinic.com
where his father and uncle were employed as gamekeeper and blacksmith respectively. David himself had a mechanical bent which brought him first into cycle sales and repairs in Ennis and later, in conjunction with his enterprising father Robbie, into farming on a 40 acre farm at Ballagh, Quinn. David never lost his love of bicycles in subsequent years as a rumble through the endless array of spare parts still stored in his farmhouse shows, even though farm machinery inevitably became his chief absorption. He loved his farm animals, not least his last companion Major, a sheepdog whom he missed on entering convalescent home in Carrigorran, Newmarket. A key figure in David’s life following the death of his mother at his birth was aunt Ellie who became a substitute parent. His elder brother by two years, Cecil, was to eventually settle to work in County Tyrone and in latter years his son Derek and his wife Daphne and nieces Alison and Rosemary gave David the close support he needed, including when David lost his wife of three years Audrey some 20 years ago. Local neighbours, extended family in Cork and parishioners in Kilnasoolagh were all indispensable parts in the life story of this much-loved son of Dromoland. Still driving his tractor by the time of his 90th birthday, the occasion of a great celebration thrown for him by Derek and Daphne at Ballagh farmhouse.

CONGRATULATIONS

...To Drummcliff parishioner Alan Maguire, father of two, on yet another busy and successful Drama season with the Corofin Dramatic Society, an award-winning company who are presently touring with the John B Keane classic Big Maggie. Hailing from Sligo, Alan married to Ennis girl Fiona Brennan, took to the stage in 1993 and got his grounding as a member of the Queen's University Drama Society, Belfast.

TIME CAPSULE

TV personality and actress Mary McEvoy brought Kilfenora Cathedral and its High Crosses into the spotlight before Easter for the Afternoon Show on RTE. The occasion was the burying of a Time Capsule below the famous High Crosses with content revealing life in Kilfenora and the Burren for an audience in 50 years time. Rector Canon Bob Hanna was interviewed on the place of the Church of Ireland

CONFIRMATION

Much blessing to Quin Primary student Eva Rudd as she prepares for Confirmation in St Michael's Church, Limerick. A solo entrant from Drummcliff Group of Parishes, she is being instructed by the Rector Canon Bob Hanna and she will join candidates from Limerick City Parish on Sunday 29th April (Easter 5)
MOTHERING SUNDAY
The children of the parish offered Mothering Sunday tributes, with a presentation of crafts and flowers in St John's by the members of the Sunday School, and through an action song composed by the children of the Glebe National School and performed in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim:

Thank you mammy for picking up my clothes,
Thank you mammy for clipping my toes,
Thank you mammy for blowing my runny nose,
on Mother's Day!

Thank you Mammy for doing the shopping,
Thank you Mammy for laces unknotting,
Thank you Mammy for muddy floors mopping,
on Mother's Day!

Thank you Mammy for brushing my hair,
Thank you Mammy for washing my underwear,
Thank you Mammy for showing you care,
on Mother’s Day!

Thank you Mammy for cooking my tea,
Thank you Mammy for being my taxi,
Thank you Mammy for our family,
on Mother’s Day!

Over the Lenten season a number of us benefitted from taking up the Bishop's Lenten Challenge, and from coming together for our Praying Into Lent group. The rector preached at the bi-annual Portiuncula Hospital Remembrance Service in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, on March 8th, which offers an important liturgical space for the ongoing work of grief. Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim offered the liturgical space to start St Patrick's Day with a celebration of our faith heritage in a special Eucharist on March 17th. St John’s Mother's Union held a Lady Day Service on March 20th in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, at which diocesan president, Lucy Kavanagh, gave the address.

Palm Sunday was celebrated in St John’s, St Catherine’s and Holy Trinity Church, whilst the Maundy Thursday service in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim included the Institution of the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet. Our tradition of outdoor ecumenical services continued on Good Friday, as we joined with St Michael’s & Creagh churches in marking the Way of the Cross around Ballinasloe at midday. At 6pm we came together with Labane Parish to walk in the Way of the Cross through Ardahan village. The parish was united for an Easter Day Eucharist in St John's Church, which was followed by refreshment and a children's Easter egg hunt.

