Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick celebrated Europe Day (9th May) with a Flash Mob in the Cathedral of nearly 300 people. The assembled crowd gathered from all walks of Limerick life and included Cllr Stephan Keary, Mayor of Limerick & MEP Mr Sean Kelly in the beautiful surroundings of the Cathedral to sing a portion of the European Anthem – Beethoven’s famous ‘Ode to Joy’.

The event was held in response to a challenge from Maestro Plácido Domingo, President of Europa Nostra, on the occasion of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

The Cathedral, which is celebrating its 850th anniversary this year, was packed to capacity for the event which included school, college and university students and celebrated the rich diversity of cultures present in Limerick.

Commenting on the event, the Dean, the Very Rev’d Niall J. Sloane, said ‘The City of Limerick and Saint Mary’s welcomes every nationality from all over the world. The city which is the gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way stands as one of the most westerly cities in Europe and yet is proud to have possibly, every European nation represented in the City. Today’s event highlights what a small planet we are and celebrates the rich and beautiful cultures of most parts of Europe. Saint Mary’s has over its long history welcomed people from all over the world and today we had the opportunity, though music, to unite, sing and proclaim that all of us are ‘Eines Freundes Freund’ (a friend’s friend)”

A flash mob of nearly 300 singing Ode to Joy

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Bishop Kenneth writes

General Synod is the highest authority in the Church of Ireland for governance, doctrine and liturgy in the church, and meets once a year, normally during the month of May. This year it was held in Armagh City Hotel, with the opening service in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh. Our diocese was represented by both lay and clerical representatives, and several spoke and participated in the debates.

Of immediate importance to our Diocese was a Bill proposed by Mr Joc Sanders, prepared against the backdrop of our conversations with the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. The Bill proposed that while these conversations are continuing, should a vacancy occur in the episcopate in either diocese, no election for a bishop to fill that vacancy should occur until Tuam, Killala and Achonry and ourselves have completed our discussions. The Bill was passed unanimously.

Of wider interest was the decision to authorise a new form of Morning Prayer for use on Sundays. This will sit alongside our existing Morning Prayers 1 and 2, and is a form of service which responds to many requests for a different style of non-eucharistic Sunday service.

Somewhat unexpected was a long and divisive debate following a proposal to alter the way in which representation at General Synod is determined. The Constitution of the Church of Ireland currently states how many laity and how many clergy each diocese elects to General Synod. A proposal to reduce the size of General Synod and to base the representation from each diocese on the number of cures (parishes, unions or groups) raised all sorts of issues and problems – how would that affect the balance of representation between North and South, East and West, urban and rural? What other “unintended consequences” might there be, as Archdeacon Carney asked? Eventually the proposal was withdrawn for further consideration and a revised version is likely to be brought to General Synod next year.

Many remarked on the presence of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh at Synod, and were impressed by his moving speech launching the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer movement jointly with our own Archbishop Clarke. It is quite remarkable how far ecumenical relations have come in recent years.

Our own Diocesan Synod will take place on Saturday 23rd June next in Villiers School, Limerick, when again we will review the life of our diocese during the past year and make plans for the future. Our joint conversations with the diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (TKA) have advanced far enough for the Inter Diocesan Working Group to bring proposals forward both to our Diocesan Synod in June and to TKA’s Synod in September. The proposals will be circulated in advance – do give them prayerful consideration.

Synods, whether General or Diocesan, are a central part of our decision-making processes in the Church of Ireland. It is a privilege to represent either your parish or diocese at Synod.

Kind regards

Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon,
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe,
Kilbane House, Golf Links Road,
Castletroy, Limerick V94 X0EF
Tel: +353 (0)61 333635
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

The Five Marks of Mission – an Introduction

By Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chairperson of the Diocesan Council for Mission

When most people hear the word ‘mission’, they think of organisations like ‘The Leprosy Mission’, ‘The Church Mission Society’, and others. But these worthwhile and important bodies are only a part of what ‘mission’ means to us as Christians, and as members of the Church of Ireland.

The word ‘mission’ means ‘being sent’. At the very end of St Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells his followers what has become known as ‘The Great Commission’:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Jesus sends his disciples to go into the world and make more disciples, by teaching them and baptizing them, so that his message of peace and love reaches all nations. It is easy to hear this and think that this endeavour was accomplished here long ago. Missionaries like St Patrick came to Ireland, made us all Christians, and now we just have to send money for to help missionaries elsewhere. But such an understanding really misses the point about what Jesus wanted us to do. He wanted his disciples to teach the nations to obey all he had commanded them: to love God, and to love one’s neighbour. Anyone paying attention to the news these days (or anytime, for that matter) would be very aware that there is not a lot of loving one’s neighbour, in this land or anywhere else. And so, the mission is not yet accomplished. What can we do to make Jesus’ mission our mission, as individuals, as parishes, as the Church?

The answer can be seen in something called ‘The Five Marks of Mission’, which were formulated by the Anglican Consultative Council back in 1984. These five marks can be summarised as: ‘Tell’, ‘Teach’, ‘Tend’, ‘Transform’, and ‘Treasure’. Over the next few months, we will look at each of these 5 marks, and see what they mean to us, in our parishes and in our lives.

The Five Marks of Mission

The five marks of mission express our common Anglican commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic and integral mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth
Editorial - Ordinary Time

By the time you read this the church season will have moved to ‘ordinary time’ and altars will be dressed in green. As spring accelerates into high summer, out of my window I see myriad shades of new green in the trees and hedges and fields. Early summer flowers enliven the garden with their colours and scents – lilac, wisteria, lupins, oriental poppies, peonies. The song of birds and the hum of insects delights the soul. It all speaks of the harvest of good things to come. This time is not ordinary at all!

God has made a truly wonderful world for us and all his creatures – a veritable Garden of Eden. Yet this good world is cruelly scarred by evil – it is ‘fallen’, to use the metaphor of Genesis. Alongside the glories of God’s creation, we find souls cut off from God who are spiritually dead: greedy people who trample on each other to grab more for themselves, violent people who kill and torture others, cynical people who despise what is good and true and beautiful.

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed to God his Father to protect his disciples, ‘I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one ... As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world’ (John 15, 18).

God sent Jesus to redeem the world from within, and Jesus sends his disciples into the world to continue his redeeming work under God’s protection. Our job is to strive to reverse the fall, to banish the evil that scars God’s world. That is what the Five Marks of Mission are all about. I am looking forward to reading what Archdeacon Wayne Carney has to say about them in forthcoming issues – do read his introduction on page 3.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfort, 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.

Contact details:
Joc Sanders
Turrava, Dromineer,
Nenagh, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987 Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

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Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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

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

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Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfort will be held in Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Registration from 10 am; Synod Eucharist at 4 pm.

Yvonne Blennerhassett, Diocesan Secretary
Partners in Prayer - June 2018

Each Sunday in June
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and Bishop Ferran Glenfield.

3rd June, 1st Sunday after Trinity, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Melanesia and Most Revd George Takeli, Archbishop of Melanesia and Bishop of Central Melanesia.
Diocese: For the Tralee & Dingle Unions of parishes, Rev Jim Stephens, Rev Phyllis Jones, and the congregations of St John’s Tralee, St Brendan’s Killiney, St James Dingle, Ballymacelligott and Kilgobbin churches.

10th June, 2nd Sunday after Trinity, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico and Most Revd Francisco, Presiding Bishop & Bishop of Northern Mexico.
Diocese: For the Birr Group of parishes, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, and the congregations of St Brendan’s Birr, St Ruadhan’s Lorrha, and Dorrha and Lockeen churches.

17th June, 3rd Sunday after Trinity, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) and Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon.
Diocese: For those attending our Diocesan Synod on Saturday 23rd June, that the Holy Spirit may guide their deliberations.

24th June, 4th Sunday after Trinity, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and Most Revd Nicholas Okoh, Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja.
Diocese: For the Aughrim & Creagh Unions of parishes, Rev John Godfrey, and the congregations St Catherine’s Ahascragh, Holy Trinity Aughrim, St John the Evangelist Ballinasloe, Kilconell Woodlawn, and Ardrahan church.

1st July, 5th Sunday after Trinity, Green
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry and Bishop Patrick Rooke.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United) and Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh, Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Jabalpur.
Diocese: Kenmare & Dromod Union of parishes, Rev. Michael Cavanagh, and the congregations of St Patrick’s Kenmare, St Michael’s Waterville, and the Church of the Transfiguration Sneem.

A Grace
We bless thee, Lord, for this our food
For life and health and every good
May we, more blest than we deserve
Live less for self and more to serve.
Anon

A Canticle for Brother Sun

On 21st June, Midsummer Day, we will enjoy the Summer Solstice here in the Northern Hemisphere. Sol + stice come from two Latin words meaning ‘sun’ and ‘to stand still’. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. In the Southern Hemisphere they will have to wait until December. On that day, when the sun rises highest and the day is longest, you might like to join in this canticle by St Francis of Assisi.

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Praised be you my Lord with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
Of you Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and fair and stormy, all weather’s moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.

Praised be you my Lord through Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be you my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be you my Lord through our sister, Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Short prayers
Prayers don’t need to be long to be acceptable to God. For instance, consider:

Peter (Matt 14.30): Lord, save me.
A Canaanite woman (Matt 15.25): Lord, help me.
Samuel (1 Sam. 3:10): Speak, for your servant is listening.
Psalm 43.3: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Christians in later years have adopted the same form.

Michelangelo: Lord, make me see your glory in every place.
Gladys Aylward: O God, give me strength.
William Barclay: O God, keep me from being difficult to live with.
Francois Fenelon: Teach me to pray. Pray yourself in me.
John Wesley: O Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ’s sake.

Why not practise saying a simple sentence prayer of your own each day?
Pondering the many isms that have inflicted and are inflicting the Body of Christ, the Church, in the context of the approach of Pentecost, my own close engagement with literalism, fundamentalism, evangelicalism kept repeatedly returning to my mind. So much so that I cannot escape trying to capture it in words for A View from the Pew.

More than 50 years ago when I was working for the Student Christian Movement in London I was asked by the Revd. David L. Edwards, the Movement’s General Secretary and simultaneously the Editor of the SCM Press, to see if I could begin a conversation with someone in the Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Unions to see if there was any possibility of some form of rapprochement because both organisations had been one from the original foundation in the 1880s until growing apart started in the mid-1910s. Fifty years on seemed an appropriate time to begin seeking reconciliation.

Establishing contact was no difficulty. A telephone call was sufficient to arrange a meeting. That first meeting was cordial and there was a shared acknowledgement that a divided witness in the Universities and Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland was most regrettable for the cause of the Kingdom of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We agreed to report back to our respective organisations and recommend that conversations continue. That was agreed, and we had a second meeting in which we mapped out a process on the basis of which conversations would continue, and again we reported back having agreed a date for our next meeting.

At that next meeting I was told gently but firmly that there was no point in the conversations continuing unless the SCM would first agree that the Bible is the infallible Word of God; that the doctrine of the Atonement is the central doctrine of salvation; that subscription to these understandings would be a prerequisite of membership of the Atonement is the central doctrine of salvation; that subscription to these understandings would be a prerequisite of membership of any united Christian organisation. The conversation continued with me trying to discover what room for understanding there might be. Could we elaborate these core positions into a context in which they found their niche in the amazingly rich landscape of nineteen centuries of Christian thinking and experience? At the very least, could we do justice to the vocation of learning which is the essential purpose of any and every university and college? In that conversation I could not find a purchase for any such understanding. We parted both reluctantly and graciously to report back to our respective organisations that progress could not be made. Many times since I have tried to think was there more I could have done to have sustained the conversation.

I had no clear answer until nearly forty years later when one Sunday our Rector announced that the Celebrant and Preacher the following Sunday would be the Right Reverend Simon Barrington-Ward and minutes later Alison Rosse was inviting us to Lunch in the Castle with her cousin, the Bishop and his wife. Where had I heard the name Simon Barrington-Ward before? Of course, Simon was the person from the Inter Varsity Fellowship with whom I had had talks in London decades previously. During much of the next week I kept thinking what Simon’s sermon would be like, and could we meet over Lunch naturally and with gracious memories. To cut a long story short we gelled immediately in a conversation that recounted where each of us had been and what each of us had done. He had been Bishop of Coventry, that great centre in England of ecumenical endeavour and international reconciliation. I had been Academic Secretary of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland’s premier university but one that had been cut-off for far too long from the main stream of Irish Society. We compared notes over many things and we parted with an amazing sense of harmony in our renewed relationship. The Bishop returned to Birr on several occasions and it was always the same. For both of us the centrality of Jesus as the living Lord of life and of death had become enough.