Clonfert Group of Parishes
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney
The Rectory, The Hill, Banagher, Co. Offaly. R42T935
Mob: 087 709 4468
Email: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

CHURCH SERVICES:
Portumna Saturday 7.00pm    Holy Communion 3rd Saturday
Eyrecourt Sunday 10.00am    Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
Banagher Sunday 12.00 noon   Holy Communion 1st Sunday.

What a month! A snow event that shut down all our Church services for a weekend and then it just seemed to disappear almost as quickly as it arrived. Thankfully due to timely warnings from our media we had time to prepare. Our thoughts and prayers were especially with our farming community as new birth cannot wait until the thaw and this was a very stressful time.

In Church we had planned an ecumenical service for Women's World Day of Prayer and of course we could not go ahead. The ladies all responded and communicated around, moving the service to Friday 23rd March in St John the Baptist Eyrecourt. Thank you to all who worked so hard to give us a second chance and hosting this event with us in Eyrecourt.
Just before the snow arrived we were treated to a wonderful cultural event in Portumna Church and I think the star performer must have been Fr Mike who treated us to several beautiful choral pieces.

Thank you to Ruth and Cecilia for their preparation to start a Sunday School in Banagher. We intend to take this very easy and perhaps encourage our younger folks to bring Mums and Dads to Church on one Sunday in the Month. A bit of a shaky start and we look forward to another attempt after Easter. We must advertise and encourage around all our family connections.

Our Lenten Bible Study in the Rectory has been very well supported and a really full living room with every chair in the house being used. Thank you for your support and this helped to set the scene for our Holy Week services around the Parish.

As we are going to press the Easter weekend looks very busy with Easter Holy Communion in all our Churches, beginning with Portumna on Saturday evening followed by Eyrécourt and Banagher on Easter Day. In the Rectory we look forward to most of our family gathering with us for our newest grand child’s Baptism in Banagher Church. We have had an out break of Chicken Pox in the family and this may change best laid plans. We will just go with the flow.

Our Easter Vestries are all planned and ready to go with notices on doors etc. The results will be reported next month. Also we agreed on a trial period of Church times - Portumna agreed to Saturday evenings allowing more commuting time on Sunday mornings. This has led to a very relaxed style for Church. We will be discussing, as agreed before Easter and will report next month.

Thank you for your support during my very short stay in hospital for Gall Bladder surgery. It was just one over night stay after surgery and a weekend recovering. Thank you to Jerome for taking a joint parish service on the Sunday and to all our parishioners for your support.

It really was a month of change and flexibility and again thank you for your “elasticity!”.

Don’t forget Clonfert Cathedral Joint Group Service of Holy Communion 5th Sunday 29th April @ 11.00am

No one ever said that being a Christian was going to be easy. At times Christians are ridiculed, persecuted and mocked for their beliefs. Jesus himself told us “people [would] revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account” (St Matthew 5:11). But he also tells us “rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven” (St Matthew 5:12). Now that’s something worth celebrating!

As Christians we are people of the resurrection – not of Lent or Holy Week or Good Friday, but of Easter! And as Easter people we are expected to be full of joy, conviction and celebration. The road may be rocky at times and the journey tough, but we are not meant to be sad and gloomy – we are all invited to share in the joy experienced by Jesus’ disciples on that first Easter Day. We are called to celebrate, to be full of joy and happiness and laughter! That is what a Christian is! So let us celebrate as Easter people! Remember … it’s all about JOY! A Happy Easter to all readers.

DEAN’S CLINIC
In the Cathedral Office, will be held on Tuesday 24th April, from 7-8 pm.

APPOINTMENT
The Dean and Select Vestry and pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Catherine Caball as Administrator in the Ministry team of Limerick City Parish. Catherine will primarily provide support to the Dean and the Cathedral Organist, but will also assist with administration in the parish. Announcing the appointment the Dean remarked, “I’m delighted that Catherine has agreed to accept this appointment. She has already provided valuable support to the parish and I in a voluntary capacity and was instrumental in the successful launch of the 850th anniversary programme in the Cathedral. Catherine comes with an impressive CV, having worked in the catering, training, pharmacy and services sectors. She is a qualified accounting technician and holder of a Degree in Business Studies. All these gifts, together with her efficient and approachable manner will enhance and benefit the ministry team within Limerick City Parish”. On accepting the role Catherine says, “I am delighted to have been given this opportunity, I look forward to the challenges ahead and I hope that I can be of benefit to the Dean and Limerick City Parish”.

CONFIRMATION
Please pray for those preparing for confirmation in St Michael’s Church on Sunday 29th April.

FRIENDS OF ABINGTON
A concert is being held in the St John’s on Friday 6th April. The Eukaladies and Zion, with a mix of secular and sacred music and song, will perform. The proceeds are in aid of a community project in São Paulo Brazil. Time to be confirmed.

ST MARY’S 850TH
The programme of events is well underway – please visit www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org for more information.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY
Will be held in St Mary’s Cathedral following a United service on Sunday 15th April. The meeting will be followed by a ‘bring & share’ lunch.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
These popular events commence on Wednesday 4th April at 1.15pm in St Mary’s Cathedral. Free Admission.

SUNDAY CLUB
Will next meet in St Michael’s Church on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.
ST MICHAEL’S NATIONAL SCHOOL
A wonderful food fair was held in the School on Thursday 15th March. As our school has over 30 different nationalities represented, one can imagine the fantastic selection of food available on the night! Many thanks to all those who organised the event, in particular to all the talented cooks.
The ‘Buy a Brick’ Appeal for the new school extension is well underway. See advertisement on p15.
Please see elsewhere in ‘Newslink’ for news from our Parish School or visit www.smnslimerick.ie

MOTHERS’ UNION
Please contact Branch Chair, Margaret Schutz for further details. New members always welcome.

ST MICHAEL’S HALL
For booking enquiries please contact the Hall Manager, Suzi Eckhardt.

HOSPITAL VISITING
The Clergy would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from them or in the Church porches.

PARISH ARCHIVES
We are looking for any photos, information or historical artefacts relating to any of the churches in Limerick City Parish. If you have any such records, please contact the Dean.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved among them:
Margaret Brickenden and her family on the death of her aunt
Victor Brown and his family on the death of his aunt
Tony O’Connell and his family on the death of his aunt

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes
Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon
Rector: Canon Liz Beasley
The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750
Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

SNOW
Like everyone and everywhere in the country, we had numerous snow disruptions on the first weekend in March, as the Beast from the East and Storm Emma combined to deliver a blizzard. We all recognised that we were not as badly hit here in Co Limerick as in most other parts of the country. Still, we had just one service on Sunday, 4th March, to minimise possible travel dangers to our parishioners.

Two services in observance of the Women’s World Day of Prayer were postponed from 2 March. The one in Kilmallock was rescheduled for Wednesday evening, 7 March, at the Kilmallock Catholic Church. Thank you to those from our Kilmallock parish who were readers for the service: Ciara Ni Laighin, Michelle Hales, Shirley Bowen, and Tabitha Lillingston. The Adare service was rescheduled for Wednesday morning, 21 March, at Embury Close. Thank you to Jessie Griffin for orchestrating all the arrangements for this service.

The snow also postponed a Table Quiz to benefit the Parents’ Association of St. Nicholas School. It was rescheduled for Friday, 9 March, which worked out perfectly to be our Second Friday event for March. Several thought it was a harder set of questions than last year’s Table Quiz. Nevertheless, we gallantly hung in there and a grand time was had by all!