What had happened in London decades earlier had grown insignificant in that shared context of faith experience. We might pursue that lesson a little further next time round. Pentecost for slow learners you might say!

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**Daily Worship App launched at General Synod 2018**

The Church of Ireland Has brought The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) into the smartphone era by launching its Daily Worship app at the General Synod in Armagh. The app is an initiative from the Church’s Central Communications Board in close co-operation with the Church’s Liturgical Advisory Committee. Daily Worship presents Bible readings, prayers, canticles and Services from the BCP in one place and in a simplified format. These are available for each day of the year, covering five Services: Morning and Evening Daily Prayer, A Late Evening Office, Compline, and Holy Communion.

The Most Revd Pat Storey, Chair of the Central Communications Board, said: ‘I am delighted to launch this new aid to our devotional life. It is a powerful thing for a community such as the Church of Ireland to be praying together, and using the same daily readings, through the vehicle of a smartphone application. This app aims to help us in our personal and communal prayer lives, and to bring us closer together as a church family, and to the God whom we worship. The Central Communications Board hopes that this will be a catalyst for a deeper devotional life all across our Church.’

Daily Worship can be purchased for €1.09/99p, and downloaded from the App Store (https://apple.co/2rv5aYM) and Google Play (http://bit.ly/2K0aD5t) for use on Apple iOS and Android devices.
CENTRAL COUNCIL
Central Council took place in Armagh on Saturday, 12th May. Results of All Ireland completions were announced – congratulation to all members who represented the Diocese at All Ireland level and to those who won prices we say ‘well done’.
At the service in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, All Ireland President, Alison Jackson, was commissioned. Alison is from Armagh Diocese and was the Irish Junior Delegate at the 1993 World Council. We wish her well as she takes on this responsible role. Presentations were made to outgoing President, Sylvia Quinn. The organisation owes a huge debt of gratitude to Sylvia for six years of immense hard work and we wish her well in her retirement. She was especially kind to visit this Diocese on our Prize days. Thank you to Grace Healy for attending Armagh on behalf of the Diocese and bringing home the Diocesan crafts.

GFS WORLD PRESIDENT See page 17 for report.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH
In May the Branch prepared for Parents’ Night. Thanks to Mrs. Maureen Shelley who gave the girls advice on Drama and Mr. John Armitage for his musical expertise – more about Parents’ Night next month.
Some Cloughjordan girls went to Birr to meet Thembeka Pama. Thanks to Abigail who played the tin whistle beautifully, Aimee, Alison and Alyssa who read superbly a verse of the GFS version of “We Thank Thee O Our Father.” Well done girls!
Congratulations to Rebecca who came 2nd for her Craft at All-Ireland level.
Sincere condolences to Mrs. Helen Armitage on the death of her sister Anna in England. Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen and her family at this time.

ROSCREA BRANCH
Girls have one more tennis lesson this month to complete their Sports Badge. Dance Badge is almost completed. Girls over 9 years of age are looking forward to Camp in June.
Everyone in the branch send good luck wishes to Louise Carter and Tara St Leger in their Leaving Certificate and Emma Mooney and Rebecca Reid in their Junior Certificate exams in June.

NENAGH BRANCH
Girls are busy preparing for their Enrolment Service on 3rd June in St. Mary’s Church where girls will use their new music instruments. They will also receive their merit badges and display their crafts. Everyone is welcome to join GFS in this wonderful celebration.

UP COMING EVENTS
• Nenagh Enrolment Service, St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Sunday 3rd June at 11 am Morning Service.
• Diocesan Camp 15 – 18 June, Faith Mission Centre, Durrow Camp starts on Friday evening with Ice breaker games for everyone. On Saturday morning we attend Kilkenny activity centre for splat ball and assault course; then on to Tramore for a Picnic and sandcastles on the beach; followed by shopping in Waterford Shopping Centre and back to Durrow for evening meal and lots of crafts. There will be lots of fun, fellowship and friendship. Price for the weekend which includes all accommodation, bus on Saturday, craft materials and food is €70 per child and €65 if more than one child in family. Please contact your Branch Leader for full details and Application Forms.

ALL IRELAND TRAINING
Training for newly elected officers is scheduled for the 22 and 23 of June in the Theological Institute, Dublin – starting Friday evening at 5pm and finishing on Saturday 4pm.

DIOCESAN SYNOD
23rd June in Villiers School, Limerick

GOOD LUCK
We extend our best wishes and good luck to all our GFS girls who will sit their Junior and Leaving Certificate exams this month.

Boys' Brigade

1ST TRALEE COMPANY
We took part in a family hike in Glenageenty recently. Everyone enjoyed the hike despite the hail showers and rain. Although wet the BBQ at the end was a welcome treat. Thanks to Rory and all the leaders for arranging this.
On Sunday May 20th we held a car wash from 10.15am to 12.30pm at Teach an tSolas.

1ST ROSCREA COMPANY
Our final meeting before the summer break will be on Sunday 10th June, fishing at the Laois Angling Centre. For more information, please contact Alison Hayes at 086 6030225

"It'll be interesting to see if anyone has the nerve to claim them."
Mothers' Union

"WALKING IN MARY SUMNER'S FOOTSTEPS"
A wonderful afternoon of celebration was had in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 13th May when the Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service was held, combined with our Mums in May Tea Party. During the first hymn the Branch Banners and Diocesan Banners were paraded up the aisle and presented to Dean Niall Sloane to be placed in the chancel.

Our Diocesan Chaplain, Canon Jane Galbraith, gave a wonderful sermon reflecting on the work of Mary Sumner following her first gathering of mothers just over 140 years ago in the rectory of her home parish, whilst comparing it to the needs and challenges of today’s world. It seems that they are not too dissimilar given that we still continue to follow her mission, by reaching out to the marginalised with practical and prayerful support through our projects which are funded by such events as our Mums in May Tea Parties.

The Choir, led by Choir Master Peter Barley, along with Organist, Irina Dernova, sang beautifully which made our service very special and we are very grateful to them for the their input.

The collection during the service was in aid of our Mothers’ Union Project work includes:
• Support for our Overseas Project workers
• Mother and baby schemes
• Literacy and numeracy work
• Support for families affected by Domestic Abuse and homelessness
• Knitting for premature and stillborn babies
• Away From it All Holidays

The Tea Party was held in St. James’ Chapel where Limerick City Branch Leader, Margaret Schutz and her team set out a fabulous display of four tables set with fine bone china tea cups and saucers, plates and posies, laden with an array of meringues and cream, sponges and sandwiches, and all kinds of goodies.

A huge “thank you” must go to Dean Niall Sloane, Canon Jane Galbraith and Rev Edna Wakley for their work in preparing the service. To Margaret Schutz, Bev Callendar, Elizabeth Bovenizer and all those who helped on the day. And thank you to all who attended and gave so generously to our collection.

Our Diocesan Council Meeting was held in St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on 26th April when many members from around the Diocese attended to get an update on all that is happening in Mothers’ Union. Ann

Drew looked after the card and book stall which is always popular and a great chance for our members to stock up on birthday cards, etc.

Our Mums in May Tea Party fundraisers are well underway now, and not all in May! Look out for where it is happening in your area.

MULOA
A wonderful evening was had in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh on 16th May when Iris Suitor, All Ireland Trustee, and Jacqui Armstrong, All Ireland Faith & Policy Co-ordinator guided us through the workshop which enables us to look to the future of Mothers’ Union, gaining ideas from each other and hopefully a new approach to MU.

LOOKING AHEAD -
• September 6th - MU Holy Communion Service Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 11.15am
• October 12/13th – Women's Getaway Weekend, Cavan Crystal Hotel

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President

United Diocesan Youth Council

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Taking a Leading Role – Part 1 (By Andrew O’Brien)
On Friday the 27th of April, the first weekend of the Leadership training course took place in Django’s Hostel, Cloughjordan. The first evening was a time for everyone to meet and get to know each other, while the session for the evening focused on the topic “Who are we?”. On Saturday the group went to UL Activity Centre in Killaloe for an action packed day of water sports, high ropes and team challenges. After a long day of activities the group headed back to Django’s for dinner after which the session looked at “Teamwork” and “Qualities AND Responsibilities of Youth Leaders”. On a lovely Sunny Sunday morning after a session on “Youth Work and Christian Youth Ministry” the group went to a lovely church service followed by a walk through the Eco village. After lunch the group took part in the final session for the weekend focusing on expectations from various people on leader. The weekend was then closed with a short time of worship.
DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND
Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will hopefully be taking place over the June 2018 Bank Holiday Weekend as Newslink arrives to readers. We look forward to a full report next month.

FUTURE EVENTS
It will be very soon that everyone will receive booking forms and information for our three events taking place during Summer 2018......

- Summer Madness – Friday 29th June to Tuesday 3rd July – Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm, Co. Antrim. 14 plus year olds.

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

Diocesan Council for Mission

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS AND MISSION IN UGANDA
Report of the ecumenical mission evening on 25th April in Cloughjordan Parish Centre

‘Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink; water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink!’ so runs the poem of the Ancient Mariner. Water, and the lack of it, was also the theme of our mission evening speaker, Sr Eileen Maher, who comes originally from Roscrea and has been working as a missionary in south west Uganda since 1970, along with her sister Mona who joined her in 1972. You can well imagine the changes Sr Eileen has witnessed in Uganda over the past forty-eight years, from the poverty and fear under the bloodthirsty dictatorship of Idi Amin to the current situation where the capital Kampala is one of the fastest growing cities in the whole of Africa.

Sr Eileen showed pictures of Coloma girl’s school, near Mbarara which is just finished construction after many years of fund raising. One of the many problems they encountered was a reliable water supply, since each girl was only allowed 1.5 litres/day for washing etc, etc... Something had to be done if the school was to expand let alone function normally. A borehole was sunk and, against all odds they struck water which is now being pumped by ‘solar power’ into ‘header tanks’ to supply the whole school. This story reminded us of our Mission Sunday 2017 project in Swaziland, where rather than pump it out of the ground we aim to catch and store the ‘liquid as it falls from above’! The Maher family in Roscrea have been very supportive of their two sisters in Uganda. We were told by their brother Tom, about the dairy farm belonging to the school, the cattle breeds most suitable to the climate and the current state of mechanisation, which reminded those elderly farmers in the audience of dairy farming in Ireland some sixty years ago.

We were left in no doubt of the dedication and sense of duty by both Sisters in their love and service, not only to their religious vocation but especially to the local community in the Mbarara region. It reminds us of that beautiful prayer by St Ignatius of Loyola:

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do your will.
The evening closed with this prayer and the Grace, followed by refreshments kindly supplied by the 'ladies & gentlemen' of Cloughjordan parish.

A 'retiring collection' yielded the sum of almost €450, sufficient to pay for the school fees of two girls for one year. More than half the girls in the school have their fees paid through sponsorship of some kind since they come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Skill training and education is the key to the future.

Childrens Ministry Network

THE COMMUNION CLOCK: A resource for children in church
...A little job for craftily minded carpenters...

The clock is an aid for children to find their way through a communion service, as well as teaching them what each part of the service is about.

As you move through the service, children stick the appropriate symbol on to the board, to help them to identify what is happening at each stage of the liturgy and where that fits into the wider service. Younger children will enjoy sticking brightly coloured things onto the board, whereas older children will develop a deeper understanding of the Communion service.

Use the picture and your imagination, gathering together over the summer some craft-minded individuals to create a small or large Communion Clock, for use in church later on in the year.

This idea comes from this month's CoE's 'Child in the Midst'. The Communion Clock and booklet were made by Eleanor Zuercher, the author of 'Through the Year with Jesus' and 'Not Sunday, Not School', and has been used with children in her home parish in Oxford Diocese.

Continuing Ministerial Education

VISITING THREE CATHEDRALS
A large group of priests and readers visited the three cathedrals in the united dioceses as part of the diocesan programme of training and education in ministry. These three cathedrals function in a variety of ways, from city cathedral to parish church, to a church in a rural setting. Each has a unique story and historical dimension and attracts tourists for very different reasons.

The field trip began in Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, where Noreen Ellerker brought the group on a tour of the cathedral, which is celebrating its 850th anniversary. She introduced the history of the cathedral, from its foundation in 1168, to recent changes and innovations introduced by the Dean, the Very Revd Niall Sloane.