CHOCOLATE
The Second Friday event for April will be a chocolate event: making homemade dipped chocolate candy. It will be held at Ash Hill Stud, Kilmallock, which means participants will also be able to see this beautifully restored house. Children invited and welcome! The date is Friday, 13 April, beginning at 7.30pm.

VESTRY MEETINGS
We have two Select Vestries in our Group: Kilmallock and Adare/Croom/Kilpeacon. Both have held their meetings in preparation for the Easter Vestry. The Easter Vestry meetings are scheduled, as follows:
• Thursday, 12 April: Adare/Croom/Kilpeacon Easter Vestry, to be held at St. Nicholas Church, Adare, 8.00pm.
• Tuesday, 17 April: Kilmallock Easter Vestry, to be held at the church, 8.00pm.
EASTER
The Easter Vigil service, held in Kilpeacon this year for the first time, includes the lighting of the new fire, the reading of the story of salvation from the Old Testament, the renewal of baptismal vows, and Holy Communion to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It is a longer service than most (about 90 minutes) but a powerful one that helps participants to understand what Easter is all about.

Wishing a joyous Easter to all!

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin
Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
Mob: 087 663 5116
Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

Lent has passed and Easter, with all its hopes and joys, has dawned. Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

- Sunday 1 April (Easter Day): 9.30, the Easter Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton; 11.30, the Easter Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Brendan’s Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 8 April (Easter 2): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Castletown Church; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale (with the Revd Joe Hardy).
- Wednesday 11 April (The Annunciation): Because 25 March was Palm Sunday, the Feast of the Annunciation has been transferred in the Church Calendar to the week after Easter Week. The Feast of the Annunciation will be marked with a celebration of the Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 11 April in Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton.
- Sunday 15 April (Easter 3): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Mary’s, Askeaton; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Saint Brendan’s, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert, followed by Kilnaughtin Easter Vesty.
- Sunday 22 April (Easter 4): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Castletown; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Holy Trinity, Rathkeale.
- Sunday 29 April (Easter 5): 11 a.m., Joint Group Service for the Fifth Sunday of the Month: 11 a.m., the Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton.

EASTER VESTRIES:
- Castletown and Askeaton Easter Vestries: Thursday 12 April, 8 p.m., the Rectory, Askeaton.
- Kilnaughtin (Tarbert) Easter Vesty: Sunday 15 April, after the Sunday service.
- Rathkeale Easter Vesty: Monday 16 April, 8 p.m., the Rectory, Askeaton.

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE RECTORY:
All Things Are Possible:
Despite changing dates, the Lenten Study in the Rectory has been well-attended throughout the week, using the Lenten study course, ‘All Things Are Possible’, produced by the Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). This study course explored how faith in God can change the world.

What’s going on at the Rectory:
The Rectory played host during Lent to a training day for clergy and readers in the diocese, looking at maintaining a sustainable life of daily prayer that supports us in ministry.

The parish plays host to this group again in May, when readers and clergy look at different styles of worship. This takes place in Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton, on Monday 28 May, and is being led by both the Revd Michael Cavanagh and Canon Patrick Comerford.

Creation for Women’s World Day of Prayer in Kilgobbin Church
Lenten Study using the BACI booklets on the five marks of mission continued in Camp and in Ballymacelligott throughout lent. While numbers attending were small the quality of the contributions was very good, these sessions can be moments of encouragement, They provide wonderful opportunity for parishioners to contribute their insights. This can be very beneficial to the clergy who don’t always have the opportunity of such interactions and feedback on Sunday mornings.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES:
Services were held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy week in Ballyseedy beginning at 7pm. These were led in turn by Linda Woods, David Tough and Margaret Groves. Maundy Thursday was observed in Camp and in Tralee and Good Friday was observed in Tralee. The Easter vigil was celebrated in Ballyseedy and Easter Day was celebrated at the usual times in the other four churches. On Easter evening the Stations of the Resurrection will be celebrated in St. Brendan's Church Killiney at 7.00pm.