In Killaloe, Co Clare, the group was taken on a tour of Saint Flannan’s Cathedral by the Dean, the Very Revd Gary Paulsen, and climbed the cathedral tower for views of Saint Flannan’s Oratory and sweeping, breath-taking views of the River Shannon, before enjoying lunch in the town.

The field trip continued on by road to Saint Brendan’s Cathedral, Clonfert, Co Galway, with its unique Hiberno-Romanesque doorway and the grave of Saint Brendan. The visit concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist.

The ‘field trip’ ended with a lively discussion in the churchyard at Saint Brendan’s Cathedral, Limerick (Photo: Patrick Comerford)

The ‘field trip’ participants enjoy coffee with the parishioners of Saint Brendan’s Cathedral, Limerick (Photo: Patrick Comerford)

Later, Clonfert parishioners welcomed the visiting group with tea and coffee.

During the day, the participants crossed the Shannon many times, and travelled through all three provinces and many of the counties embraced by this diocese.

'This was an interesting way to get to know and understand the different dimensions of cathedral life in our dioceses,' said Canon Patrick Comerford, who organised the day. 'The best way to learn history is to visit the very places where history was made and to experience it at first-hand. We saw sites associated with the early Celtic church and saints, the Viking invasions, and the Anglo-Norman and mediaeval churches, as well as seeing the changes made to these buildings as the needs and fashions of liturgy and worship changed over the centuries.'

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St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

At the end of April we were delighted to welcome a team from Barretstown. Barretstown is a not for profit organisation based in Co. Kildare, who provide camps for children with cancer and other serious illnesses. They also arrange fun sessions at the children’s schools. The junior classroom was treated to a wonderful afternoon’s session of fun and games on April 27th.

We held our annual Clean-Up Day at the beginning of May when pupils and teachers tidied up the school and church grounds. One group also did some planting in the school garden. Thankfully it was a fine day and now the grounds look neat and tidy. Well done to all involved.

Irina Dernova, one of our parents, organised a concert in St. Nicholas’ Church on Sunday 13th May. The concert was in aid of Barretstown and the school. It was a lovely evening and the entertainment was superb. We were entertained by two choirs, Holy Trinity Abbey Choir and Aoide, Sybrenne Oggen and Stefan Kaiser on trumpets and soloists Owen Gilhooly, Triona Walsh, Magdelena Kowal, Shirley Keane and Conor Gibbons. Irina accompanied all the artists. The Parents’ Association committee promoted the event, decorated the church and produced delicious refreshments at the interval. Many thanks to Irina for all her work and to the committee and their helpers for their assistance in organising the event.

In school, May began with our ‘Mile a Day in May’ initiative when the whole school runs or walks a mile in the school grounds every morning before classes begin. We have already seen the positive results with this initiative and so we will continue into June.

Active Week took place in May and thanks to Mrs Keane and her committee we enjoyed an exciting selection of activities. On the Monday we held a La Liga soccer tournament, thanks to Barbara Bingham. We had six junior teams and six senior teams. The games were very exciting with Atletico Madrid winning in the end!

We also held a Dodgeball tournament, Teachers V Pupils. This was a rematch from earlier in the year and this time I think it was a draw. The teachers played teams from 5th and 6th classes, 3rd and 4th classes and 1st and 2nd classes. The teachers were exhausted by the end of all those matches and needed an extra-long lunch break! On Tuesday the whole school boarded two buses and we set off for Curraghchase Forest Park. We went for a 2.5km walk and then did some orienteering for a couple of hours. We had a picnic lunch on site and finished off with a game of ‘Capture the Flag’. On Wednesday Ms. Brown and Mr Linnane organised Smart Moves in the hall for all classes and a team from the Woodlands Hotel organised a scavenger hunt around the school grounds. While the senior pupils were in Villiers on Thursday, Mrs Keane and Ms O’Shea organised lots of activities in the playground for younger pupils.

On Thursday 17th May the senior pupils headed off to Villiers School for their annual Primary Schools’ Sports Day. Once again we were treated to a well-organised and enjoyable day with the added bonus of bright and sunny weather. The Transition Year students looked after the pupils and teachers so well. Games of soccer and tag rugby were played on the astroturf, basketball in the hall and orienteering around the school grounds.

We were delighted to come third this year and congratulations to Clooghjordan N.S. on winning the cup. Thank you to Shane Hanna and his team for another wonderful day in Villiers.

Geoff Hunt joined us in school on Friday 18th May for a Science Day. We studied the wild flowers growing in the area and we were surprised to find seventeen different wild flowers. The pupils took photos on our ipads so we could have a detailed look when we returned to the classroom. We also examined some under a microscope. As always, we had a most enjoyable and informative day in the company of Geoff Hunt.

Standardised testing took place in school during the last couple of weeks in May.

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

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

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and summer’s lease hath all too short a date.
- Shakespeare, William (sonnet 18)

Our Standardised testing has been completed and the workbooks are full. Jumpers are thrown off in the school yard. It must be summer, at last!

Certain events are linked with excitement all term. One of these is the annual Senior Class trip to Villiers Sports Day. This year it took place on Thursday 17th May. The pupils were delighted to meet a number of our past pupils on the day. We owe a big thank-you to Villiers for the kind invitation and for the hard work done by staff and pupils to make it such a great event.
We would like to offer our warmest wishes to Heather Hayes who was confirmed by the Bishop on Pentecost Sunday, 20th May. Congratulations on reaching this important milestone, Heather.

The children of Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class will be going on their school tour in June. They will have a chance to enjoy Cookery School and other fun activities on the day. Second to Sixth Classes will be testing their mettle at Birr Outdoor Education Centre in early June.

We are very grateful to the Parents' Association who have generously agreed to cover the cost of the buses for both trips. This is a great help and keeps the trip costs down.

UPCOMING DATES:

We have planned for Sports Day to take place on Wednesday 20th June, weather permitting. This will be followed by our annual barbecue. The barbecue is such an enjoyable event for our athletes, parents and staff each year. We are very grateful for the help of the parents who volunteer to organise and run it each year. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir!

Our Sixth Class graduation service will take place on Friday 22nd June. It is a lovely ceremony for all of the children to bid farewell to their friends, as well as a chance for the Sixth Class pupils to fill their memory boxes, share their reflections and to receive our best wishes. Parents, grandparents and siblings of our graduates are most welcome on the day.

Finally, our school’s End of Year Service will take place provisionally on 26th June.

**St. Michael's National School, Limerick**

We are delighted with the progress we are making with our fundraising campaign to raise the much-needed funds to begin building our new classroom. To date, our Buy a Brick has brought in €8,650. Wonderful support has been forthcoming from family and friends of past pupils of Saint Michael’s, which is hugely appreciated. We need to continue fundraising and would appreciate support from anyone with a connection to our school to enable us to reach our goal of raising the costs, which the government do not provide.

We were blessed with glorious sunshine as we competed in the Limerick City Schools Sports annual competition, this year held in Ennis. Our pupils did us proud especially as we are such a small school. This gives our students the privilege of experiencing and enjoying athletic sports on a state-of-the-art running track. The winning and losing on the day are all part of developing lifelong strategies to cope with living in a competitive world.

3rd and 4th Classes have been enjoying Science, Technology and Engineering tuition with an engineer from a local company, who co-teaches with Ms Robinson, for the last number of weeks. During this time they have been constructing bridges, a pulley system and a wind turbine, as well as making cars, water filters and electricity circuits. They are eagerly anticipating next week’s science lesson!

1st and 2nd Classes had a most enjoyable day in wonderful sunshine in Craggaunowen Co. Clare. One of the highlights of the trip was the surprise stop at Cratloe Wood's playground where much fun was had by all!

Well done to Villiers School for a wonderful Sports Day in good weather! 4th, 5th and 6th Classes always enjoy the inclusive nature of the day, superbly organised by the staff and Transition Year students, designed to have every pupil involved in many activities.

Our thoughts on this day, were very much of Neville Atkinson, who from its beginnings was the driving force behind this initiative, to invite the schools from the diocese to come and enjoy the sporting facilities in Villiers. He will long be remembered for his interest and commitment to this annual event.

We wish all our 6th Class pupils the very best as they prepare to leave us, spread their wings and start the next chapter of their school life in various different secondary schools around Limerick.

**Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine**

**CELEBRATING 80 YEARS.**

September 22nd next marks the 80th anniversary of the enrolment of the first pupils in Kiltallagh National School and we believe there is indeed much to celebrate in both the last 80 years and the present healthy state of the school.

Preparations are in full swing for the 80th Celebrations to mark the opening of Kiltallagh School, in September 1938. The commemorative event will take place on Saturday September 22nd - commencing with a service in the school at 12 noon – led by our Bishop, Kenneth Kearon.

Afterwards, all guests will enjoy a BBQ and light refreshments. We hope to have many photos and memorabilia on display for all to browse. We wish to extend a warm invitation to you all, past and present pupils, teachers, principals, parents, Board of Management members, clergy, parishioners and the many friends of Kiltallagh, to our Service of Celebration in Kiltallagh School, Castlemaine with Bishop Kenneth Kearon. Save the date: Saturday September 22nd at 12 noon.

We hope you can all share in our special Day of Commemoration. Bigi ann, Bigi linn.

**2 TEACHER MID-KERRY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL BLITZ:**

There was much delight on Tuesday May 8th, when Kiltallagh NS reached the final of the above competition. Our school team played six other schools in mini games.

Sincere thanks to all the supportive families who contributed €700 towards the purchase of our new school football jerseys.

Our pupils are looking forward to wearing them again in their final against Douglas N.S. on Sunday May 27th, in Beaufort.
**VILLIERS SPORTS DAY:**

Our 3rd to 6th class had a wonderful day out on Thursday May 17th in Villiers. The weather was amazing and the children got an opportunity to play a wide variety of fun and games both indoors and outdoors. We are extremely grateful to Jill Storey principal of Villiers and the TY students for giving us another memorable day out. Our school presented a crab apple tree to Villiers school in memory of their PE teacher Neville Atkinson who sadly passed away in September last year.

**ATHLETICS:**

Congratulations to 3rd class pupil, Rachel Boyle who recently won a gold medal in the 60 metres under 10 race, at County Athletics in An Ríocht Track recently.

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**FÁILTE:**

We extend a warm welcome to Revd Isabel Keegan, and Revd Ann-Marie Stuart, who have taken up ministry in the Kilcolman Union of Parishes. We hope you will have a positive and rewarding time amongst the parishioners of our community and look forward to you both visiting our school in the coming months.

Tá mile fáilte romhaibh go Co. Chiarraí.

**DISCOVER SCIENCE/SHOW AND TELL**

We had a wonderful afternoon on Thursday April 19th, when the parents/guardians of our school were invited in to see the pupils of the senior room showcasing their amazing science projects. These exhibitions include subjects such as Volcanoes, Heart and Lungs and The Animal Cell. Our Stem Award application has now been submitted. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are critically important disciplines for modern society. We are very grateful to Miss Corcoran for all the work she has put into this project with the students and we are looking forward with anticipation to receiving our award in the coming weeks.

**GREEN SCHOOLS CEREMONY**

Miss Cronin and pupils from Kiltallagh NS had a wonderful day in the Radisson Hotel, Little Island on Wednesday May 3rd, when they were presented with an award to mark their success in being awarded their 5th Green Flag for Biodiversity.

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**Oxmantown National School, Birr**

Oxmantown National School is working hard to get the European Blue Star Flag. The children have been learning about the European Union, the euro and information on all the countries that are in the European Union.

The European module encouraged the children to make projects on the different cities around Europe. A European Quiz took place and the children teams were named after European countries, the French team won the final of the quiz.

A Greek Day was held where the children tasted a three course Greek meal, after the meal the children learned a Greek dance. A European Soccer tournament was another activity held in the school and the Austrian team were the victorious team.

The children also featured on bluestarprogramme.ie. Each day the children will walk a few kilometres adding them together and reaching different cities throughout Europe. When they reach a city they mark their arrival with something special that is original to that city.

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy came into the school during the week to talk to the children and answer any question they have about the European Union.
St. Johns Parochial School, Tralee

We held a poster competition for the upcoming concert in St. John’s Church on the 19th May, this was won by Kate from sixth class. We have a visit from the ice-cream man at school on April 26th thanks to Gerhardt and St. John’s Youth Club. A very enjoyable treat for everyone.