MOTHERING SUNDAY
Mothering Sunday was marked in St John's, Ashe Street, Tralee with an All Age Service. The lessons and the intercessions were led by the confirmation class, while the children in the primary school sang a hymn. Daffodils were blessed and then presented to the ladies in the congregation, in recognition of their contribution to their children and the community. We remembered with love and thanksgiving all who mother us in so many ways during our lives. The daffodils were sourced from Michael O Shea who sells them in aid of cancer research and we were happy to support him in his work. Refreshments were served in teach an tSolais after the service by Michael, Samuel and Gerhardt. David organised table tennis in the Kilfenora Room, It was a lovely occasion and a privilege to be part of it.

YOUTH CLUB
The youth club gathered for their monthly meeting on the 10th March, The session was be led by Oscar Egbulam and Ciara Fitzell. The next meeting will be an outdoor event with a visit to the high ropes at Fossa, This will take place on Saturday the 7th April.

CONCERTS
St John’s will be the venue for an Orchestral concert organised by Aidan O Carroll on the evening of Saturday the 14th April.

ST PATRICKS DAY
This was a very busy day, Rev Jim and Rev Phyllis were invited to the St Patrick’s Day Mass at Ballymullen Barracks in Tralee. This is held at 9am and the shamrock was blessed before the battalion begin its commitments to the various St Patrick’s Day Parades. This was followed by refreshments. The service in St Johns was at the usual time of 10.45am.

EASTER VESTRY
The Tralee Easter Vestry will be held in Teach an tSolais on the 19th April at 7.30pm
The Camp and Dingle Easter Vestry will be held in Camp on the 18th April at 7.30pm.

DINGLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.
On Sunday 25th March, the film ‘The Way’ was shown in St. James Church, Dingle, at 1.00pm, as part of the Film Festival. All proceeds went towards St. James Restoration Project.

LINKS
Links will host a make-up and cosmetics party in April. Date to be advised. In February we enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Finbarr Wright concert in Abbeyfeale and in March we were involved in the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes
Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross
Rector: Ven Simon J. Lumby, Archdeacon of Limerick
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 086-8703997
Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

GREEN FOR ST PATRICK:
Visitors to St Mary’s during the lead-up to St Patrick’s Day would have been impressed if they came to town late in the evening. This is because a trial is underway with our external lighting and we have temporarily installed green tinted flood lights to illuminate the church in honour of our national patron saint. Being a centre for American tourists, particularly at this time of the year, it was certainly worth the effort as this is what they expect to see in Ireland. We will assess whatever feedback we glean from parishioners and visitors before deciding if we are to undertake a more permanent arrangement because – as always – the financial implications need to be justified.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:
The Select Vestry met on Monday March 12th to examine the annual accounts before submission to the Annual Vestry on April 9th. This year’s accounts took the finances of Muckross Venture Centre into consideration for the first time. Treasurer Bob Harman’s figures, which were presented in the new diocesan format, were complex and generated some healthy debate. Whereas the overall outcome for 2017 at first seems favourable, Archdeacon Simon did point out that we will always be at the mercy of unforeseen factors – such as a couple of families leaving the district – and therefore it is incumbent on all of us to play our part in generating whatever revenue we can to shore up against such events.

Killarney Mountain Festival:
One of the highlights of the inaugural Mountain Festival came from our very own Hon. Sec. Richard Hilliard who gave an extraordinary illustrated talk about his epic voyage with a group of people rowing a curragh from Derry to Lona that marked the 1,400th anniversary of St Columba’s own voyage. The talk was very well received by the audience and Richard’s sense of detailed recall enhanced the series of events which took place across Killarney during the weekend.

CONCERTS:
The stewarding arrangements for the first half of this year’s concert season also took place on March 12th. Whereas we all make a huge effort each year to steward and attend as many concerts as possible, we are always looking for more people to help out. The value of these concerts to the annual income generated for St Mary’s cannot be overstated and this year’s accounts served only to emphasise that. If anyone wishes to volunteer their time please contact Andrew Eadie on 087 4170403.

2018 CONFIRMATION:
This year’s Confirmation takes place in St Mary’s on April 15th at 11:00am. All of us should keep the participants in our hearts and prayers as they prepare for the initiation rite where they profess, as young adults, the promises made by others for them at baptism. They have put in a lot of study and preparation for their confirmation and there are few of us who cannot recall the efforts we all made to understand the significance of the Holy Spirit as we moved towards full adulthood. We find the roots of Confirmation in biblical texts such as the Acts of the Apostles 8:14–17

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only
In the Gospel of John 14:26 Jesus Himself told the Apostles about the Holy Spirit:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Following the resurrection when Jesus first stood amongst the Apostles we are told in John 20:22

... he breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost:

**Kilcolman Union of Parishes**

*St Michael’s, Iveragh Road, Killorglin & St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.*

**Vacant.**

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Simon Lumby,
Mob 086 8703997 Tel 064 66 31832.
Parish Postal Address: St Michael’s Church, Iveragh Road, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Web: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

**SERVICES:**

- St Carthage Sunday 9.45am.
- St Michael’s Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.

**During the vacancy:**

Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays in both churches,
Morning Prayer 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays.

We have a Sunday School for our Parish Children in St Michael’s Hall on 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 11am.

**NEW PRIESTS**

I said last month that our vacancy status was about to change, the end is now declared. The Rev Isabel Keegan and the Rev Ann-Marie Stuart are on their way. We will be holding a welcome service for them in St Michael’s Church, Iveragh Road, Killorglin, V93KK53 on Friday 20th April at 7.30pm to which all Diocesan Clergy and all Lay Readers are invited to attend and robe. There will be an invitation in the post and we need an early reply to help us provide seating for you and space in the “Inn” afterwards where there will be some food supplied across the road in the Manor Inn.

As you probably all know, our Rectory is out of commission but we have located a very suitable house to rent in a great location for the duration of their stay with us. It is about two km from St Michael’s Church on top of Sun Hill looking out over the bay.

Their arrival will reduce the jobs I have been doing since the Rev Jim left us last May and I am looking forward to that. There are some challenges facing them just as is the case in any new appointment. I’m sure two heads are better than one, so we should make positive progress in the parish and I am looking forward to that too. Please give them your full support in order to allow them to make good positive progress.

Speaking of challenges, I hope you have all caught up with the Bishop’s Lent Challenge. Our Newslink Magazine was late reaching us due to the “Beast from the East”, so it took time to catch up.

**CONFIRMATION**

On Sunday 15th April Patrick Sheehy & Natasha Poffare to be confirmed in Kilarney.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Sunday 8th April Morning Prayer
- Sunday 15th April Holy Communion
- Friday 20th at 8pm welcome service in St Michael’s
- Sunday 22nd their first services in both our churches.

**EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETING:**

This annual meeting will take place on Tuesday evening 10th April at 8pm in St Michael’s Hall. Please attend.

**BEREAVEMENTS**

I want to extend the sympathy of the Select Vestry and parishioners to Jane & Patrick Casey and their family on the recent death of Patrick’s mother Margaret in Cromane. Also to Christine Poff & her family on the death of her mother Kathleen Morris. Both of these mothers will be sadly missed by their families.

**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

“You’ll be mowing your lawn at Christmas”, they said. “Kerry enjoys mild weather all year round because of the Gulf stream”, they said. Clearly, then, the ‘Beast from the East’ was an optical illusion, and the cancellation of Church services, the panic buying of snow shovels and the enforced three-day house arrest were just something made up by Met Eireann to scare us all.

In the event, the Gulf stream didn’t perform. And if the Beast wasn’t enough, we then got storm Emma.