Amy, Kate, Allie, Rosie and Alex made their Confirmation on Sunday May 5th in St. Johns Church. A wonderful day was had by everyone who celebrated the day with family and friends. The pupils from the Junior Classroom have planted wild flowers and carrots in the garden at the back of the school. We hope to plant more flowers and vegetables over the next few weeks. Thank you very much to June for clearing the raised beds after the winter and for sourcing the seeds.

This year our school celebrates its 60th year. If anyone has any old photographs of the school or you are a past pupil/teacher and would be willing to lend a hand please contact the school on 066 712 8142 or David Tough on 087 642 8560.

Rathkeale No.2 National School

Our senior pupils had a wonderful day in Villiers on the 17th May for the annual sports day. The weather was good and there was a great spirit of sportsmanship around the school. The pupils took part in soccer, basketball, Tag rugby, orienteering and fun games. A big thank you to all involved in Villiers on this great occasion.

On June 12th incoming Junior Infants are invited to spend an hour in the school from 9.30am to 10.30. The school will then run an Open Morning for prospective parents and children from 10.30am to 12.30 that day.

On Saturday 16th June the Parents Association will run a Cake Sale and Coffee Morning in the school from 10.30am to midday. This will include a Bring and Buy Sale, a plant stall, a raffle and plenty of family fun. All are welcome.

Our End of Year Service will take place in Holy Trinity Church Aughirm on the morning of June 22nd, during which we will celebrate the graduation from primary school of our 6th class pupil Mark Newton. School finishes on Monday 25th June for the summer holidays and reopens on Thursday 30th August. We wish staff and students a happy, safe and well-earned summer holiday.

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Our own school sports day will take place later in June.

We welcomed members of the local fire service to the school for a talk on fire safety and precautions. We’re all looking forward to visiting the fire station in Rathkeale later in the month.

Pupils and parents are dusting off their bicycles and pumping air in the tyres as preparation for our fund raising sponsored cycle which will take place on Saturday 9th June. We will cycle along the Greenway from Ardagh to Rathkeale.

The Glebe National School, Aughirm

The children have begun a Food Dudes initiative, in which they are encouraged to eat fresh fruit and vegetables every day.

It is fitting then that the students have been involved in planting their own fruit and vegetables as part of the Rectory Garden Project. Plants and seeds from the garden were brought to our churches on Rogation Sunday as a way of asking for God’s blessing on all our crops and fields in the months ahead.

The children are getting ready for their school tours next month: the juniors will visit Loughwell Farm Park in Moycullen, whilst the senior class will be going to Dublin Zoo.

The Glebe National School on their recent field trip to the Rectory Garden Project

Villiers School

Lots of CONGRATULATIONS in the Villiers notes this month!

• Congratulations to Form 1 and Form 2 boys for their recent success, finishing first in the inter-schools basketball.
• Congratulations also to Ms Mahon, Ms Carswell and to the Green Flag Committee. They were honoured with their award in Cork and the school now proudly flies the green flag for Water.
• Congratulations also to Mr Brown and the students who took part in the Robot Games in Galway. A wonderful day with the team taking both first and second place.
• The Transition Year ended on a high with the drama production in St Marys Cathedral. This year’s drama was ‘Not so Grimm Tales’ and ran over two nights. Well done to all involved, especially the actors, for making it such a success.
• The Kindness Group, very capably inspired and led by Ms Sexton, were presented with the Kindness Flag because of very hard work creating an atmosphere of smiles and kindness in Villiers. Well done to all.
• More congratulations on a wonderful success for the Form 2 boys debating team who won the inter schools debating competition.

Villiers once again opened its doors and welcomed the Diocesan Primary Schools for the annual sports day. A truly wonderful occasion full of fun and excitement. Congratulations to Cloughjordan who were the overall winners. Well done to all who took part and created such a fantastic atmosphere in Villiers.
Thank you to all who supported the PTA Garden Fete. The weather was not kind but there was lots of laughter and plenty of people of all ages enjoying the occasion.

**News from the Villiers Sanctuary**

Summer is just around the corner here in Villiers – however there is still the small matter of exams to be contend with. I want to wish everyone all the best of luck, especially those facing the Junior and Leaving Certificates. Remember all you can do is your best and then leave the rest up to God!

The Community Group is finalising preparations for their pilgrimage to the Camino in aid of disabled children in Uganda. A long walk ahead of us as we will travel from Saria to Santiago, around 125 kilometres. There will be some sore feet at the end but as one young person put it, ‘each step we take is for someone who cannot walk but with our help they will be able to in the future’. A wonderful sentiment and worthy of the pilgrimage.

The Community Group for next year is already in place and are looking forward to a mission trip to Uganda with Zest4kidz. While there, we will be able to see some of the work that has taken place because of all the fundraising over the past two years by pilgrimage walks to the Camino. Really looking forward to working with this incredible group of young people.

In our last assembly of the year, I focused on the story of the Good Samaritan. The message was of course centred on that age-old question, ‘who is my neighbour?’ However, I also wanted to point out that Good Samaritans surround us if only we would open our eyes and ‘see’ them in our midst. Sometimes we focus on how we treat the ‘other’ in the parable of the Good Samaritan but far too often we also miss out on who the Good Samaritans are in our lives. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus told his friends to love their neighbours and do good to the people around them.

One small way in which we can show love is to smile a bit more. Smiling uses fewer muscles than frowning, so it should be less tiring to smile than to look serious or unhappy. When we smile at people, it makes them feel good about themselves. When we are welcoming and kind to others, regardless of who they are, then we behave the way that Jesus wants us to and perhaps we may feel His presence in our kindness.

One of the most wonderful Good Samaritans that has played this role for many years now is my good friend, Janet Bray. Janet is retiring this year and will be sorely missed by all. I will certainly miss her presence, support and friendship. She has always welcomed people with a smile and has always been willing to reach out and help others. I want to wish her every blessing for the future. My prayer for everyone is that we all attempt to be a Good Samaritan and welcome people the way Jesus did!

Dear God,
Thank you for people who make us happy. Thank you for our families and friends. Please help us to work at making others happy. We pray for people who are sad or lonely. Please help us to take the time to smile at and be kind to others as we walk through this world together. Amen.

Until next time, Blessings and peace
Chaplain Jackie McNair
During the interval Sangria was served, in a pop up marquee, as the All Saints’ Bells rang out.

Back in our seats a “ghost” appearance by Sir Richard Bourke, alias the exuberant, Matt Byrnes, glided in and talked about his life, his achievements, his retirement to Thornfields and his ultimate demise in “that pew” THERE during Sunday morning service. It was an evening to remember when so many people came together to give of their time and talents free of charge. Special thanks must be afforded to Tara Hartigan and Deci Hogan who spearheaded this wonderful community event with so many great volunteers.

Patrick Comerford arranged a field trip to the cathedrals on Monday 30th April. The day started at St Mary’s cathedral in Limerick and they travelled to Killaloe. It was good to welcome clergy and readers to St Flannan’s Cathedral on 30 April. We managed to get some to venture up the bell tower and then to the view of our village and Lough from the roof of the tower. Each headed their own way for lunch around Killaloe before heading off to Clonfert Cathedral.

Violet Murdock passed away on 7th May, and the funeral service was held at Mountshannon church. The funeral home prayers and reception at Mountshannon church on Wednesday evening was done by Stanley Wallace a diocesan reader and family member. The Rev Lucy Green conducted the funeral service on Thursday 10th May. Neighbours, family and friends were in attendance. We give thanks for her life.

**Birr Group of Parishes**

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorra*

Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234
Email: mapleire@gmail.com
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

**PRAYERS**

We remember Pat Alexander, Betty Eades, Pamela Edge, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse in our prayers, and pray for the continued recovery of Rose Harding and Violet Harding after recent surgery.

**CONDOLENCES**

Dorothy Rose Stanley of Lorrha parish passed away on the 3rd of May. Her funeral was held in Lorrha Church on Friday, the 18th of May, with burial next to her late husband, Terence, in Lorrha churchyard. Condolences to her daughters Aileen, Kerry, Ursula and Angela, and all her family and friends.

**CHORAL EUCHARIST AS PART OF THE BIRR FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**

On Sunday, 6th May in Birr Church, we were blessed with the presence of a group of singers from the 2016 Cantata choir who enabled us to have a wonderful Choral Eucharist, with music by William Byrd (1539–1643) and Thomas Tallis (1505–1585), two of the greatest Elizabethan composers of choral church music. Many members of our community from the Roman Catholic and Methodist congregations were present and took part in the celebration, which was an important part of the annual Birr Festival of Music and Voice.

**VISIT OF THE GFS WORLD PRESIDENT**

We were delighted to have the World President of the Girls Friendly Society with us in the Rectory in Birr from the 8th to the 10th of May. Ms Thembaka Pama from South Africa was accompanied by Mrs Sylvia Quinn, the GFS All-Ireland President. They were able to visit Birr Castle and Demesne and Clonmacnoise before attending a special diocesan reception on Wednesday, the 9th of May, in Oxmantown School, where they were able to meet leaders and girls from the four GFS branches in the Diocese. Many thanks to all who helped with the visit.

**BIRR SUMMER FÊTE**

Our annual Fête will take place in Oxmantown School on Sunday, 10th June, starting at 1:00 pm. All the usual stalls and activities will be present.

**CONFIRMATION**

Bishop Kenneth will be with us for a service of Confirmation on Sunday, 24th June at 3:00 pm. At this writing, we have 9 candidates, from Birr, Banagher, and Seir Kieran parishes. Please keep them in your prayers, as they prepare to renew their baptismal promises before the Bishop and Almighty God.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Some future dates to keep in your calendars:

- Sunday, 1st July: Annual joint service in Birr Methodist Church, followed by a meal together.
- Saturday, 14th July: Tentative date for our second annual Parish Pilgrimage.

Continued on page 23
GFS World President visits Killaloe Diocese

GFS World President, Ms Thembeka Pama, from South Africa visited Ireland as part of her trip to Ireland, England and Wales. Members throughout Ireland have welcomed her to various events around the country. She was invited to General Synod in Armagh where she addressed the meeting. She also attended the commissioning of Alison Jackson as the new All Ireland President.

Thembeka Pama was presented with a Claddagh necklace as a memento of her visit to Killaloe by Diocesan President, Norma Jean Carney. All Ireland President, Mrs Sylvia Quinn was also presented with a photo frame as this was one of her last engagement as President.

Thembeka was an inspiring speaker and a very warm person with whom to spend an evening. It was evident that she especially enjoyed the company of the girls. We wish her well in her role as World President and continued safe journey as she travels to Wales and England. It was a privilege to have met her and we thank the ladies of Birr branch for hosting a truly wonderful evening.

On May 9th Thembeka and All Ireland President, Sylvia Quinn, visited Killaloe Diocese and enjoyed a visit to Birr Castle and town. Birr Branch kindly hosted a wonderful evening to allow members to meet with both Presidents. Girls entertained the visitors with Irish dancing, music, poems and gymnastics.

Thembeka encouraged all the girls to sing ‘Marching in the Light of God’. She spoke about GFS in South Africa where GFS is under the umbrella organisation of Youth Ministry. Children aged 7-12 attend Sunday School and then progress to GFS. Girls learn crafts as we do but there is a larger emphasis on social care and life skills because girls face many difficulties just because they are female. Once a month the entire organisation unites for a large Youth Ministry Service at which children take full control of the service including preaching.

Thembeka admired the girl’s badges and will take this idea back to South Africa. Boys can now join GFS in South Africa where they have their own separate group called Boys Friendly Society (BFS) but all united under one moto. It was felt that boys also needed to be socially aware and learn respect for females.

Sylvia Quinn noted that GFS is a growing and vibrant organisation in South Africa which has the largest membership of GFS in the world and Ireland has the second largest.

World Council in 2020 will return to South Africa for the second time. The first World Council was opened by President Mandela and the closing service in 2020 Council will take place on Mandela’s birthday.