One of the several casualties was the joint World Day of Prayer service, to be held this year in the Gateway Methodist church in Kenmare. However, so much work had been put in by members of all three Churches that, even if not held on the day when the rest of the world worshipped together, it is so important that we share with our Christian family from so many countries that the service will take place notwithstanding later this month.

Our ‘Christians together in Kenmare’ Lent study this year was based on the life of the physicist Stephen Hawking, using Hilary Brand’s book ‘The mystery of Everything’ as a starting point, which was then developed into three morning sessions. A look at the ‘debate’ between Science and Religion came first, followed by a discussion on Relations ships, finishing with the issue of Suffering and our Christian response. This last session was held on Wednesday 15th - the day Stephen Hawking died. The remarkable Gavin Bryars recording of an unknown tramp singing “Jesus’ love never failed me” was the background to the final meditation of the course. Nothing could have been more appropriate.

Matt 8:20a – even in Kerry in Winter
Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Ruth Watt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396 236 Email: watt_ruth@yahoo.ie
No notes supplied.

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

Recently I watched the BBC series A Vicar’s Life. Maybe you did too, although I admit it is perhaps a subject which invites limited interest. My husband believes this to be the case anyway! It follows the life and ministry of a group of clergy in the Church of England which is the Church in which I grew up so for that reason too it attracted my attention. I was curious, I suppose, to catch a glimpse of how things are in today’s world.

In one episode Nicholas, who has a very rural ministry, makes the comment, ‘people in this country do not go to church!’ His comment has stayed with me and I’ve thought about it from time to time. Here in the West of Ireland I don’t think we’ve quite reached that stage yet and maybe things in Ireland were always different for various reasons, but certainly we can all see that numbers in church on Sundays are generally decreasing. I don’t have statistics to hand, but I’ve been in Ireland for twenty-three years now and there has been a noticeable decline. Others, older than I, who have grown up here will be able to tell a more dramatic story no doubt.

Some of our Failte Isteach (English conversation) tutors get together to share thoughts and ideas.

When I think about what Nicholas said though my immediate reaction is ‘but actually some people still do go to church.’ Some people come every Sunday very faithfully, others come when they can, others come when they think they should but people do still come. There are still ‘people’ so how do we respond to what is happening?

Maybe we need to think and share more thinking and praying and do less? I wonder sometimes, are we being made small enough so that we can make good, healthy and creative decisions? Of course, to be able to remember those things and make those decisions we need to make sure we don’t let fear get in the way; fear of disappearing altogether perhaps or not having enough money to ‘survive.’ Maybe it’s a very simplistic thought but it might stand a bit of discussion? What can we be, what is God asking us to be, when we’re small?

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches  
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev Karen Spence
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co Kerry
Tel: 064 6631613 Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry
Pastoral Assistant: Susan Gallagher
Tel: 086 1525374 Email: writer@sukeymackie.com

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm
KILLARNEY Methodist Church
Sunday services 11am with tea/coffee afterwards
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am.
Soul Food Fridays –
• Breakfast from 9am
• Bible Study from 11am
• Lunch 12pm.
• Coffee & Chat 1-3pm.
FAB Saturdays – April 21st 3-5pm.

The Gateway, KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee).
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am.
Bible study Wednesday 10am.
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am.
Praise & Play 11-12.30pm, Friday.

Rev. Karen continues her sabbatical in April returning refreshed and renewed (hopefully) at the beginning of May. We give thanks for the Local Preachers and Rev. Wesley Campbell who have served willingly in our spaces.

The congregation of The Lighthouse, Millstreet were again showing generous hospitality on the main street before and during the St. Patrick’s Day parade. It is always a surprise to people that the tea and coffee is free, unconditionally free. Killarney Methodist Church opened the carpark and garden for some drumming sessions, face painting and again, free tea & coffee for those passing by and stopping for a while. The church again turned green in solidarity with buildings throughout the town as part of the tourism launch for the year.