Wednesday 6th June
Triona Walsh (soprano), Liam Monagher (violin) & Irina Dernova
Music by Mozart, Gounod, Barber, Copland and Beethoven

Wednesday 13th June
Magdalena Kowai (soprano) and Irina Dernova (piano)
Including music by Donizetti, Bellini and Rachmaninov

Wednesday 20th June
Frank Schaefer (cello) and Ethna Tinney (piano)
Including Beethoven’s Sonata in A

Wednesday 27th June
Helen Hancock (soprano) and Irina Dernova (piano)
Music by Mozart, Schubert, Barber and Vivaldi

Wednesday 4th July
Emma English (soprano) and David Szabo (piano)
Music by Mozart, Poulenc and Schumann

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary’s Cathedral please log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie
General Synod 2018, Armagh, 10-12 May 2018

A clergy woman’s view from Rev Edna Wakely

The General Synod opened in Armagh on Ascension Day, Thursday, 10 May. The opening Eucharist was uplifting and well attended, with Bishop McDowell as preacher. Then it was on to the Armagh City Hotel for opening worship and the start of the day’s business. Each day began and ended with worship. There were all the usual stalls with information on the various organizations of the Church of Ireland. Everyone was welcome to avail of the free gifts – stationery, chocolates etc.

THY KINGDOM COME
Towards the end of the first day, Thy Kingdom Come was launched by the two archbishops of Armagh. This initiative originated with Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and is to be prayed during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost.

A third form of Morning Prayer was finally passed, with various amendments, and will be included in the (re)printed Book of Common Prayer. This should prove a useful resource for MP services.

REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL SYNOD
The most contentious part of the business was Bill No. 7 to reduce the number of delegates attending Synod, and to this end, a proposed draft of a new reduced representation was put before Synod, based on the number of ‘cures’ in each diocese. Many people were for and against, and there were many impassioned speeches, while other speeches were more objective, well-reasoned and argued.

At the end of the first day, the motion was passed that we proceed to the committee stage of the bill. Many went home, wondering where the future of the Church of Ireland was heading, with those in the Republic of Ireland feeling that the ROI was being further disadvantaged and their position and voice being further eroded.

At the start of the second day, however, Sam Harper introduced a Private Members’ Bill by way of gaining more time to discuss and debate the Bill to reform the General Synod. In his unemotional, unassuming, gracious, reasonable and persuasive manner he managed to turn the whole contentious issue around. I think it fair to say that most Synod members heaved a collective sigh of relief that ample time and all due consultation would be given to something with such far reaching and potentially “unintended consequences.” It is to be hoped that the ensuing debate will be a well-reasoned, unemotional, respectful conversation, that hopefully will ensure the good of the whole membership of the Church of Ireland – North and South of the border.

RCB STAFF UPSET
When the Report of the Standing Committee was given, it became clear that the change to the pension scheme for employees in the RCB was causing untold upset and hurt for staff. This was highlighted by various speakers, who added their voices of disquiet and concern about what had happened, particularly the lack of consultation over this decision. Eventually it was agreed that all due care would be taken to try to restore the morale of the RCB employees, by giving them the pastoral care they required, and had every reason to expect from the Church.

Various talks were laid on, not all of which one could attend, but I particularly enjoyed the Revd Dr John Bell’s talk, entitled ‘God, Delight and Diversity’, which contained, as always, vintage John Bell material. He covered problematic approaches to scripture, the created order as diverse by design, and the need for the laity to have their intelligence, experience and aspirations inform the Church’s deliberations on sexuality. Bell is a gifted speaker, demonstrating a deep spirituality, an impressive Biblical literacy, together with great compassion and concern for others. The talk was very well attended, and Bell answered people’s questions graciously and convincingly afterwards.

Although one of the stated aims and benefits of Synod is catching up with friends, in reality there is little time or energy to do so, except in the evenings when people have often dispersed.
A lay man’s view from Mr Kieran Sparling

General Synod 2018 was the 148th since Disestablishment. At the pre-Synod Eucharist it was heartening to join in the volume of congregational singing during the Service. Standing shoulder to shoulder with people from all over the island of Ireland, with a common bond of baptism in Christ and an attachment to our regional Church, called to mind how wonderful it is that we can transcend our political jurisdictions and national identities, whether we be British or Northern Irish, Irish or Europeans. This resonates particularly as Brexit approaches – part of our island will no longer be within the European Union when we attend next year’s synod in Londonderry.

The cathedral in Armagh was particularly fitting for the feast of the Ascension since the great East Window depicts the event. During the sermon, the Rt. Rev John McDowell reflected upon the Ascension as a triumph of Christ and expectancy in the sense of the Church working towards fulfilling the words imparted to us – “Thy Kingdom come”. Speaking of the work of the synod, the bishop reflected upon the grace and goodness which emanates from the exercise of discernment and government at such meetings in our attempts to build up the Kingdom of God.

A STEP TOWARD UNITY
Bill No. 6 was one item on the agenda of particular relevance for our own diocese. It proposed that in the event of an episcopal vacancy here or in Tuam the requirement of convening an electoral college to seek a replacement would be suspended temporarily. This is a tremendously significant step for both dioceses as we continue to work together on the serious possibility we may unite or adjust our diocesan boundaries together. The striking aspect of all this work which is going on is the consultative and collaborative approach between both dioceses which will, with God’s help, lead to a worthwhile accomplishment for the local Church.

REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL SYNOD
Bill No.7 which proposed reducing the number of Synod representatives lead to very lively debate. The Bill (whether the desired intention or not) would have reduced representation from the southern province thus strengthening northern influence over synodical decision making. A motion was successfully passed, however, which withdrew the Bill and requested that Standing Committee consult throughout the Church to bring a Bill before next year’s Synod with proposals to reduce the number of Synod members. If this be the case, it would be my hope that any reductions in synodical representation be equally weighted throughout every diocese in Ireland, in order to maintain a balanced composition within central governance.

It was particularly heartening to hear people speaking so highly and positively of their experiences at the synod in Limerick last year. We certainly seem to have left positive memories with people and many I spoke with reminisced about the reception provided in Limerick’s third cathedral, Thomond Park! I conclude with the hope of Archbishop Richard Clarke from his Presidential Address that in 2018 we will “be joining a global flood of prayer that God’s Kingdom, God’s perfect rule and perfect love, may be advanced on earth and become ever more apparent to all people.”

Dr Laurence Graham, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, addresses the Mission Breakfast
I wonder what you would see if I asked you to sit for a moment and visualise what the word church means to you - how it would look? I have a visual memory, but you might not, so you may sit there thinking well, for goodness sake I'm sitting in one, and look around at your friends. Or perhaps you picture a favourite pretty church in an attractive landscape, or the one where you live, or the one where you found faith, and a welcoming community, and no matter what, I bet you are remembering the people who surrounded you at the time. Friend or foe!

For me it's slightly different. In conversation with you I'm going to try to work out what the church and its relationships mean for me, now that Sr. Isabel and I have become a part of this diocese and the Kilcolman Union of Parishes.

When the word church comes up I see two paintings that I've used from time to time in my talks. By chance they are by German Artists. The first one is of the Road to Emmaus. Two disciples - we're not told whether they were men or women, hopefully one of each - walk sadly along the road to Emmaus, under the impression that the Lord who had touched their hearts is dead, until a stranger joins them, who they only recognise when he Breaks Bread with them.

My first picture is called Emmaus Door by Janet Brooks Gerloff. It has two solid people walking along the road, and beside them is a slightly shadowy figure, who perhaps only the observers can see. This for now is my first image of the church.

It matters to me that this encounter takes place as they are walking in the countryside and/or the streets and they do not walk alone. They are on a journey, as we all are, and they are very flexible. They stop and Break Bread with this stranger, when he chooses, and because of this flexibility they encounter their Risen Lord in a way they would not have done if they had not changed their plans to stay with him...

Reflecting on their walk later we're told that they remembered that their hearts burned within them. So for me Church is first and foremost about an unexpected encounter, then a conversation, then some teaching, then about flexibility, then about having life enhancing experiences, and then about dashing off to tell others about what we have learned. It's not primarily about bricks and mortar, or the definitions and labels of an Institutional church, designed to keep us safe. Although God nudges most of us towards a community where we feel comfortable.

Now that might sound novel and perhaps just a tad frightening but one of the most important things about the resurrection appearances in the embryonic church, is that Jesus seems to appear to different people in different contexts, offers them different special moments, and then leaves them to reflect upon what the encounter might demand of them.

So another image I have for the church is a jigsaw of many colours. It's as if each one of us, carefully chosen by the Lord, fits in with the others he has carefully chosen. Each one of us carries something of the colour he has given us, and also the colour of those around us. A kaleidoscope of colour mingling to create an image much greater than we can create individually - all held together by the presence in our lives of an encounter with the Living God.

Sieger Koder portrays this awfully well in the Stained glass windows he designed for the little church of the Holy Ghost in southern Germany, which contain many different coloured abstract shapes fluidly merging one into another while at the heart of them can just be seen the face of Christ; so that energy appears to flow out from his presence and the shapes both draw in and drive outwards something of his light.

This draws me, because we Franciscans of course are not monastic. We don't live in one place for the rest of our lives, unlike the Benedictine monks who once lived and worshipped in large monasteries. We travel about, we're mendicants, we're meant to be flexible, not just physically but emotionally, and intellectually also. We're meant to be out in the world, sharing what we have experienced & learned, and that is our cloister, not the cloister of some medieval building.
A Touch of Van Gogh!

Members of the Coach House Art Group were delighted to hand over two paintings to Rev John Godfrey to adorn the walls of the Rectory’s Coach House in Aughrim. The paintings were a collaborative effort by the Group and everyone had the opportunity to put their brush to the canvas to create vibrant and unique artworks.

The Coach House is an excellent venue for the Art Classes and is also used for other Parish activities on a regular basis.

Rev. John expressed his sincere thanks for such a thoughtful and creative gift to the Parish. The Art Group, led by Jackie Eastwood, meets on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in the Coach House. After a break for the summer it will start again on Wednesday 5th September.

St. Francis of Assisi said:
   He who works with his hands is a labourer.
   He who works with his hand and his head is a craftsman
   He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.
AN APPRECIATION OF ROBERT ROE.

Last month, on April 10th 2018 Robert Roe left this life. A massive crowd gathered at the home of his birth and at Christ Church Corbally to bid him farewell in Christ. Robert was one of those rare breed of people whose faith informed his life in an almost seamless way. A courteous, measured, wise and knowledgeable person, proud of family and place. He will be greatly missed.

Readers of these notes will rightly expect to be reminded of, or to gain knowledge of, Robert’s activities in church life: he was a distinguished diocesan man and a loyal local church person, sitting in church, Sunday by Sunday in Corbally with Doreen, with Peter and his family in the pew behind and not infrequently, surrounded by other members of the family.

Returning to Robert’s church life momentarily, it is turning to the words written in ‘The Irish Field’ that provide a greater frame in remembering Robert Roe. “His passing leaves a void in the sporting and farming life of North Tipperary which will not easily be filled.” Robert was president of Ossory Show for over ten years. A keen hunting man and for many years a senior steward at the RDS. Robert was widely recognised as an outstanding judge of beef cattle. Many will remember the difficult times in the mid 1990’s when the Department of Agriculture’s offices in Dublin, were occupied by a small flock of sheep and some farmers…Robert was one of the demonstrators, highlighting the injustices of the sheepfarming sector whilst helping relaunch the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers’ Association.

Robert was known for his courtesy and good humour in farming circles and in church circles. He first served on Killaloe Diocesan Council before Limerick and Ardfert joined up. He was a member of Electoral Colleges and Boards of Nomination and for many years a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee. Robert was a member of General Synod for many years since the 1980’s and served on Standing Committee, it’s Committee on European Affairs, and the Priorities Fund.

Robert and Doreen were inseparable. He loved his farm, and was a keen local historian. He was passionate about his church local but especially, the place of the local, in the wider church. ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.”

BOOK LAUNCH IN CHRIST CHURCH CORBALLY

‘Life in the Church of Ireland 1600–1800’ was first launched by Dr. Edward Walsh in Christ Church Corbally on Thursday April 26th May. It was a great honour to welcome Dr. Walsh, whose obvious enthusiasm for the contents of the book was infectious to all who listened, as he picked out incidents that displayed his knowledge of history and his sense of humour. Patrick and John Wyse Jackson were delighted to be in Corbally, and though the gathering was small, they felt able to really talk with everyone present. They both wish their thanks be extended to all who prepared the church and the hall for tea afterwards.

The book began its life as ‘Scenes from Irish Clerical Life in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. It was written by Revd. Robert Wyse Jackson during his first curacy as Curate in Charge of Corbally 1933–1936 and then as rector of Ballymackey near Nenagh.


TRACTOR TROPHY Congratulations to David Lewis Junior! David is a sixth year student in Kilkenny College and entered a competition for the most ‘original’ tractor; not the biggest or the best. David’s winning entry was a Leyland 272. Someone said David would never arrive from Roscrea with his machine, but he did and he won the competition!
CONFIRMATION SERVICE
We had Bishop Kenneth come to St Cronan’s Church Roscrea on May 20th to hear our candidates confirm their membership of the Church of Ireland. All seven candidates worked hard as they discerned their way forward towards Confirmation. Please continue to pray for Danny, Eve, Jack, Stewart, Adam, Jessica and Gary. Many congratulations to Sam Dudley and Josh Irminger who were Confirmed in St. Canice’s Cathedral Kilkenny April 22nd.

ST CRONAN’S TOWER WORKS will begin again shortly. We have recently been advised that a grant towards Phase 2 of the works, being the repointing of the tower down as far as the roof of the church, has been sanctioned by Tipperary Co.Co. under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Once more caution is advised and patience, bearing in mind, machinery and children.

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

JUNE SERVICES:
• Sunday 3rd June Trinity 1
  9.30am Templederry Eucharist – President The Rector
  11am St Mary’s Nenagh, GFS Enrolment and Form of Service for the Public Admission of Churchwardens and Vestry persons
• Sunday 10th Trinity 2
  9.30am Templederry Eucharist – President the Rector, Preacher Joc Sanders
  11am St Mary’s Morning Prayer – Joc Sanders
  12.15pm Killodiernan Morning Prayer – Joc Sanders
• Sunday 17th Trinity 3
  11am St Mary’s Nenagh United Family Service
• Sunday 24th Trinity 4
  9.30am Templederry Morning Prayer – Audrey Clarke-Gordon
  11am St Mary’s Nenagh Eucharist – President the Rector, Preacher Audrey Clarke-Gordon
  12.15pm Killodiernan Eucharist – President the Rector, Preacher Audrey Clark-Gordon

FUNERAL
St Mary’s Parish, Nenagh, was full on Friday 4th May for the funeral of Andrew Younghusband. Many fine tributes were paid to Andrew, who was widely known in equestrian circles, and who had many friends throughout these islands. In his homily, the Rector spoke of the tragic circumstances of Andrew’s death, taking as his text words from Psalm 143, a Psalm reflecting a cry to God in a time of crisis and affliction. ‘Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed.’ We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his widow Franny, daughters Jo and Lotti and to the wider family circle.

CONFIRMATION
On Sunday 20th May, Pentecost Sunday, there was an air of celebration in the Nenagh Union as we gathered in St Mary’s, Nenagh, for an Order of Confirmation and Sung Eucharist, as Heather Hayes was confirmed by the Bishop. During the service the children from St Mary’s National School, where Heather is a pupil, sang ‘The Spirit Lives to set us Free.’ The Parish Choir and Girls’ Choir sang Bernadette Farrell’s arrangement of Psalm 139, ‘O Lord you Search Me and You Know Me,’ and John Rutter’s anthem, ‘The Lord Bless you and Keep You.’ One of the readings was read by Heather’s sister April. After the service tea and refreshments were served as family photographs were taken, and there was a good, friendly atmosphere in the church.

EVENSONG IN KILLALOE CATHEDRAL
The Nenagh Union Parish Choir has been working very hard over the last month or so for the service of Choral Evensong which they will be singing in Killaloe Cathedral, following a gracious invitation from Dean Gary. The service will take place on Sunday 10th June at 5.30pm. Rosemary Smyth, Organist, says, ‘We are all looking forward with eager anticipation to this service, and, if it proves successful, it may become a more frequent feature in the Cathedral in the coming year.’
of those families who left their land, to seek their fortunes abroad. The event was marked by a very real sense of occasion in memory of Ontario. In 1830, to join with other local people who had settled in London, Judith Culbert was read. Her ancestors left Burntwood, Cloughjordan. Finally, an open letter to the children of Cloughjordan by the author related projects. Jim Minogue spoke on emigration to Canada during famine years, while the two primary schools in Cloughjordan displayed life in London, Ontario at the time of the emigration, families who had emigrated. Professor Emeritus Roger Downer spoke of life in London, Ontario as well as the importance of forgiveness. Mr Kevin Vickers, spoke of his ancestral ties with Ireland as well as the county. Some of those who accompanied him were Fitzgeralds, Talbot from County Tipperary, brought a party from his native parishes in 1818 to seek a new life in Canada. According to an article written by Liam Dooran, in 1818 Richard Talbot decided to seek to go to Canada, because of declining income due to the depression following the war against Napoleon. In December 1817 he applied through Lord Rosse, enclosing the names of 71 “Loyal Protestants” who were prepared to accompany him. The bi-centenary of the Talbot Expedition to Canada was commemorated at St Kieran’s, Cloughjordan on the 5th of May. This event was to mark the 200th anniversary of those families who left from the Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Shinrone and Moneygall parishes in 1818 to seek a new life in Canada. According to an article written by Liam Dooran, in 1818 Richard Talbot from County Tipperary, brought a party from his native county. Some of those who accompanied him were Fitzgeralds, Gearys, Howards, Talbots, Powells, and several others. These families received grants of land averaging 100 acres each in London Township, and in a short time many of their relatives followed them to Canada. Richard Talbot decided to seek to go to Canada, because of declining income due to the depression following the war against Napoleon. In December 1817 he applied through Lord Rosse, enclosing the names of 71 “Loyal Protestants” who were prepared to accompany him. The commemorative service held at St Kieran’s was attend by some of the descendants of the Canadian families, who returned for the event, as well as some of the families of the original party still living in Ireland today. One of the guest speakers, the Canadian Ambassador, welcomed people from the wider Cloughjordan community. A combined service of worship was held with the Methodist Church in the Borrisokane Church of Ireland on the 29th April. A particular feature of the service was the enthusiastic singing, as we were joined by the community choir from Cloughjordan lead by Mr John Armitage. Thank you to all who supported this ecumenical service of worship. The Group Service held on the 29th April was in Kinnitty. The two confirmation candidates, Adam and Danny, did the first and second readings and very well too. Thank you, both of you. They will have confirmed their baptismal promises by the time these notes appear and they are wished every blessing for the future. This will be held on Saturday, 9th June in Cloughmoyle School from 12.30 p.m., with registration for dogs starting at 12.00 noon. The Group Service held on the 29th April was in Kinnitty. The two confirmation candidates, Adam and Danny, did the first and second readings and very well too. Thank you, both of you. They will have confirmed their baptismal promises by the time these notes appear and they are wished every blessing for the future. 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MRS SADIE BLAKE
Missing from Kilnasoolagh for this and the Easter celebration was senior parishioner Mrs Sadie Blake, aged 92, who was unwell, ended up in hospital and was taken from us after Easter Week. A large gathering throughout the funeral rites over 11-12th April was reflective of Sadie’s long tenure in and around Dromoland/Newmarket-on-Fergus, to which she moved to as a young housewife from her native Wexford with husband Bobby, who became farm manager on Dromoland Castle Estate. Equally her warm and generous personality made her a friend to anyone she met. Her approachability and humour also kept her as a close friend and confidant of her grandchildren.

Family and friends gathered together with her for mutual comfort when tragically over a short period, Sadie lost her second daughter Olive by sudden death, and granddaughter Patricia Lynch in a riding accident. To her remaining daughter Ida Lynch and son Ivan, grandchildren and close family we record our sympathy.

Sadie was in previous decades a keen member of Kilnasoolagh Select Vestry where she held the role of Honorary Treasurer. A close friend of the Inchiquin family of Dromoland and leading diocesan figure, Sir Donagh, she was party to the setting up of the ecumenical community of Christ Church, Shannon in the late Fifties.

EASTER VESTRIES
The scheduled meetings were postponed for one week due to the death of Mrs Sadie Blake.

We welcome the new office-bearers from the Annual Meetings:

**Kilnasoolagh**
- **Rector’s Churchwarden** - Mr Pascal Sage
- **Peoples’ Churchwarden** - Mr Max Halliday
- **Peoples’ Glebewarden** - Mr Herbert Knowles

The Rector announced at the Easter Vestries his imminent retirement (August 31st 2018) after 24 years in office and thanked through the Vestries the people of the joint congregations for their support and loyalty.

**AIR CRASH MEMORIAL**
The Rector shared in prayers at a memorial service in Drumcliffe Graveyard on the 70th Anniversary of an air tragedy at Shannon Airport when Pan-Am Flight 1-10 crashed on landing, killing 30 people, 10 crew and 20 passengers. Eleven relatives of the 28 buried at Drumcliffe attended the ceremony on April 15th.

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**Clonfert Diocese**

**Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes**
- **Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn**
  - **Rector**: Rev. John Godfrey
  - The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.
  - Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085
  - Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com
  - Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

**SYMPATHIES**
We offer our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of David Fitzgerald aged 90, former parishioner of Ardrahan Church, who died recently in Dublin. His funeral took place in Kill of the Grange Church Dublin on May 28th, with a service of commendation and burial in Ardrahan Church on May 29th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brigid Seale of Woodlawn Church on the death of her sister Mary Cronnelly. We offer our condolences to Anne Sinclair of Glan Church on the death of her aunt Brigid Noone, aged 97. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Bernie Glennon, Deputy Principal of The Glebe National School, on the death of her brother-in-law, Brendan, aged 48. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alma & Ian McFarlane of Woodlawn Church on the death of Ian’s father John in Scotland.

**THE GLEBE NATIONAL SCHOOL** see notes on page 14

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**Planting up the polytunnel at the Rectory Garden Project**
PARISH UPDATE
At our united service in Glan Church on April 29th, the rector announced his plans to launch a new Parish Development Team. This group will meet on a regular basis to pray together about the life of our parish. Whilst this will not be a decision-making forum, it is hoped that by reading the scriptures and praying together this group will support the rector in the work of discerning God’s guidance for our parish. The group met for the first time on May 31st.

From May 10th to 12th the rector travelled to Armagh, where he attended General Synod for the first time. During the course of Synod he was voted as a diocesan clerical representative on Standing Committee, which meets throughout the year in Dublin to continue the work of General Synod. Our own Diocesan Synod will take place on June 23rd.

On May 22nd the rector was the guest preacher at a mass in Our Lady of Clonfert Church, as part of the month of devotions there (see photo page 21).

We offer our congratulations to brothers Cian, Tommy and Jack Morrissey of Woodlawn Church who celebrated their joint 18th birthday this month.

On June 2nd the rector led a parish pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick.

Ardrahan Church will host the latest in its ongoing series of concerts and cultural evenings on Saturday 23rd June.

We arrived in Clonfert just as the Harvest season was starting last year and inevitably colder weather. We survived a learning curve which was almost vertical and a seriously long and wet winter. I remember Jerome coming with me on my first Sunday around the Churches and then on my own getting lost between services for the next few weeks. Serious pressure! However we have survived and what a transformation to the parish the turn in weather has made. Leaving the Rectory and driving down Banagher Hill the Shannon resembled a seaside bay view and now thankfully has receded back between its normal banks. Last week a group of teenage lads enjoyed the Shannon Bridge swimming pool and I had still my coat on, a swim was not in my plan.

Coming from Belfast we are not used seeing large numbers of cattle and sheep out in the fields – a truly fantastic sight. Change is all around us and indeed we play a part in change.

Ruth, Cecilia and Charles travelled to the Children’s Ministry Conference in Adare and we came home with many ideas helping us plan for a parish or even a group Sunday School or perhaps under a more modern style name.

Sunday services appear difficult for our younger families and there is a clear need to rethink how we relate and encourage the future Church. Perhaps a midweek house group would encourage a few to read and discuss the Bible. Change is all around us and I wonder how we can put our arms around change in the parish.

During the summer season we look forward to Holy Communion in Clonfert Cathedral on the last Thursday of each month at 11.00am. This will be traditional and an opportunity for a time of prayer and healing, thank you for those who have already shown support in May.

Charles and Cecilia are planning a holiday over Sundays 10th & 17th June and it will be great to welcome back Patrick who will provide cover. The Church Wardens will have all the necessary contact details.

Looking forward to July and an outdoor service at the old Church in Moystown, Sunday 1st July at 12.00 noon please bring your own lunch and Cream teas at the Rectory Saturday 28th July.

In closing it was great to share last month with Archdeacon Wayne in Banagher Church joining together in the Baptism of Niall Edward Delahun and also Holy Communion. We all had a great afternoon together.