With the snows of March just behind us we are looking forward to some brighter weather.

Our FAB Saturdays continue in Killarney using Messy Parables by Martyn Payne as our starting point. Saturday April 21st (3-5pm) will find us exploring the parable of the shrewd manager through song, craft, food, games, and brain drains. Looking ahead to May, Saturday 26th(3-5pm) has us examining the wise and foolish builders including the building of a house – but what size is a secret!

Killarney Bible study on Wednesday nights is suspended for April and will return in May. Kenmare and Millstreet Bible studies continue as usual.
At the end of April, we are hosting a group of missiology researchers from Cliff College in the UK. We wonder what they will make of our Fridays. We open for breakfast and move onto Bible study at 11am. Following on from this we eat together at lunch, in the afternoon the kettle is always on. People come and go as they please, it is all very informal and all are welcome. Please pray with us for this team of Stephen & Ian (team leaders), Dawn, Jo, Melvina, Jez, Ellen and Mary as they prepare throughout April into visit with us.

We have two groups catering for toddlers that meet in our churches. Newcomers are always welcome. In Kenmare, Marjorie from C of I and helpers from 3 different churches gather for Praise and Play, through music, story and craft, help share Jesus with the little ones. Each term time Friday, 11–12.30. Killarney has a toddler group that meets each term time Tuesday, 10–12 with independent play and nursery rhymes.

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**
10:00am – Borrisokane
11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sunday’s
10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sunday’s
11:45am – Roscresa
7:00pm – Shinrone

The Lord has risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter, everyone! To all our farmers who have been lambing and calving, well done! I hope you and your families get a needed break and experience restful nights now or very, very soon. We all need to be refreshed . . . and perhaps the Easter season is the best way of looking at our lives . . . by using the lens of resurrection. New life in the Spirit was granted to the 11 disciples and to all who came to believe in Christ in the early church. A fresh start, a new beginning, a second chance, and a new day in which we can begin again by God’s grace fill us with hope and assurance. May we claim this hope for ourselves and share it with others in the little things we do. Let us offer one another glimpses of our Risen Lord! Alleluia!

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

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**Bonhoeffer and the Nazis**

The renowned German theologian and anti-Nazi Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested by the Gestapo 75 years ago this month, on 5th April 1945, at the age of 37. He was executed in April 1945.

Born to a distinguished family in Breslau, now part of Poland, Bonhoeffer was strongly influenced by time in the United States, where he was associated with a church in Harlem and formed a lifelong love for African-American spirituals. It was here that he began to see things from the perspective of those who suffer oppression.

Offered a parish post in Berlin in late 1933, he refused it in protest at the nationalist policy, and accepted a two-year appointment as a pastor of two German-speaking Protestant churches in London, aiming to obtain support for the Confessing Church in Germany, which resisted the Nazis and aimed to preserve traditional beliefs. His success was limited.

During the war Bonhoeffer was harassed by the Nazi authorities and forbidden to speak in public, to print or to publish. He joined the Abwehr, and under cover of this served as a courier for the German resistance movement, trying to gain support for it abroad. He was ignored by the UK government.

Bonhoeffer’s famous quotations include:
- *‘In a world where success is the measure and justification of all things the figure of Him who was sentenced and crucified remains a stranger and is at best the object of pity... The figure of the Crucified invalidates all thought that takes success for its standard.’*
- *‘The Church is the Church only when it exists for others ... not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.’*
- *‘The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.’*

His ‘Letters and Papers from Prison’ and ‘Cost of Discipleship’ have become landmark books.
God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)... 

Boils and sores (Sekhmet)  
Hail (Seth and Nut)  
Locusts (Nepri)  
Darkness (Ra)  

...but Pharaoh still said "No!"

God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them...

Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.

That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.

The Hebrews left Egypt...  
but Pharaoh followed with his army.

The Hebrews were trapped by the Reed Sea...

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians...  
and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across...  

...but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.
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