We pray all in our Parish have a really good summer and we look forward to getting back for the Diocesan Synod.

Charles.

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

SUNDAY IN CLONFERT
• Portumna 10.00am 1st Sunday Morning Worship
  & 3rd Holy Communion
• Eyrecourt 10.30am2nd Sunday Holy Communion
  & 4th Morning Worship
• Banagher 12.00noon every Sunday
  1stSunday Holy Communion
• Clonfert Cathedral 11.00am Joint Service
  5th Sunday Holy Communion

Niall Edward Delahunt with his parents and Rev Charles and Archdeacon Wayne
FROM THE DEAN
Rest is biblical, God rested and so should we. Summer is a time to look forward to, because it is an opportunity to break away from the routine of work. As we enter the Summer, we are invited to use it to rest, to recharge and begin (in September) another year with renewed hope, spirit and energy. In order to have a good summer, you don't necessarily have to travel or do anything expensive. You just have to seek out those things which are enjoyable and restful. I hope and pray Summer 2018 is enjoyable and restful for us all.

EXAMS
Our thoughts, prayers and good wishes go to all those sitting exams at this time.

CONFIRMATION
Congratulations to Richard Sleeman and Eva Rusk who were confirmed by the Bishop in St Michael’s Church on Sunday 29th April.

ST MARY’S 850TH
The programme of events is well underway – please visit www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org for more information. The next major event will be the visit of the Choir from Kings College Cambridge on Monday 16th July. Tickets may be obtained from www.uch.ie

LUNCHETIME CONCERTS
These popular events continue every Wednesday at 1.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral. Free Admission.

MOTHERS' UNION
St Mary's was delighted to host the diocesan festival service on Sunday May 13th. The preacher was the Rev'd Canon Jane Galbraith, MU Diocesan Chaplain. Canon Galbraith also launched an exhibition ‘Glorious Beauty’ which showcases some fine examples of Limerick Lace and Silver.

COFFEE MORNING
Thank you to all those who recently supported a Coffee Morning (in aid of Cancer Research) in Felicity Roche’s home. Over €3,050 was raised on the day. Well done to Felicity for organising and hosting this event.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY
Sunday School meet in St Michael’s Church on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.
Godly Play meet in St John's, Abington on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE
An Abhainn was launched just after Easter. Thank you to the editor, Jeanne. The next edition will appear in June.

ST MICHAEL’S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Please see page 12 for news from our Parish School.

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.
READERS AND INTERCESSORS
If you would be interested in reading at services and/or leading the Prayers of the People at Parish Communion once a month please speak to a member of the clergy.

CHILDREN AND CHURCH
We are grateful to the leaders of our Sunday School who have organise a wide range of events and activities. Children who wish to remain in church can avail of the Children’s packs at the back of the church and/or follow along in our Parish Communion services with the 'I can join in the Holy Communion Service' booklets.

COELIAC?
Communicants who wish to receive gluten-free bread please inform the Clergy or a Churchwarden

ECO CONGREGATION IRELAND
Keep an eye on the notice board in the Church on news and updates.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved.

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
Adare

CONFIRMATION
Our parishes welcomed Bishop Kenneth to St. Nicholas’ Church, Adare, on Sunday, 22 April, to confirm five young people: Arthur Cussen, Ingrid Cussen, Ava Gardiner, Peter Gardiner, and Maria Richardson. Present to witness the occasion were about 100 people, who were mostly family and friends of our confirmands. The final confirmation class was held on the Sunday after the confirmation service. In keeping with a practise begun a few years ago, we had some wrapping up of the confirmation curriculum, and also went outside to play some sports together as a kind of celebratory end, followed by pizza.

NEW AUDIO GUIDE
As announced last December, St. Nicholas, Adare, has new offerings for tourists and other visitors. We have many visitors through the summer months, and we are not always able to have a person present to lead a tour. We therefore developed two items to offer to them. One is a brochure that highlights key features in the church, with a picture and a description of each. The other is an audio guide that visitors can download and listen to as they walk through the church and its grounds. It begins at the church gates, goes through the cloisters, and then through the church itself, covering both past and recent history. To hear it, go here: http://www.adarekilmallock.org/audio-guide.

All these items were made possible through a grant from the Priorities Fund of the Church of Ireland to improve our offerings to tourists. These projects also are part of the Spiritual Tourism initiative of the Diocese.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Just before this writing, we found out in Adare that the Adare Village Fete, an annual event, will be held at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, 24 June. This is an all-out effort on the part of many people in the village, and many are also beneficiaries of the proceeds. We discovered last year that St. Nicholas is a good venue for the event, so we will host it again this year.

And on Sunday, 8 July, Liz and Kirk Beasley will again host the annual Fourth of July barbecue (the Fourth of July being American Independence Day) on the Rectory grounds. We have foods typically served at such an event in the States, and welcome all for relaxing, playing, chatting, and listening to music. We pray that the weather will once again be pleasant for the event!

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

After the joys of the season of Easter, and the busy cycle of meetings, including three days of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Armagh, we are now in that time in the Church Calendar known as ‘Ordinary Time.’

The Sundays are counted as the Sundays after Trinity Sunday, which gives them a sense of continuity as we get on with the routine daily tasks that make us partners with God in the Creation. Summer is beginning to break through, and while farmers are busy in the fields, the holidays are about to begin for many others.

Sunday 3 June (Trinity I):
9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton;
11.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Brendan’s Church, Kilnaughtin, Tarbert.
Sunday 10 June (Trinity II):
9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Castletown Church;
11.30, Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale (with the Revd Joe Hardy).
Sunday 17 June (Trinity III):
9.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton;
11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Brendan’s Church, Kilaunaghtin, Tarbert (with the Revd Joe Hardy).

Sunday 24 June (Trinity IV and the Feast of Saint John the Baptist):
9.30 a.m., Morning Prayer, Castletown Church;
11.30, the Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), with Baptism, Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
5 p.m., Saint Mary’s Church, Rathkeale, Choral Evensong with the Choir of Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick.

PLANNING FOR JUNE:
Saturday 23 June: the Diocesan Synod, Villiers School, Limerick, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The parish branch of the Mother’s Union is visiting the gardens of Tommy and Valerie Downes, including afternoon tea, on Saturday 23 June at 4 p.m.

LOOKING BACK ON MAY:
Congratulations to William and Karen Langford on the recent birth of their baby daughter, Chloe Dorothy. William is from Kilcosgriff, Shanagolden, and the family now lives in Dublin.
The death has occurred of Sheena Lynch (nee O’Sullivan), Main Street, Askeaton, who was buried in Saint Mary’s Churchyard, Askeaton. She is survived by her husband Albert (formerly of Castletown, Pallaskenry), daughters Brid and Ailish and son Robert.
Patrick recently took part in the end-of-year services in Coláistena Trócaire, Rathkeale, and Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton, and was the guest speaker at the launch of The Preacher and the Prelate, the new book by Patricia Byrne, in O’Mahony’s Bookshop, Limerick.

CONFIRMATION DAY
The big day finally arrived for the eleven candidates and their families. We were blessed with a beautiful day and a wonderful service which was led by our Bishop.

The service was all the more personal for the children as all of them contributed in some way to the liturgy.
As a parish we are thankful to have two organists and, on this occasion, Noreen led the music from the organ stool. We are fortunate to have a good few singers in the choir and they are ably led by Shirley.
Elton and Sam played the drums and sang during communion.
Please pray for: Alex Maritz, Alison McEvoy, Allie Tarrant, Amy Darcy, Charlotte Geary Groves, Christopher Boyle, Christina Ronan, Kate Feeney, Heather Walsh, Marc Roberts Kenny and Rosie Giles.

SYMPATHY
To the Family of the Late Victor Boyle of Castlemaine, Victor became unwell and died at his home on Sunday the 29th April. Victor lived a long, productive and full life and had just built a new glass house with his daughter on the Friday before he died. His funeral service was held in Castlemaine followed by burial in the church grounds.
We extend our sympathy to his daughters Sheena, Ingrid and Jane to his sons Richard, David and Andrew and all their families. To his brothers Autie, Richie, George, Ernie and Alfie.
We also express our sympathy to Mark and Shirley McEvoy on the sudden death of Mark’s brother Robert. His funeral took place in St John’s Church, Castle Street,
THE SUNDAY CLUB will be held on June 10th, the last one before school holidays.

ST. JOHNS PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, Ashe St., Tralee celebrates 60 years this year. If anyone has any old photographs of the school and would be willing to lend them, please contact David Tough 087 6428560.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE organised an enjoyable family walk in Glennageety recently followed by a barbeque.

KERRY CHORAL UNION held their Salute to Spring on 13th May and was a very enjoyable event. The proceeds were in aid of Recovery Haven, the cancer support centre in Tralee.

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT:
Queens Island Victoria Male Choir with a special performance by the Kerry Chamber Choir was held on the 19th May in St John's, Tralee, with proceeds in aid of St. John's Church.

Preparations began in the Parochial School with a poster competition to advertise concert which was won by Kate Feeney. However, everyone was a winner in the end as all the School enjoyed some ice cream! Thanks to Gerhardt for organising this and thanks to the Youth Club for sponsorship. Kate's poster was put on display and was much admired.

The Sunday Service following the concert was enriched by the presence of the Choir who sang three pieces of music.

Thanks to Gerhardt who put a huge effort into organising every aspect of the concert from the accommodation in the Ashe Hotel to the printing and distribution of the tickets.

Thanks also to Gerhardt and to the links ladies who provided the meal and did the catering for the lunch in Teach an tSolais.

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

Well! There you go! Success is not at all easy! It was announced in Church by Andrew Eadie (Concerts Manager) that in June we have scheduled 17 concerts! That's crazy! Well, no, actually it's great. It shows that St Mary's Killarney is coming to be seen by the Music Tour Operators as the 'must be' place to perform, for any touring choir/orchestra from USA or Europe, or wherever. 17! So he was putting out an appeal for a load more volunteers to help steward these events. We've now recruited some extra volunteers. If you're interested in helping out and you live near Killarney you can contact the Rector. One of our new volunteers comes from 40km away!! With more volunteers the duty won't come round so often: you'll welcome concert goers, show them to a seat, and receive grateful donations from a well-pleased audience! Well that's the general idea.

The children of our church have been given a little compostable pot filled with good Kerry earth and a sunflower seed; it is their Care for Creation project. The Rector told the children that they had to water and tend the seed so that it would grow. Then they have to come up at the end of the service each Sunday to announce to everyone how big their sunflower has grown. This first week some of the seedlings are as much a 3cm. Bless her, Grace, came up to tell the Rector that her seedling is 10cms tall, yes 10!! We can see from the attached photo that it's not, actually. Little Aoife told the Rector her's was a tall as her little finger. The Rector tried to demonstrate this to the congregation, but his little finger turned out to be much bigger. Maybe this is how Grace had reckoned it?! Now the adults want one!

The annual Easter Garden was finally removed after a number of Sundays in Easter, resplendent under the Font. The Garden, this year, designed and built by the Rector's wife, Nolleen, with the help of parishioners, was a more restrained tableau; and the better for the understated nature of it (see photo). As it is under the Font, it is the first thing visitors see when they come into Church. Many visitors have never seen such a thing before and often express their admiration. Well done, everyone.

Well! There you go! Success is not at all easy! It was announced in Church by Andrew Eadie (Concerts Manager) that in June we have scheduled 17 concerts! That's crazy! Well, no, actually it's great. It shows that St Mary's Killarney is coming to be seen by the Music Tour Operators as the 'must be' place to perform, for any touring choir/orchestra from USA or Europe, or wherever. 17! So he was putting out an appeal for a load more volunteers to help steward these events. We've now recruited some extra volunteers. If you're interested in helping out and you live near Killarney you can contact the Rector. One of our new volunteers comes from 40km away!! With more volunteers the duty won't come round so often: you'll welcome concert goers, show them to a seat, and receive grateful donations from a well-pleased audience! Well that's the general idea.

The Rector has been enhancing the outreach to visitors recently. He had produced leaflet guides to the Church in German and French, with Spanish and Italian on the way. He went to a seminar in Waterford recently and brought back a number of technological ideas for further enhancements to our package of offerings to visitors. So we'll be interested to see what develops.

The Day of Pentecost Service was really lovely and the many visitors said how really warm and wonderful the welcome is at St Mary's Killarney. Well done everyone. The Rector followed up on the Episcopal Bishop's Royal Wedding Sermon theme of love.
Kilcolman Union of Parishes
St Michael’s, Iveragh Road, Killorglin
& St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Isabel F Keegan, FJ, MA
Mob: 085 853 2431, Email: revikireland@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: Rev Ann-Marie L Stuart, FJ, MA
Mob: 085 852 9414, Email: revastuart29@gmail.com
Seaview House, Gurrane West, Killorglin, Co Kerry.
Tel: 066 979 0359
Web: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

SERVICES
St Carthage, Castlemaine – Sunday 9.45am
St. Michael’s, Killorglin – Sunday 11am followed by refreshments.
We provide a Sunday School for our parish Children in St Michael’s Hall on The 2nd & 4th Sunday’s @ 11am.

NAMING NAMES AND FINDING OUR FEET.
The Gospel for the 7th Sunday after Easter referred to Jesus revealing God’s name to people in a way unknown to his people previously. In ancient Israel your name was not just a means of social recognition; it summed up your whole personality. More than that even today some groups still receive a secret name which is only ever shared with intimate family and friends. Others will never know it exists, because to know it bestows power upon those in the know.

VICTOR BOYLE
As we walked up the drive to St. Carthage’s Church we noticed how names run in families. One of our first services in Kilcolman was to celebrate together with Revd. Jim Stephens the funeral of Victor, a much respected and loved senior member of the Boyle family, well known here. It was sudden, and therefore unexpected, he had other plans, a holiday in France, a new car, etc. Tragically sad for his family but for us for our very first Church of Ireland funeral it was moving and impressive. As his large extended family gathered in his home this was a first for us as we prayed with them the night before the funeral. Later many of his friends and acquaintances gathered at his house to express their condolences and support for his family, as we do also.

KILTALLAGH SCHOOL:
We have only visited this school three times to date. The first when we came for interview in January, the second when we came to meet with the Principal Paula Ni Bhriain – they are fortunate to have her and her staff. The third time was just recently and we learned what good memories they have, for they knew which one of us was Isabel and which Ann-Marie without any prompting! May we be as good as them as we try to learn all the names of our parishioners. We might not have secret names any longer, even though some of us, yes we do too, have nick names. But naming people is an important part of ministry. Recognising not only who people are but also all that they contribute to the community.

THANK YOUS
We owe a lot of these, not only for our wonderful Welcome Service, which we wrote about last time, but also to all those who over the last month have put up with our lack of a phone or internet, and rallied around to help us in so many different ways, with only one mobile phone that actually received messages even when we couldn’t hear them and they could hardly hear us. Now we prepare to meet a group from the UK who have chosen to visit St. Michael’s to learn about its stained glass window. And our Choir and the Killorglin’s Male Voice Choir are to sing at Killarney to help raise funds for St. Mary’s of the Sloes. You could say that we have begun to settle in.

Sisters Isabel & Annmarie.

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

The month of May in South Kerry is the month of returning visitors. Swallows from Africa, tourists from America, midges from the depths of hell. We try our best to welcome the first two, and avoid the latter, but that’s usually a futile exercise.

Actually, the Swallows are late this year, but the Americans are certainly here already – and increasingly, we are asked to preside over the renewal of marriage vows while tourists are staying in this part of the world. In addition to a local wedding on May 5th between James Halpenny and Heather Peevers, so far this year, we’ve done four renewals, with another three booked for the Summer; this in addition to three ‘destination’ weddings, again from America. In part, the growth of this ministry (and it certainly is a ministry) is because the local upmarket hotels – even though they are licensed to perform marriage ceremonies themselves – tell couples to contact us if they would like to make or renew their vows in God’s own House. It is a shame that all too often, they are not aware that this might be a possibility, the rules surrounding a ‘mixed’ marriage or marriage after divorce being still prevalent in people’s minds. But we also believe it actually demonstrates that, contrary to popular opinion, a Church wedding is still seen as important, not just as a background to the photos but a place where the significance and sincerity of their promises is underlined by their being made in the sight of their Father and Creator.

There is a real opportunity to proclaim the Gospel in this – many of the wedding guests will have a limited experience of a church wedding, and sadly, it has to be said from experience that not all of them are exactly buzzing with excitement. We make sure that we pull out all the stops, making the ceremony into a joyful drama, emphasising that the couples declaration of unconditional, eternal love is recognised as an echo of the vows made by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And it’s not just the weddings in the Summer months, but regular Sunday Worship in which we have a duty to make strangers’ welcome and proclaim the Gospel message in words they understand. Many tell us that although they don’t regularly attend church, they have seen our notice boards or attended one of our in-church concerts and feel that they would like to join us in a service.

In remote parts of the country such as this, the regular congregation might be relatively small – but it is the opportunity we have to minister to the needs of visitors from across the world, using the gift we enjoy in being part of the most beautiful part of God’s creation, that inspires and encourages us in our mission of ‘being’ where we are.
Reminder: The Annual Field Meeting on the Adare Manor Golf Course will be held on Tuesday the 5th of June starting at 11:00 am (leave at least 10 minutes to get to the place where the meeting will be held on the course). Speaker: Rev. Paul Ritchie. (Event will move to the Methodist church in Adare if the weather is too wet.)

This past week our usual monthly Ecumenical service in Charleville took a different turn. We had heard last year how our two local Bishops, Bishop Kenneth Kearon (CoI) and Bishop Brendan Leahy (RC), had been commissioned by Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and Pope Francis to work together to further Christian unity. As an ecumenical group that have been meeting for nearly 20 years we invited the Bishops to come and share with us their journey together and to ask them to listen to our journey. Our journey (of which I am only a recent blow-in) has evolved into monthly (except July & August) meetings of worship, prayer, scripture and address lead by different clergy. Their journey asked them to promise to be true pilgrim companions to one another on this missionary journey. As we came together in worship from different denominational backgrounds God was with us, leading and inspiring us. We pray that He continues to lead all Christians, no matter our church label, to closer communion with each other, and one day perhaps the unity that Jesus prayed for so long ago.

SERVICES FOR JUNE:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Rev. Ruth Watt Services of Holy Communion</td>
<td>Adare, Co. Limerick</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Sunday School Service United Service in Adare @ 11am</td>
<td>Adare, Co. Limerick</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Mrs. Elsie McDonnell United Service in Ballingrane @ 11am</td>
<td>Ballingrane, Co. Limerick</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Mrs. Siobhán Wheeler</td>
<td>Ballingrane, Co. Limerick</td>
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Unless otherwise stated services are in Adare @ 10:15am and in Ballingrane @ 11:45am

A REACTION BY SEAN ROYS, CHRIST CHURCH MISSION WORKER, TO THE ‘ALL IN’ CONFERENCE -

Attending the "All In" conference was an uplifting experience and I was especially inspired by the joint enthusiasm among the participants. The praise and worship was conducted beautifully and helped us to leave our burdens and concerns at the door as we lifted our voices together in worship. I felt particularly stirred listening to the main speaker, Pete Greig, which reminded me of the importance of this year’s focus to “Meet Jesus, Share Jesus”. I felt moved by his challenge to the church to not forget to pray. He then reminded us that the hinge of human history is the bended knee. He said that when the apostles were faced with problems, they didn’t pray for them to go away, but instead, with all boldness they would speak about Jesus. I was moved by the conclusion of Peter’s message; the mark of every person who loves God is a learning humble heart whose desire is for the presence of God. I left the conference uplifted and inspired.

Check out the speakers at the All In Conference on the Methodist Church in Ireland Facebook page. Pete Greig is the founder of the 24/7 Prayer Movement.

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
Nimble Fingers Thursday 7.30pm

KILLARNEY

Sunday Service 11am including Sunday School
Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am followed by Drop-in lunch 12pm
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
Kids Ministry Club monthly as arranged on Saturdays

starts by giving us the answers to the quiz which has had us busy and greatly puzzled. All of us get prizes and great fun is had by all. We just love the Castlerosse and Hilary is our star.

A SHORT REFLECTION BY JEAN WEBSTER, CHRIST CHURCH ELDER -

Eleven years ago Hilary Park was arranging a little holiday from some of the residents in Villiers Square, Sheltered Housing for Elderly folk. She asked a few retired folk if we would go too, to drive them down. So in April 2008 about 12 of us set off for a three day break in the Castlerosse Hotel. It was a great success and this year there were 40 going, all of us golden years customers.

The hotel arranges quite lots of entertainment for its guests but Hilary arranges even more. She keeps our brain cells alive by giving us a two page puzzle on arrival and whist and scrabble are provided on our first evening and exercise is provided with golf and many walks. On the final evening we all meet for a prize giving when she
The Gateway KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am Including Sunday School (preceded by tea/coffee)
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am
Bible study Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am
Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

The church in Killarney is gearing up for the main holiday season when we fling open the doors of the church building as often as we can during the week to welcome visitors and locals. The kettle is always on and the space is available for people to chat, pray or walk around!

The Lighthouse in Millstreet will open up on Tuesday afternoons for a ‘drop-in’ and that will be followed by the Bible Study which will meet at 7.30pm throughout the summer months. The current bible study is based on a book by J John called 10 which looks at the 10 commandments and their relevance for us today!

The Gateway bible study group in Kenmare is also using the J John study interspersed with brilliant studies based on movies led by Rev Michael Cavanagh.

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 – Roscrea
7:00pm – Shinrone

Our circuit offers our congratulations to Robert Davis (of Borrisokane) and Emma McCormack (of Skerries) who married in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Skerries on 6th April 2018. It was a pleasure to share in the ceremony with Fr. Melvyn Mullins. We wish God’s continued blessings upon Robert and Emma as they embark on life’s journey as husband and wife.

For the past several years, Roscrea Church has been the hub for the ecumenical youth club that meets once/month under the leadership of Rosie Gee. Rosie, along with the other adult leaders, have decided that it is time to pass the baton of leadership over to others. We are so grateful for the service and commitment Rosie and her team have given to our youth. That has been priceless. Please express your gratitude to them when you see them! We pray God’s continued blessing be upon them and all they love. Also, please hold the future of our youth in your prayers as we seek to discern the next step in faith we can take as a circuit.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

Boys’ Brigade – Our final meeting before the summer break will be on Sunday 10th June, fishing at the Laois Angling Centre. For more information, please contact Alison Hayes at 086 6030225

Youth Club – Our final meeting will be an outing to Tayto Park on Sunday 3rd June. Please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 for more information.

Methodist Conference in Derry – 13th June – 17th June: Wednesday morning (for clergy)/evening (for laity) through Sunday. Please pray for traveling mercies and for discernment of God’s will as we worship, fellowship, and do the business of the church.

Meetings:
5th June at 8pm – Preachers’ Meeting in Mountmellick
6th June at 8pm – Circuit Executive in Shinrone
21st June at 8pm – Cloughjordan Congregational Meeting

Special Service:
19th June at 7pm – St. Cronan’s National School End-of-Year Service

Keep reading the Bible with ‘Fuel’

The Church of Ireland Youth Department’s Fuel resource, which proved popular in encouraging young people to read the Bible over Lent, is available to help develop regular Bible reading habits throughout the whole year.

National Youth Officer Simon Henry said: ‘It is more important than ever to engage our young people in God’s Word for a firm grounding in and understanding of their Christian faith. Fuel is a helpful tool to encourage regular Bible reading habits with questions to really help you engage with Scripture. Obviously we designed Fuel with Lent in mind but, of course, anyone can use it at any point during the year as an accessible and helpful way to journey through the Gospel of John and dig deeper into God’s Word.’

Fuel includes a reading plan for John’s Gospel and a 50-page journal with space provided for writing down notes, prayers and thoughts. The resource is free and more copies are available from the CIYD offices in Belfast (028 9082 8890) and Dublin (01 497 8422), and from diocesan youth officers and youth council representatives. Orders can also be placed by email at admin@ciyd.org
God rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain. There He offered them a contract...

Keep My rules, and you will be My people and I will be your God and protect you.

Moses climbed the mountain. God gave him two stone slabs with the contract on them.

We promise to do what You tell us and worship only You.

Meanwhile...

Then God and Moses talked... for 40 days and nights.

Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We can't worship something we can't see.

Make us something we can worship.

So Aaron made a gold bull and the people went wild.

God told Moses... Your people are already worshipping a statue.

Moses was so angry he smashed the contract slabs.

God, please, please forgive Your people.

So God forgave His people and gave Moses two more contract slabs.

It's not my fault, they made me do it.
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Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com

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